



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

### N° 212 E – News from April 2013

#### Emergency Response

The month of April was marked by a number of enquiries and several exercises. On 17th April, upon the initiative of the MRCC Dublin, a MAR-ICE exercise involving the hazardous substance formaldehyde (UN number 1198) was organised to test the protocol. Unfortunately the search for a European manufacturer, requested for this exercise, was not successful. On 23rd April, Cedre was contacted by DCMR (Netherlands) for an ICE exercise (sophisticated test) involving allyl chloride (UN number 1100), which required, in addition to the provision of material safety data sheets, a French manufacturer to be contacted. On 22nd, following the coating of several birds with a substance believed to be polyisobutene, the Iroise Marine Natural Park requested information and possible feedback on similar cases, and enquired about the possible impacts on birds in the case of contamination. Finally, the maritime authorities in Toulon contacted Cedre, in relation to the possible discharge or retreatment of bilge water from a ship, in order to interpret analysis results with regard to the MARPOL Convention and risk profiles.

#### Training

► Practical training course on shoreline response from 8th to 12th April with 21 participants

#### Hot off the press



► In the collection of Cedre chemical response guides, the French language guide on **Acrylic Acid**

#### Dates for the diary

► **AMOP 2013**, 4-6 June, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
International technical seminar on environmental contamination and response.

#### Water forum for the Loire and Brittany: shoreline issues

On 10th April, the Loire-Brittany water agency organised a presentation day on its 10th programme 2013-2018 and the main issues it addresses, held at the *Palais des congrès* in Vannes. The specific theme of this day was "What issues for the shoreline?" and, as an introduction, the agency presented the main ideas behind its shoreline policy. Several stakeholders in the water sector then presented specific issues they faced, giving the agency the possibility to present the support initiatives it offers in these fields and the conditions governing their implementation. The Director of Cedre was present at this event.

#### Contingency plan for STDO, Tahiti

Following the assignment carried out by two engineers from the Contingency Planning Department in December 2012 ([Newsletter 208](#)), the comments and corrections made by the various stakeholders involved (STDO, oil companies and State services) were incorporated into the draft provided. The final versions (printed and electronic) of the oil spill contingency plan were submitted this month, bringing Cedre's involvement to a close.

#### Post-Arcopol contract between the Aquitaine region and Cedre

Within the framework of the post-Arcopol contract ([Newsletter 206](#)) between Cedre and the Aquitaine region, an engineer from the Contingency Planning Department took part in an information meeting on marine pollution, organised on the premises of the public interest group "GIP Littoral Aquitain" in Mérignac, on 19th April. The aim of this working meeting was to establish initial discussions between members of the public interest group (State, region, departments, territories) with a view towards a wider meeting to be scheduled by late June to present the operational tools produced during the Arcopol project as well as the specific ORSEC POLMAR-Land provisions to local councillors and technicians working for municipalities and State services.

#### Oil Spill Identification Network (OSINet) meeting

Cedre took part in the annual meeting of the Oil Spill Identification Network of Experts (OSINet), held in Edinburgh from 23rd to 25th April. Set up in 1995 by the eight Bonn Agreement member countries, the network also includes representatives of Australia, Brazil, China... During the three days of meetings, the participants compared their results obtained during the annual Round Robin organised by FUGRO (Edinburgh), discussed their analysis methods and organised next year's tests. This international analysis network can be mobilised in the event of a major spill.

## SPILLCON 2013

The international conference Spillcon, organised in cooperation with Interspill in Europe and IOSC in the United States, was held in Cairns, Australia, in April. Over 500 people of 28 different nationalities attended the conferences, visited the spill response equipment exhibition and took part in the various meetings organised throughout the week. The theme chosen for this edition was "Global, Regional, Local". Within this context, speakers from the private sector (companies working in the oil industry) and public sector (government, regions, local administrations) presented the measures taken in terms of response preparedness, in particular focusing on regulatory aspects and contingency planning. Feedback from the explosion of the *Deepwater Horizon* rig in the United States in 2010, the eruption of the *Montara* well in Australia in 2009 and the grounding of the *Rena* in New Zealand in 2011 were also the focus of many presentations. In terms of response techniques, in situ burning, well known for dozens of years now, is today attracting renewed interest following the pollution in the Gulf of Mexico. The use of dispersants, in particular by subsea injection, and classic mechanical recovery equipment complete the main themes addressed during this conference. All the presentations are available on the Spillcon website: [www.spillcon.com/speakers.asp](http://www.spillcon.com/speakers.asp).

## Training courses

The month of April saw the resumption of the traditional training courses on specific ORSEC POLMAR-Land provisions organised in coastal areas run with DAM funding.

*Cedre* and *Cetmef* were present in Le Havre, Seine-Maritime from 3rd to 5th April to train 28 people, then in Saint-Denis, La Réunion for an awareness-raising action among local councillors on their responsibilities on the 22nd, followed by two courses for the technical services on 23rd-24th and 25th-26th April (50 participants). Two *Cedre* trainers were also sent to Mohammedia (Morocco) from 8th to 11th April, to run a course on response to spills in ports for the National Ports Agency, in collaboration with a local contractor (28 participants). Finally, on 17th April, a trainer ran the spill response module of the course organised by CNFPT for port supervisors in Vannes, Morbihan (18 participants).

## BLOW OUT project funding meeting

The partners of the BLOW OUT project (Underwater natural gas and LNG leak) met at *Cedre* on 23rd April to present the project's progress to its funders. This CITEPH project (n° 45-71 2011) is conducted in partnership with Alyotech Technologies - coordinator, *Cedre*, the *École Centrale de Marseille*, the *École des Mines d'Alès* and *Océanide*, and benefits from financial support from GDF-Suez, Total E&P, Subsea 7, Entrepouse Contracting and Technip. This was the opportunity to conduct a demonstration of trials in the *Cedre* Experimental Column (CEC) to present the work designed to characterise the rise of gas bubbles through a seawater column. *Cedre's* activities were also presented and a visit of the on-site facilities organised.

## 50th GESAMP meeting

From 15th to 20th April, a member of the R&D team took part in the 50th meeting of the GESAMP group of experts in charge of establishing hazard profiles for chemical substances transported by sea. To mark this event, a ceremony was held at IMO headquarters in London, during which the Secretary emphasised the importance of the work carried out and its necessity in order to categorise the substances assessed in terms of hazards according to MARPOL 73/78, annex II. The possibility of organising this group's next working meeting (May 2014) at *Cedre* was also discussed.

## Pre-emptive POLMAR contract

In order to be capable of responding rapidly and efficiently on the shoreline to a major spill, the Prefect for the French western defence and safety zone, representing the Prefects of 10 coastal departments, released a pre-emptive tender with a view to selecting in advance companies able to provide their equipment and skills from the first days following a spill. All the information on this tender is available on the [State e-procurement platform](#) (use the keyword "POLMAR" in the search engine) or from the [DREAL](#) for Brittany (+33.2.99.33.45.55).

## Ecological damages: introduction into the French Civil Code now launched

13 years on from the *Erika* oil spill and the introduction of the notion of ecological damages, accepted by France's Supreme Court on 25th September 2012, French Justice Minister Mrs Taubira created a working group on 24th April in order to prepare its introduction into the French Civil Code. This group should submit its report by mid-September 2013. The initial bill submitted in May 2012 was amended and voted in on 17th April 2013 by the Senate law commission. We note that the scope of ecological damages has been extended beyond the recognition of an offence and that priority is given to the repair of damages in kind or through the payment of damages when this is not possible.

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