

Overview of the recommendations of WG-EG-EQS concerning environmental quality standards for metals in sediments.

Henning Clausen

EPA, Denmark

The EU working group on environmental quality standards is developing a technical guidance document on how to determine environmental quality standards (EQS) for surface water, sediment and biota.

According to the plan a final draft should be ready summer 2008.

The presentation will give a status of the working-group's work concerning metals in sediment, and give an overview of the guidance developed so far, and of the main problems and discussions still to be dealt with.

Central points in the discussion are methods and approaches for incorporating bioavailability corrections, especially with data rich metals, taking into account e.g. factors like binding to organic carbon and to sulphides (OC, Acid Volatile Sulphides = AVS, Simultaneously Extracted Metal = SEM), competition for binding sites between different metals, and Biotic Ligand Modelling (BLM).

Also the use of the Partitioning Equilibrium Model contra sediment toxicity data, the use of species sensitivity models (data rich metals), and tiered approaches are discussed.