



N° 159 E - News from August 2008

Emergency response

The month of August saw few interventions for real incidents. Nevertheless, we note the shipwrecking, on 1st August, of a trawler in the bay of Saint Briec in waters 10 m deep. Following the observation of trails of sheen on the surface, the Préfecture Maritime de l'Atlantique requested several drift forecasts during operations to ensure the safety of the wreck and in anticipation of it being refloated. In early August, several alerts were raised in Corsica, following the arrival of tar balls on the west coast between Scandola and Galeria, then on 8 August when a 3.5 km long oil slick was reported south-east of the island, with a forecast of drift towards the coastline. An operation was conducted to mechanically mix the slick using two vessels deployed on site, after which the pollution was no longer observed.

On 19 August, an individual in the region of Brest requested advice after discovering that a well and all the pipes supplying his home were polluted with oil. The source of the pollution remains unknown.

In short

VISITS TO Cedre

► On 28th, a delegation of student pilot officers in the naval air force (visit and information on aerial observation of pollution at sea).

PUBLICATION

► Updated reprint of the French language guide "Lutte contre les pollutions portuaires de faible ampleur" (Response to Small-Scale Pollution in Ports and Harbours). www.cedre.fr

Change of Maritime Prefect

On 1st August 2008, the Director of Cedre attended the transfer of power ceremony at the Préfecture Maritime de l'Atlantique, through which Admiral de Bourdoncle de Saint Salvy took over from Admiral Rolin as military governor for the Atlantic maritime zone and Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic. In France, the Maritime Prefect represents the State at sea. He is the direct representative of the Prime Minister and of each of the members of Government. The Maritime Prefect ensures the enforcement of laws, regulations and Government decisions. Invested with general police powers, he is the authority in all domains relating to the action of the State at sea, in particular in terms of defending sovereign rights and the nation's interests, ensuring public order, protecting life and property, preserving the environment and coordinating the fight against illicit activities. In the event of accidental marine pollution, Cedre assists and advises the Maritime Prefect in decision-making.



Admiral Anne-François de Bourdoncle de Saint Salvy © Marine nationale

CEPPOL: a time of change

The French Navy's pollution control unit CEPPOL, Commission d'Études Pratiques de lutte antiPollution, has changed name. CEPPOL now stands for Centre d'Expertises Pratiques de lutte antiPollution. The President of the former CEPPOL, Christian Nédélec, has now handed over his responsibilities and we wish him a long and peaceful retirement. The next in line to take the reigns of the centre is Commander Jean-Bernard Cerutti. We wish him all the best as he embarks upon his journey into the world of pollution response and hope that the close links between our two organisations will be maintained and strengthened.

Civil protection accreditation



In accordance with the French law 2004-811 on the modernisation of civil protection, Cedre submitted a civil protection accreditation application to the Ministry of the Interior. An interdepartmental accreditation order was issued on 31 July 2008 in relation to Cedre. This order officially recognises Cedre's capacity to intervene alongside the services of the French State in the management of accidental water pollution. It will facilitate Cedre's integration into the emergency response organisation in the event of an accidental pollution incident, upon request of the response operations manager and under the authority of the commander of these operations.

OSRL/EARL practical training exercises

From 18 to 21 August, *Cedre* received a delegation of nine OSRL/EARL pollution response specialists for practical training exercises involving real-life oil spills.

This course allowed OSRL's response team to test its response procedures, to perfect its knowledge in terms of response on the shoreline and to become familiar with *Cedre's* facilities. This visit was also the opportunity to broach the possibilities of reinforcing exchanges between our two teams.



Recovery operations © Cedre



Worksite set-up © Cedre

USA: 1,500 tonnes of fuel oil in the Mississippi

In last month's newsletter, we failed to inform you of a 1,500 tonne spill of fuel oil due to the collision of the Liberian chemical tanker *Tintomara* with a towed barge on the Mississippi on 23 July at 1:30 am. The barge was practically cut in half. Its operator accepted to pick up the bill for the clean-up expenses, in accordance with his civil liability as the source of the pollution. However, he cast the responsibility for the incident on the *Tintomara*, whose captain defended himself by making allusion to a hazardous manoeuvre by the barge's towboat, *Mel Oliver*. There will inevitably be a hefty bill to pay. The clean-up expenses have already been estimated at over a million dollars, and the incident resulted in the closure of traffic on a 160 km stretch of the river for six days, triggering a flood of compensation claims. Amongst these claims, particular mention can be made of the port of New Orleans, estimating a loss of 100,000 dollars a day, and Carnival Cruise Lines, obliged to hire 60 coaches to bring 2,630 passengers back to New Orleans.

USA: olive oil in Baltimore Harbor

Just before dawn on 23 August, the valve of a bladder tank was maliciously opened, resulting in a 35 tonne spill of extra virgin olive oil into the storm drainage system which feeds into Baltimore Harbor. The City Fire Department flushed a 3 km stretch of sewer and treated the pollution with sorbents, light booms and skimmers.

Interspill 2009

Last minute – Last minute – Last minute

Preparations for the conference and exhibition Interspill 2009, incorporating the fourth International Maritime Organization R&D Forum, to be held on 12, 13 and 14 May in Marseille, are in full swing. The exhibition hall is already nearly full. Conference proposals are flocking in. If you would like to give an oral presentation or participate in a poster session, stop reading this letter and hurry up! The submission deadline via the website Interspill.com is Monday 15 September at midnight. But luckily at this stage only an abstract is needed!



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