



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Emergency Response

During September, oil slicks were observed to the north-west and east of Corsica. Some of these large slicks required particular attention given their proximity to particularly sensitive areas (Scandola Nature Reserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Marine Protected Area). Slick drift forecasts and attentive monitoring of these slicks' behaviour were the opportunity for the Corsican MRSC, the Mediterranean maritime authority (PREMAR), Météo France and Cedre, among others, to work in close and efficient cooperation.

Furthermore, the duty team was called upon several times:

- MALTEX 2013 exercise for REMPEC.
- Activation exercise launched by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) through the Mar-ICE network.
- POLMAR exercise in Seine-Maritime, simulating the observation of an oil slick drifting towards the coast.
- Total E&P Angola exercise, to test activation procedures.

Finally, an initial pollution alert in St-Jean-du-Doigt (Finistère) proved in reality to be decomposing seaweed.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ [Cedre Information Day 2014](#) devoted to **hazardous and noxious substances** on Tuesday 1st April 2014, in Paris
- ▶ [INTERSPILL 2015](#), 24-26 March 2015
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Hot off the press

- ▶ The [2014 training course catalogue](#)

Training courses

- ▶ Inshore oil spill response, session 3, from 9th to 13th, 16 participants

MOTHY drift model: new features

A new version of the Météo France drift model **MOTHY** came into operation on 9th September. This version 4.0 includes two new features. First, a **probabilistic wind forecast** is determined from 35 atmospheric scenarios. Areas of pollutant probability are defined by analysing drift results. Furthermore, a new type of production enhances MOTHY with **oceanic multi-forcing**, incorporating the uncertainty related to ocean currents.

2nd Mar-ICE network evaluation meeting

The **Mar-ICE** network is a service offered by **EMSA**, **Cefic** and **Cedre** to the maritime authorities of **EC** Member States, coastal **EFTA** States and EU Candidate Countries to provide information on chemicals spilt at sea. The service has been operational since 2009 and EMSA organised the second evaluation meeting on 5th September 2013 in Lisbon. The partners reviewed the requests received relating to real spills and exercises, and examined the opportunities to further improve this service, which is greatly appreciated by the national authorities having used it. An evaluation report covering the period January 2011 - June 2013 is currently being drafted by EMSA and should soon be made public.

Researchers' Night

On the 27th, over 4,000 people attended this year's **Researchers' Night**, now a well known event in Brest, at Océanopolis. The wide variety of activities on offer at this 8th edition once again delighted both young and old, with the chance to meet researchers, attend workshops and enjoy fanfare bands and theatre. For the sixth year running, **Cedre** took part in the event, and chose the theme "No life without oil".

Post-ARCOPOL action by the Region of Aquitaine

The awareness-raising action implemented by the Region of Aquitaine ([Newsletter 214](#)), as a follow-up to the European project **ARCOPOL** (Newsletters [206](#) and [212](#)) continued during September with the organisation of two half days of awareness-raising for sea professionals on the 17th in Ciboure and the 26th in Arcachon. These actions were the chance for an engineer from **Cedre** to present the theme of 'second row' response, and in particular feedback from the *Prestige* spill, as well as to present the guide produced by **Cedre** on the involvement of sea professionals ([operational guide available for download](#)). Again as part of these Post-ARCOPOL actions, an engineer from **Cedre** took part in the **ARCOPOL+** project conference entitled "Creating a Toolkit for Effective Maritime Incident Response - Communications, Resources and Planning", held on 11th and 12th September at Cardiff School of Management. A presentation on oil spill waste management and on the guide produced as part of ARCOPOL+ was given by this **Cedre** representative.

SPRES project, 4th meeting in Belfast

A year and a half after the beginning of the European project **SPRES**, all the partners gathered in Belfast (Northern Ireland) on 10th and 11th September 2013 at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) for the 4th transnational meeting, after Santander, Brest and Aveiro. The meeting was extended with a site seminar at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners' Office on 12th September, attended by a large number of stakeholders, managers, operational staff and national authorities. The partners presented their respective SPRES activities, then discussions continued at round tables on modeling and risk assessment. On the 13th and 14th, a visit to 2 spill response equipment stockpiles - those of the Port of Belfast and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) - was organised for *Cedre* by AFBI. A joint (*Cedre*-AFBI) on-land and at-sea survey of the Belfast Lough completed the week.

Oman: support to Omani authorities

Upon request by the Omani Ministry of Environment and Climatic Affairs (MECA), the head of the Spill Follow-Up Department travelled to the Sultanate of Oman at the beginning of the month. The aim of this ten-day assignment was to provide support to the national pollution control committee in preparing a compensation claim to be put to the **IOPC Funds** following the spill from the bitumen tanker *Nesa R3*. This tanker sank in June near the port of Muscate, releasing thick slicks of bitumen which reached popular tourist sites and places of ecological interest (in particular coral), spread across some 40 km along a mountainous coastline that is difficult to access. During this assignment, strategic and technical recommendations were developed based on the results of site surveys (including 2 sunken slicks) and meetings were held with the ministry officers in charge of preparing the compensation claims, in relation to clean-up costs, the economic damages suffered (fisheries and tourism) and the expected ecological impacts (mainly turtles). A subsequent assignment may be carried out, if it is felt necessary by the Omani authorities.

Training courses

On 29th and 30th August, the Training Department, in collaboration with the French Customs' pollution expert, contributed to the **EMSA** training on "The use of surveillance systems for marine pollution detection and assessment". This first session gathered together around 30 participants from northern Europe at the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in Helsinki. *Cedre* is in charge of organising the second session, gathering 15 countries, from the Netherlands to the Mediterranean. It is to be held on our premises on 15th and 16th October, and we hope to do as well as the Finnish organisers.

In addition to the course mentioned in the "In short" section, *Cedre* ran a day of training on the use of sorbents in ports for 10 agents from the Lorient Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and contributed to the training of 8 future maritime experts, organised by **ENSM** and the University of Le Havre.

For 2014, the **training catalogue** is now available! In addition to our usual courses, we will be offering an English-language version of the "**Inshore oil spill response**" course.

Ecological damage soon in the French Civil Code

First accepted in the *Erika* spill court case, the notion of ecological damage is coming closer to being incorporated in the French Civil Code. In mid-September, the working group appointed at the beginning of the year submitted its report to the Ministry of Justice. The 10 proposals, which do not meet with consensus within the government, are as follows: the definition of ecological damage, the reinforcement of the prevention of environmental damages, the opening up of action for ecological damage, the creation of a high environmental authority, the provision of specific prescription rules, the specialisation of the judge for the repair of environmental damage, the demonstration of environmental damage, repair in kind, the creation of an environmental repair fund and the introduction of civil fines. A bill is to be presented to the Council of Ministers in early 2014.

Costa Concordia: wreck righted

The parbuckling of the *Costa Concordia* has been successfully completed: on the morning of the 17th the ship was sitting upright in the small port of Giglio. This unique operation, which attracted a great deal of media attention, was a technical success: over 500 men worked on the **project** since the accident 20 months ago. The vessel is to stay in this location while the 230,000 m³ of water accumulated on board are pumped out. The starboard side is to be consolidated before the ship is towed away and dismantled in spring 2014.

Molasses in the port of Honolulu (Hawaii, USA)

On the 9th, 1,400 tonnes of molasses were spilt in Honolulu Bay in Hawaii. This sticky and very sweet non-toxic substance sank in the harbour after having been released during its transfer from the sugar cane plantation to a tanker. On the morning of the 10th, the shipping company Matson Navigation Co. repaired the pipe responsible for the spill. Meanwhile, the decomposition of the slick of molasses led to a local decrease in oxygen, affecting marine life, resulting in the death of thousands of fish and increasing the presence of sharks in the area. This large-scale input of organic matter, which is being gradually broken down, should not however have any long term effects.