

# Contaminated Dredged Marine Sediments: Developing a Management Framework for the UK Context

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Years of historic industrialisation at the coast and within the ports of the UK have given rise to a legacy of pollution and contamination in the bottom sediments, and these pose both environmental and social risks. Increasingly these sediments need to be dredged in order to support ever increasing port developments and associated maritime trade.

The UK government is currently into the 3rd year of a 3-year project aimed at informing a new management framework for the UK context. The framework will provide stakeholders with guidelines for the management of contaminated marine sediments in UK waters and will collect together information on:

- all relevant within country data;
- issues relating to liability;
- the impacts of current and incoming legislation (e.g. the 2009 Environmental Liability Directive; WFD);
- methods to prevent ongoing pollution and contamination;
- disposal options including novel approaches such as geotextile bags.

The framework also has a component looking at future research areas where funding can be strategically directed.

This presentation will discuss the framework, and it's forthcoming implementation within the UK ports and harbours context. In particular, the presentation will address means of continuing port development within the context of sustainable environmental management.