

Thoughts on Sediment Management

Axel Netzband

Hamburg Port Authority AöR
Neuer Wandrahm 4
D - 20457 Hamburg

Phone: +49 40 42847-2791
E-mail:
axel.netzband@hpa.hamburg.de

With the presentation a personal view will be drawn on 30 years working in the field of dredged material / sediment management, ending with some general, more “philosophical” conclusions and recommendations.

Some starting points for the talk will be:

In the early 1980’s dredged material was perceived as one of the biggest environmental threats in Hamburg. As a consequence the city government launched a comprehensive Dredged Material Management Research Programme, followed by implementation of measures.

Today Hamburg handles up to 5 Million m³ dredged material each year, but most people in the city do not even know what the Port still does.

30 years ago there were very few environmental laws governing handling sediments.

Now we have the WFD, the MSFD, Birds and Habitats Directive, etc. pp. Does this help in managing sediments?

Before 1989 little was known about contamination sources upstream. After the fall of the Iron Curtain more than 20 years ago a lot of research was undertaken on Elbe issues.

Will remaining problems be solved soon and the river be “clean” again?

There is a lot of knowledge and experience on dredged material and sediments compiled by networks, working groups etc. since many years.

Do we have an over-arching, comprehensive picture on needs and possibilities today?