



N° 313 E – News from June 2022

Emergency response

Cedre's duty team was contacted in relation to two diesel spills in rivers with a high dilution capacity, one in the Scheldt river and the other in the Kourou in French Guiana. We were informed by the Bouches-du-Rhône authorities (DDTM) of reports by fishermen of oil-like odours in fish in the Gulf of Fos. Reports were also received of the recurrent oiling of the equipment belonging to a surf school in Fréhel (Côtes-d'Armor). Analysis of a sample by Cedre did not reveal a link with any wrecks in the area and no pollutant has been observed on the shoreline. Finally, a spill of ammonium sulphate in the Armançon river (Côte-d'Or) caused fish mortality (drop in pH and anoxia) along an 8- to 10-km stretch of river. The duty team also received several requests from MRCCs for drift predictions based on satellite observations (CleanSeaNet) and for an expert opinion on photos in which the origin of the phenomena observed was uncertain (oil or biological phenomenon, frequent at this time of year). In one of the cases, off Ile de Ré, the [Ifremer's Phenomer](#) laboratory was contacted and identified fish spawn.

In short

Dates for the diary

► 10th to 14th July: 30th anniversary of the [Brest Maritime Festival](#), Cedre will be at the environment-themed pavillion on Quai Malbert!

Visits and presentations

► 30th August: visit to Cedre by François Houllier, CEO of [Ifremer](#)

Training courses

► 5th to 9th September: this year's 3rd session of the "Sea and shoreline" training course at Cedre

► 12th to 16th September: training course on HNS spills for [EMSA](#)

Cedre's Strategy Committee meeting

The 55th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee was held on 1st June at [IMT Alès](#) at the new Creativity Hub. During the morning, the projects under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 programmes were reviewed, followed by discussions on the projects to be conducted over the coming years. This meeting was also the opportunity to give an initial overview of the outcomes of the survey conducted by Cedre among its partners to guide its strategic choices for the future in its various fields of activity.

The afternoon comprised a presentation of IMT Alès and a visit to the [Institut des Sciences des Risques](#) during which we were able to see various laboratories and meet several project teams. This meeting was also an opportunity to set the dates, venues and themes of Cedre's upcoming events. The next Technical Day will be held at Cedre on 26th November 2022 and will focus on the sampling briefcases that are currently under development and on emerging spills; the Strategy Committee meeting will be held the following day; the next Information Day will take place at MTECT in Paris on 21st March 2023 on the theme of spill response training; and finally the 57th Strategy Committee meeting is scheduled for 7th and 8th June and will be held at the [Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire](#).

Interspill

From 21st to 23rd June, a 12-strong team from Cedre attended [Interspill](#) in Amsterdam. Our participation involved giving numerous conferences on some of our core focuses (research, crisis management, modelling, analysis, aquatic litter and communication). The topics covered included chemical behaviour, a presentation of the MAR-ICE network in partnership with [EMSA](#), the behaviour and impacts of new generation biodiesels, awareness-raising in relation to oil leaks from wrecks (particularly from the Second World War), and shoreline litter monitoring networks. Cedre and [ITOPF](#) also ran a series of workshops on new propulsion fuels and their challenges, atmospheric pollution from chemical slicks, plastic pollution and tropical environments. For more information see the [Interspill website](#).

Training course in Reunion alongside ISMI

From 20th to 24th June, Cedre was in Reunion to run an IMO 2 level training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, alongside [ISMI \(Interregional Maritime Security Institute\)](#) for 16 participants representing 7 States in the Indian Ocean and East Africa as well as 3 regional organisations. This course, combining both theory and practical sessions, was led by the French Security and Defence Cooperation Directorate ([DCSD](#)) and received financial support from the [Indian Ocean Commission \(IOC\)](#). The practical sessions could not have been conducted without the involvement of the [POLMAR-Terre](#) centre under [DMSOI \(Sea Directorate for the South Indian Ocean\)](#) and the Port des Galets naval base. Fruitful discussions and experience sharing were appreciated all round!

CleanAtlantic project coordination meeting

On 1st and 2nd June, Cedre was in Vigo, Spain, for the CleanAtlantic project's half-yearly coordination meeting. This project, launched in 2017, co-financed by the European [Interreg Atlantic](#) programme, led by [CETMAR \(Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Spain\)](#) and involving 19 partners, aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic area (Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal) by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent

and remove marine litter. The project has been awarded a budget extension and is pursuing its actions until June 2023. The two days in Vigo provided the opportunity to discuss the different tasks being carried out by the partners, and to present the actions undertaken by Cedre, in particular in relation to the inventory of marine litter response initiatives and the review of actions and techniques to clean up floating litter implemented on the shoreline and in ports.

Annual events: “Polymères et Océans” and “Plastiques, changement de Cap !”

The annual event organised by the “Polymères et Océans” research group that studies the fate and impacts of plastic litter in aquatic environments took place in Brest from 27th to 29th June 2022. Cedre was in attendance to present the results of several projects, in particular those obtained through the Interreg **OceanWise** project on the impact of expanded/extruded polystyrene and its biodegradable alternatives. Following on from this event, Cedre took part, alongside national stakeholders, in the “*Plastiques, changement de Cap !*” event, organised in Brest on 30th June and 1st July. During this two-day event, Cedre ran a stand presenting its various activities related to the theme of aquatic litter. In parallel, Cedre contributed to a radio programme produced by the maritime cluster **Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique** in partnership with **Ouest-France** and **Le Marin** on the “zero plastic at sea” target, and took part in a panel session on the question of the environmental and health risks relating to plastic.

Sure as the wind blows

From 27th June to 1st July, Cedre and **IMT Mines d'Alès** successfully conducted the first tests with Cedre's new experimental tool: the wind tunnel. The tests in this tunnel, developed as part of the **MANIFESTS** project with support from IMT Mines d'Alès, in addition to tests conducted in the laboratory and using the chemistry test bench, make it possible to characterise the impact of wind speed on the evaporation kinetics of oil and chemicals. For each test, the wind speed, air temperature, temperature of the evaporating liquid and the mass loss of the chemical are measured continuously. Based on these key parameters, modellers will be able to validate the evaporation model developed under the **MANIFESTS** project.

Training course for OSRL

From 7th to 10th June, Cedre ran a bespoke training course for 9 operators who recently joined **OSRL**, accompanied by 2 supervisors. During this 4-day practical course, they were able to test their response and evaluation procedures, as well as to gain hand-on experience of different response techniques on the water and the shoreline, with the release of real oil at our technical facilities. Several workshops were organised by our trainers: containment and recovery on the water, on a section of road, in a port and at outfalls, and clean-up of pebbles, riprap and a sandy beach. The course ended with an exercise in which the trainees had to work autonomously to respond to an oil spill in our water basin. A second team from **OSRL** is scheduled to come for similar training in September.

DG-ECHO IMAROS - LSFO study

The **IMAROS** project, funded by **DG ECHO**, was composed of 4 work packages, with the first two dedicated to project management (WP1) and state of the art and data compilation (WP2). The results of WP3, which consisted in the study of low sulphur fuel oils (LSFO), offered insight into the wide variety of physico-chemical properties and the opportunity to assess the behaviour and weathering of a certain number of target products when spilled in the marine environment. Different environmental conditions were simulated experimentally and using modelling tools. The bunker fuel (VLSFO) pumped out of the wreck of the *MV Wakashio* (Mauritius) was also studied at laboratory scale, as well as in the Polludrome®, at 5 °C and 15 °C. Ecotoxicity tests were conducted on 3 products using algae (*Phaeodactylum tricorutum*), copepods (*Acartia tonsa*) and amphipods (*Corophium volutator*). Under the final work package (WP4) on spill response techniques, recovery, sorption, chemical dispersion, in situ burning, and cleaning on rocky substrates were studied with three VLSFOs. The final conference was held in Malta on 31st May and 1st June. The deliverables are due to be published soon.

Meeting of the Technical Group on Marine Litter

From 28th to 30th June, Cedre was in Croatia alongside the French Ministry of Ecological Transition (MTECT), to attend the half-yearly meeting of the Technical Group on Marine Litter (TG-ML), created to help European Member States implement marine litter monitoring programmes under the auspices of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The discussions mainly focused on finalising the revision of the guidance document outlining the recommended monitoring protocols and the development of indicators and associated analysis methods.

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