



## Summary report SedNet conference 2011

### Session: Management and Policy

summary prepared by M. Eisma, Port of Rotterdam Authority, session chair

There are different challenges with regard to the management and policy of sediments. In this session the perspective from 9 different case studies were presented.

Nathalie Dumay presented a French-English cooperation project on the Sustainable Environmental Treatment And Reuse of Marine Sediments (SETARMS). The SETARMS partners work jointly for the economic development of the English Channel Sea ports by finding modern economic and environmental solutions, based on robust scientific work. The results will be applicable and transferable in the Channel area and beyond.

Sefano Polesello presented the Guidance document for sediment and biota monitoring under the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive. This guidance document is not legally binding but offers a common approach as regards to biota and sediment monitoring. It takes into account the current scientific knowledge and encompasses a harmonized implementation of biota and sediment monitoring across Europe.

Agnès Laboudigue presented the GeDSeT Project, which brings together multi-criteria analysis and knowledge improvement on sediment for a close-to-the-field Decision Support Tool. A cooperation between Belgium and France was established. The project looks at the waterways in southern Belgium and northern France. Sustainable development issues were used as a guideline to identify consequences and effects of technical choices all along the sediment management process.

Chris Vivian presented the development of a decision framework for assessing options for the disposal and treatment of contaminated dredged material in England and Wales. 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 Organization under the new marine licensing regulations coming into force in 2011.

In Norway local management of contaminated sediments is encouraged by the environmental authorities. Jens Laugesen explained that in many cases this will be the economically most favorable solution. This is especially true when there are large amounts of contaminated sediments to be handled and the investment to build a local disposal facility can be economically justified. When small amounts are handled, transport to an external approved disposal site will mostly be cheaper.

Ellen Luyten presented a decision support tool to select contaminated sediments for prior remediation on a regional scale in Flanders, Belgium. A multi criteria analysis takes ten criteria into account, and obtains a score and weight depending on their importance. In this way, an ecological investigation priority factor could be calculated. After the data are obtained an expert judgment follows.

Philip Spadaro made a survey of the current approaches to contaminated sediment remediation in various countries. This survey shows that in the early 1980s 'environmental issues' were hardly part of the agenda. Allot has changed since, nowadays the concerns surrounding the occurrence, extent, and ecological or human health risks of contaminated sediments have continued to grow.

Marianne Olsen showed the management approach to decide upon remediation of the Grenland fjord system. Involving stakeholders, NGOs, scientists and authorities in the discussions on a regular basis in all phases of the project, has led to a common understanding of the complexity and an informal consensus of the strategy of a decision-making process.

Philip Studds ended the session with a project about the sustainable reuse solutions for dredged sediments. This project illustrates that when regulators and operators work together constructively, sensible, efficient and sustainable solutions can be found with regards to the classification of a contaminated sediment in order to conserve valuable energy and resources.