

Towards a Swedish agenda on management of contaminated sediments – an action for increased cooperation between relevant governmental agencies

Yvonne Ohlsson¹, Minna Severin², Per Nilsson³, Ann-Sofie Wernersson⁴, Sarah Josefsson³, Anna Stjärne⁵

¹Swedish Geotechnical Institute, Kornhamnsgatorg 61, Stockholm, Sweden

²Geological Survey of Sweden, Box 670, SE-751 28, UPPSALA, Sweden

³Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 106 48, Stockholm, Sweden

⁴Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Box 11 930, 404 39 Göteborg Sweden

⁵County Administrative Board of Västernorrland, 871 86 Härnösand, Sweden

Phone: +46-(0)-709-730166

E-mail:

Yvonne.Ohlsson@swedgeo.se

Introduction:

In 2013 the Swedish Geotechnical Institute finished a survey on knowledge gaps experienced within management of contaminated sediments in Sweden. In the survey stakeholders expressed e.g. a need for National guidance documents and development of remediation alternatives to dredging and landfilling. It was also mentioned that it can be difficult to understand the roles and responsibilities of the several governmental agencies and administrations dealing with contaminated sediments. As a result, a contaminated sediment network was organized with members from four agencies; The Swedish Geotechnical Institute, The Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

The networking resulted in greater understanding and more contacts between the agencies, and some joint activities. In 2017 the Geological Survey proposed a new action for increased collaboration, which included visions, goals and suggestions of activities that the working group identified as important to progress towards the goals. Now, also the Country Administrative Boards was represented. The proposed presentation comprises the result of this new action.

Methods: In 2017 and 2018 the new working group Based on the joint knowledge from different perspectives a common view of the current situation was described, also including summarizing the roles and activities of each organization. Knowledge gaps and needs were identified. Also, five focus areas were defined and vision each for five years ahead, 2022, was formulated. The focus areas were Collaboration; Research and Development; Policy, Guidance and Support; National Overview and Investigations and Remediation. Using a back-casting method goals were formulated for each focus area, for each year. For the years 2018 and 2019 also activities were formulated.



Figure 1. From visions to activities for five focus areas

Results: The action resulted in a report to the The Environmental Objectives Council in Sweden. Furthermore, the engaged agencies and administrations have committed to investigate further what activities they can include in their work plans for the coming years.

Discussion: Managing contaminated sediments is complex, not only technically, and relates to several environmental national and global sustainability goals. The authorities involved have their different angles and roles, and there is an obvious added value in defining visions and goals together. Some of the activities can be performed in collaboration, and when not is advantageous just knowing what activities are under way. In the presentation, the procedure and outcome will be presented as well as the expected effects on the management of contaminated sediments in Sweden.