

A Decision Framework for assessing options for the disposal and treatment of contaminated dredged material in England and Wales

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Abstract:

Following the completion of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) funded R&D Project ME1104 'Research and Support for Developing a UK Strategy for Managing Contaminated Sediments' [1], Defra commissioned Cefas to develop a decision framework for assessing options for the disposal and treatment of contaminated dredged material. The intention is that the framework will be required to be used in support of applications for the management of contaminated dredged material to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under the new marine licensing regulations coming into force in 2011.

The approach taken to developing the decision framework will be described and the elements of the framework explained.

The decision framework was put out to public consultation by Defra in August 2010 with the consultation closing on 8th October 2010. The results of this consultation will be briefly outlined.

Following the decision framework being put out for consultation, Cefas was commissioned by Defra and the MMO, to produce guidance to assist applicants to use the decision framework in an effective and consistent manner. This guidance will also be described.

[1] Black (2009) 6th International SedNet conference October 2009 'The Role of Sediments in Coastal Management', Hamburg, 7-8 October 2009.

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