



N° 280 E - News from June 2019

Emergency response

In June, we were called out once again, by the relevant local council, to the site where a diesel leak had occurred in Finistère (see [Newsletter n°279](#)) to conduct a post-clean-up inspection. Our team was contacted several times in relation to strandings or observations of particular phenomena (presence of pollen or moss, abnormal water colour due to a distress flare, etc.).

We also held discussions with the DDTM (Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea) for the Channel after a drum of waste engine oil was discovered, during which we confirmed the validity of the actions envisaged.

Cedre attends AMOP

At the beginning of the month, one of Cedre's team travelled to Halifax (Canada) to attend the annual [Arctic Marine Oil Spill Program \(AMOP\) technical seminar](#). This 42nd edition was attended by nearly 200 participants and comprised almost 100 presentations. The topics addressed focused on the behaviour and impact of oil and chemicals following a spill, contingency planning, as well as recent developments relating to response techniques at sea and detection equipment. Like in past years at AMOP, Special Sessions were organised to address specific issues. This year, the topics selected were Inland and Freshwater Oil Spills and Recovery of Oil from Sunken Vessels. Cedre presented a [conference on biodiesels](#).

Symposium on environmental protection in the Mediterranean Sea

Cedre took part in a symposium on "[Environmental Protection in the Mediterranean Sea](#)" held on 4th and 5th July, organised by Robert Gelli, Attorney General of Aix-en-Provence Court of Appeal, in partnership with the Maritime Prefecture of the Mediterranean and the General Secretariat for the Sea. Opened by France's Justice Minister Nicole Belloubet and closed by François De Rugy, Ministry of State for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, this symposium was attended by the highest ranking representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Maritime Prefecture, the high magistrates of the 16 relevant states together with professionals concerned with the protection of the Mediterranean.

"Mystery spill" pics on Instagram!

All our "mystery pics" posted on [Instagram](#) (cedre_antipollution) to mark the **40th anniversary of our first board meeting** have been correctly identified! Follow us to find out the answers and see our latest posts!

REMPEC Focal Points meeting and WestMOPoCo project

Cedre was invited to attend the 13th meeting of the Focal Points for the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), held in Malta from 11th to 13th June 2019. At this meeting, the DG-ECHO-funded [WestMOPoCo project](#) (see [Newsletter n° 277](#)) was presented by the General Secretariat for the Sea, and Cedre gave an explanation of the work methodology adopted to prepare, in collaboration with [ITOPF](#) and [ISPRA](#), a Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual. The WestMOPoCo project partners also took this opportunity to hold their first Steering Committee meeting.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ From 9th to 14th September: "[Oil and HNS spill response in surface waters](#)", in English, at Cedre
- ▶ 24th and 25 September: 9th congress on the Port of the future, in Lille
- ▶ 21st to 24th October: 11th [ICOPCE](#) conference organised by the [Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore](#) (MPAS), Singapore
- ▶ 21st November: Cedre Technical Day in Brest
- ▶ 22nd November: 50th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee

Visits and presentations

- ▶ 27th: visit from Kenyan coastguards with a presentation of the French organisation of spill response at sea
- ▶ 27th: visit from representatives of [AXA XL](#) to work on the technical aspects of implementing the assistance agreement signed in November 2018.

Training

- ▶ 12th to 13th June: training course on oil spill response in port areas, Bonifacio harbour, 15 participants from the Corsican ports.
- ▶ 17th to 21st June: "Sea and shoreline" training course, at Cedre, 18 participants representatives of the French Navy, Maritime Affairs, DEB and Wallis and Futuna, the Finistère fire department and the private sector.

Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum

Cedre's Director was invited by Rear Admiral Mostafa El Alami, Inspector in the Royal Moroccan Navy, to attend the **Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum** (MCGFF 2019) held this year in Morocco, Casablanca, from 11th to 13th June. One of the forum's sessions was devoted to spill response at sea, and Cedre's Director presented our operational activity over the past year, with a particular focus on the response to and feedback from the *Ulysse/Virginia* and *Grande America* spills.

French national workshop on marine litter organised by Environment Ministry

On 3rd June, Cedre took part in a national workshop on marine litter organised by **MTES** in Paris. This workshop, first launched in 2015, aims to define waste policies and policies relating to water and the marine environment, in order to coherently implement axis 13 on marine litter of the national waste prevention plan PNP 2014-2020, as well as continuous measures through the programmes under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and measures relating to aquatic litter through the French water development and management master plans (SDAGE). This workshop was the chance for MTES to inform participants of the actions it conducts nationally and internationally, as well as for national stakeholders to present their actions in progress: the waste collection and recycling project (ReSeacons); the **Ocean Tracker** tool (ANSEL and SEA-MER associations); plastic expeditions to the Arctic and Mediterranean (**TARA**); the national network of waste collectors (**ReDeSa**) and the **Trait Bleu beach litter collection bins** project (T.E.O. association).

Brest waste festival

Cedre took part in the **Festival des déchets**, organised from 3rd to 8th June by Brest Métropole's waste department, **Océanopolis** and **Le Quartz**, under the direction of artist and essayist David Wahl. This festival, which was composed of shows, conferences and professional days, aimed to question the audience on humans' relationship to waste and, through this, to the environment. Cedre was involved in a panel session, held at the Quartz congress centre, to discuss shoreline pollution by litter and also played an active role in the "Plastic Challenge", a vast citizen-oriented litter operation in the Bay of Brest, launched by **Océanopolis Acts**, during which it was able to inform the public about the issue of litter.

First meeting of Polymers and Oceans research group

Cedre attended the first session of the **research group on Polymers and Oceans**, held from 24th to 26th June in Créteil. Organised by **LEESU** (Université Paris-Est Créteil - École des Ponts Paris Tech) and the **MMS** team (Université Catholique de l'Ouest), the aim of this session was to bring together the French scientific community involved in research on the fate of polymers in the aquatic environment and to present the latest results of work on this issue. During these 3 days, the 141 participants were able to attend a total of 42 conferences by industrial firms, associations, researchers and students. Cedre presented a poster on its research into cigarette butts and expanded and extruded polystyrene conducted through Interreg projects **CleanAtlantic** and **OceanWise**.

Plastics and Environment Days 2019

Cedre took part in the **Journées Plastiques et Environnement 2019** held on 27th and 28th June in Champs-sur-Marne (École des Ponts Paris Tech). This event, intended for operational personnel, was the opportunity to disseminate the latest information available on plastic pollution and to hold discussions between scientists, operational personnel and stakeholders in the field of water and the environment, during panel sessions on issues relating to the management of plastic waste. These two days were organised into five panel sessions addressing this theme, starting from the marine environment and working back to waste production. Cedre was a panellist in the first panel session to present current knowledge of shoreline pollution by litter from data obtained by surveillance programmes implemented within the framework of the **OSPAR Convention** and the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**.

OSPAR ICG Marine Litter meeting

Cedre attended the meeting of the **OSPAR** Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (**ICG/ML**) held in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 12th and 13th June. This meeting was devoted to the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Marine Litter, with a review of the actions carried out by the different Member States. Cedre presented its work on the fate and impact of cigarette butts in the marine environment (under action 48 of the RAP), as part of the presentation on the progress of the European Interreg project **CleanAtlantic**.

New hydrophobic floating sorbent tested

At the request of the firm **Palziv**, the oil-only floating sorbent pads AquaPal Blue and AquaPal Green composed of a mixture of polyolefins were tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given their performance, they have been added to the **list of oil-only sorbents** published by Cedre, available at <http://www.cedre.fr/en/Analysis-Research/Dispersant-and-sorbent-testing>.

Inland water pollution in Ambès, Gironde: a case not yet closed

On 12th January 2007, in **Ambès** (Gironde), a crude oil storage tank at the oil storage facility operated by SPBA (Société Pétrolière du Bec d'Ambès), belonging to DPA (Docks des Pétroles d'Ambès), gave way. A total of 13,500 m³ of Aquitaine crude oil spilt out, of which approximately 50 m³ flowed into the Garonne river, also contaminating the Dordogne and the Gironde rivers with the following tides. Around 40 km of banks of the 3 rivers were contaminated. On 13th October 2014, the Chief Prosecutor of Bordeaux criminal court called for fines against DPA and its former Director, both acquitted in December 2014. In October 2016, the Bordeaux Court of Appeal found DPA guilty but deemed the damage claims inadmissible (commune of **Macau** and associations **ASPAS**, **LPO** and **SEPANSO Gironde**). These parties took the case to the Supreme Court which annulled it, on 16th January 2018, but only for the damage claims and legal costs claimed by these parties. On 6th June 2019, a new case was opened before the Bordeaux Court of Appeal, for which the decision has been deferred until 26th September 2019.

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