



N° 269 E – News from June 2018

Emergency response

In June, three incidents required on-site mobilisation this month. First, we provided support for the authorities in Lozère after a tanker truck overturned, releasing 14 m³ of home heating oil into the Bramont, a tributary to the Tarn. Our advisers took part in surveys and advised the Departmental Territories Directorate and the fire brigade on the remaining measures to be taken.

Meanwhile, we were also activated by an industrial firm and sent advisers to Maine-et-Loire following a fire at an oil mill which caused a spill of plant oils, burnt to varying degrees, into ponds then lakes. Once again, our responders conducted surveys and developed technical recommendations on clean-up actions. Finally, we provided on-site advice to the managers of the Marina du Château in Brest following a small-scale diesel spill.

Following the grounding of the *Thorco Lineage* on the atoll of Raroia in French Polynesia, we conducted experiments to determine the behaviour of the ship's cargo of zinc calcine upon contact with seawater or heavy fuel oil.

The other incidents in which we were involved included a false alarm due to the presence of plankton (*Noctiluca scintillans*) in Saint-Pierre Quiberon (Morbihan), a fire at a vehicle scrapyards in Greater Paris and reports of balls of paraffin wax off the coast of Corsica.

Finally, we were mobilised during two exercises involving chemicals: once by the [Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore](#) (with which we have an assistance agreement) and secondly, like each year, by trainees on the RCH4 chemical hazards course at the French fire academy, [ENSOSP](#).

Meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors

Our Board of Governors meeting was held at Cedre on 19th June and chaired by François Cuillandre. The 2017 annual activity report and financial statement were presented and both were approved, as was the amendment to the 2018 budget. The highlights and conclusions of the Strategy Committee meeting on 23rd May were also outlined and the provisional investment master plan for the period 2019-2023 was discussed. The points raised at the end of the meeting provided positive feedback from the event organised to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the *Amoco Cadiz* spill, as well as leading to discussions on the sinking of the *Sanchi* in the East China Sea, which emphasised the importance of continuing to gather data on the behaviour and environmental impact of substances transported by sea.

Framework agreement signed with IOWater

On 12th June 2018, Eric Tardieu, Director General of International Office for Water ([IOWater](#)) and Stéphane Doll, Director of Cedre, signed a framework agreement outlining the scientific and technical cooperation between the two organisations in the fields of water, aquatic environments, biodiversity and waste. This agreement is expected to foster synergies between the two organisations, in particular in the fields of information, professional training, expertise and consultancy, both on a national and international scale.

Training for a Taiwanese delegation

This month, Cedre played host to a Taiwanese delegation – as it has done annually since 2010 – led by the [Environmental Protection Administration](#) (EPA). Two training sessions were run for 29 representatives of EPA, private companies, the Coast Guard Administration and the new central government agency in charge of marine pollution issues, the Ocean Affairs Council (OAC). The first session, held from 13th to 15th June, focused on marine oil spill response, while the second, run from 18th to 21st June, was devoted to HNS. This course was the opportunity for the delegation to attend practical training sessions with real oil at our technical facilities, as well as to watch a demonstration by the French Navy's chemical response unit and to take part in a crisis management exercise involving an HNS spill scenario.

In short

Hot off the press

- ▶ Cedre 2017 annual report

Training courses

- ▶ Shoreline pollution crisis management, 14 participants, 22nd to 29th June
- ▶ Oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, 11th to 15th June, 20 participants
- ▶ Spill response, Port of Bonifacio (Corsica), 20th and 21st June, 10 participants

Dates for the diary

- ▶ European Researchers' Night 2018, at [Océanopolis](#), Brest, on 28th September on the theme of "1001 stories"

Training for the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade

Each year in Seine-et-Marne, the fire brigade is involved in responding to some 40 to 50 spills. For this reason and following the joint involvement of Cedre and the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade in the response to a series of pollution incidents caused by flooding in the Ile-de-France area in the first half of 2016, fifteen specialist fire fighters from the mobile chemical response unit attended a training course on oil spill response in inland waters. This course provided these response professionals with the opportunity to implement techniques on the ground, in drainage systems, on water bodies and in streams, both at Cedre's technical facilities and in the natural environment.

OSPAR Correspondence Group meeting

Cedre attended the meeting of the [OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter \(ICG/ML\)](#) held in Berlin on 13th and 14th June. Chiefly devoted to the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP), the meeting focused on reviewing the progress of the work undertaken by the different member States in charge of specific RAP actions, either alone or jointly. The participants addressed the strategic aspects of the plan's implementation, in particular in relation to international initiatives (United Nations Caribbean Environment Programme) and EU policies (European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy; Directive on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste). The meeting was also the opportunity to discuss the background documents, each relating to a specific RAP action, which present a given source of waste and outline recommended measures to reduce its environmental impact. Two of these documents were presented, one by Ireland on single-use items and another by France (drafted by [MTES](#)) on industrial plastic pellets.

Burn trial at INERIS

At the beginning of the month, two agents from Cedre conducted oil burn trials on the fire platform at [INERIS](#). These trials were part of a study, funded by [TOTAL](#), into the characterisation of burn residues according to the type of crude oil. The first phase of the study was carried out at Cedre at laboratory scale using the burn test bench. Since the start of the year, over 80 burns have been conducted. During the two days of experiments which made up the second project phase (pilot scale), 9 burns were performed on a total of almost 200 litres of crude oil (4 different crudes). Following each burn, Cedre was responsible for recovering all the floating unburnt residues while INERIS processed the atmospheric emissions data (quantification and characterisation of soot and gases released). These trials were also the opportunity to test the efficiency of smoke inhibitors. All the data and samples collected will be processed in our laboratory and will help to achieve a clearer understanding of the characterisation and fate in the environment of residues remaining after in situ burning operations.

Iroise Marine Nature Park management committee meeting

On 7th June, a meeting of the Iroise Marine Nature Park ([PNMI](#)) management committee was held at the offices in Le Conquet. This session was the opportunity to discuss the indicators used in the park's management dashboard, to attend a presentation of several national and European projects in which the park is involved on the development of scientific knowledge or heritage promotion and to share an initial review of 10 years of environmental education in schools in the local area. Following this meeting, the participants were treated to a boat trip to discover the park and its challenges first-hand.

MEDEXPOL 2018

Two members of Cedre were involved in preparing and running the Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS), MEDEXPOL 2018, held at [REMPEC](#)'s offices in La Valette, Malta, on 20th and 21st June. This workshop was attended by thirty-six participants representing sixteen Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as regional and international organisations including [IMO](#), [IOPC Funds](#), [EMSA](#), [Transport Canada](#), Cedre, [CETMAR](#), [ITOPF](#), [Bonn Agreement](#) and [HELCOM](#).

Death of Dr. Michel Girin, Director of Cedre from 1995 to 2008

Michel Girin was a Doctor of Science, specialised in biological oceanography. After starting out as a national scuba diving instructor, he went on to become a researcher in marine ecology and aquaculture, the technical manager of an engineering firm specialised in aquaculture then deputy director of an engineering and consultancy firm in fisheries, aquaculture and the seafood sector. In 1992, he joined Cedre as Deputy Director, before being appointed Director from 1995 to 2008. In these different positions, he was involved in field assignments and project studies in over sixty countries. Author or co-author of more than 150 publications, he also wrote a book on aquaculture and was co-author of compendiums on oil and chemical spills. Yet his favourite pastime was writing for young readers. He received the French UNICEF prize for children's literature in 1999. His website features over twenty references published by various publishers. Michel Girin retired eight years ago. He passed away on 2nd July after a long battle with illness, which he fought with courage and perseverance. His memory will live on in our minds just as his legacy lives on in his books.