



Cedre NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication
by the Centre of Documentation, Research and
Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

N° 189 E – News from March 2011

Emergency response

This month the Emergency Response Department was called upon in relation to the pollution of lake near to which a fighter plane crashed down on 2nd March. In response to the jet fuel and engine oil, the water required to be treated using a filtration/sorption system. In terms of spills at sea, the **MOTHY** model was run following the sinking of three trawlers. In March, the European network **Mar-ICE** was activated twice. The first time, during the night of Friday 4th to Saturday 5th March, was following a spill of cement in a Norwegian port, and the second, on 11th March, was part of an exercise organised by **SASEMAR** (Spain). Furthermore, on 21st March, the duty staff were trained in the use of version 6.1 of the software model for the behaviour of hazardous substances spilt at sea (**CHEMMAP**). The accident scenario involved a spill of 500 tonnes of methyl ethyl ketone, a dissolver and evaporator, at the entrance to the Channel.

In short

TRAINING

- ▶ From 14th to 17th, session 1 of the marine pollution crisis management training course, 13 participants
- ▶ From 21st to 25th, session 1 of the practical course on shoreline response, 22 participants

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ **Safer Seas** "Towards safer and cleaner seas" 10-13 May 2011, Brest
- ▶ **International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)** 23-26 May 2011, Portland, Oregon
- ▶ "**Quartier des sciences**" festival, Brest, May 2011

Retirement of Michel Girin, former Director of Cedre

Michel Girin was the Director of *Cedre* for 13 years, from 1995 to 2008, during which he guided the association in its work to combat major spills such as that of the *Erika* and the *Prestige* and developed activities in many fields so as to more efficiently respond to our partners' expectations. From 2008, he acted as an adviser and was heavily involved in many research projects. At the end of March, he officially took his retirement. All the staff and partners of the association greatly appreciated his involvement in *Cedre's* activities and would like to thank him for his remarkable contribution to the organisation's development. We wish him a long and happy retirement, and no doubt the many contacts he has made over the years in the spill response community will be thinking of him at this time.

CECIS course in Brussels

On 29th March, a member of the Emergency Response Department took part in a training course in Brussels on the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) developed by the European Commission. This system, initially designed for civil protection, has recently been adapted to marine pollution. It can be accessed online and is for use by EU member States. This system is destined to facilitate communication, exchange and monitoring in crisis situations in Europe. It will also be used to coordinate the resources and skills provided by each State. Following this training day, a course on the use of the CECIS will be organised for the *Cedre* duty staff.

Cedre Information Day

The 16th *Cedre* Information Day was held on the premises of **INHESJ** in Plaine-St-Denis on 17th March. Despite a slightly reduced audience compared to previous years, the participants in this day on the future of dispersant use showed a great interest in this issue. The speakers, mainly from overseas, addressed the subject from the point of view of their respective experience, in particular in relation to the **Deepwater Horizon** spill. This case study approach gave rise to many debates. All the presentations given are available to download in PDF format [here](#).

Cedre presentation meeting

On 16th March, the French Directorate of Water and Biodiversity and the Directorate of Maritime Affairs jointly organised a meeting to present *Cedre* and its activities to the different services of the French Ministry of Ecology (**MEDDTL**) and other ministerial departments. Around fifteen people attended the presentations and exchanged with the engineers from *Cedre* on the subjects that particularly interested them.

Trawl fabric trials

As part of the development of its oil recovery trawl net project *Notil*, the company **Nymphaea Environnement** commissioned *Cedre* to conduct oil extrusion trials on 3 different fabrics. These trials were performed in an air conditioned environment with oils of different viscosities including an emulsion. The aim was to characterise the viscosity threshold beyond which the net no longer let the pollutant through its mesh.

Working meeting with Ecocéane

On 10 March, two representatives of the company **Ecocéane** came to *Cedre* to present their range of products and in particular the spill response vessel *Workglop 128*, of which the first model is currently being completed at the Paimpol shipyard. It is due to be officially presented in late May/early June.

Visit from representatives of Florida Gulf Coast University

Following the **Deepwater Horizon** spill, an agent from the R&D Department was sent to the United States to meet the American academics involved in response operations, with a particular focus on the monitoring of ecological impacts. This assignment resulted in a collaboration agreement between Florida Gulf Coast University and *Cedre*. With this as a backdrop, on 11th March, the professors Aswani Voley and Darren Rumbold came to Brest to present their work on the determination of the environmental impact of dispersed oil. This meeting led to the involvement of *Cedre* in a research project and to an exchange of skills, whereby an American researcher will spend two months working in *Cedre's* laboratory next summer.

Interspill steering committee meeting

On 22 March, the steering committee in charge of organising **Interspill 2012** held a working meeting in Amsterdam. The detailed programme for the event is due to be released at the beginning of summer 2011. The call for papers should be available online by late summer 2011. Interspill Ltd will also be present at the various spill industry events in the coming months to present and promote Interspill 2012, which will be held from 13 to 15 March 2012 in London.

Brest 2012 - Les Tonnerres de Brest

A major maritime event will be held in Brest from 13 to 19 July 2012. This festival aims to address all facets of the sea, to be more than simply a gathering of tall ships, even if this remains to be a high profile aspect with a large number of ships. In this context, a marine science and technology village, whose theme is expected to be "global and climate change and its impacts on the environment and human activities", will be organised. *Cedre* is to be associated with this initiative and took part in an initial practical organisation meeting on 3 March.

Conference in Malmö

From 7 to 9 March, the Spill Follow-up Department took part in the Oil Spill Risk Management conference in Malmö (Sweden). This conference was organised by IMO and the World Maritime University (WMU). *Cedre* gave a presentation on "Oiled shoreline clean-up: innovations since the *Erika* and *Prestige* spills".

MS Oliva: Tristan Da Cunha archipelago

On 16 March, the cargo vessel *MS Oliva* grounded near Nightingale Island, in the British archipelago Tristan Da Cunha, located halfway between South Africa and Argentina. The vessel was transporting soya beans. The 22 crew members were all rescued however the ship broke in two. Around 1500 tonnes of fuel oil were released, threatening 200,000 penguins, some of which are listed as endangered species. The day after the accident, a rescue operation was launched, but by then 20,000 penguins had already been oiled, according to the Director Emeritus of the International Bird Rescue Research Center. See [here](#) for details.

Gulf of Mexico: Deepwater Horizon (cont.)

According to the investigation commissioned by the US Department of Homeland Security and conducted by *Det Norske Veritas*, the primary cause of the Macondo well accident and the resulting rig explosion was a portion of drill pipe trapped between the blow out preventer rams. Meanwhile, deepwater drilling operations have resumed in the Gulf. NOAA scientists are investigating the causes of the mortality of baby dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico, whereby the direct and indirect effects of the oil could be one of the causes. Furthermore, BP announced that the executives in charge at the time of the accident would not be awarded a bonus and an investigation into the health effects conducted by the National Institute of Health has recently been launched.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)