



The Role of Ecotoxicological Data in Sediment Quality and Dredged Material Assessment Frameworks

Workshop held on 1-2 October 2020

On October 1 and 2, the workshop on "The Role of Ecotoxicological Data in Sediment Quality and Dredged Material Assessment Frameworks" took place. The workshop, organized jointly by the [SedNet Working Group on Sediment Quality](#), the [Sullied Sediments](#) project and the [ICES Working Group on Marine Sediments in Relation to Pollution](#), was initially scheduled to take place at the ISPRA facilities in Rome on March 10 and 11 but was canceled at the last minute due to the Covid-19 crisis. Finally organized as an on-line event, the workshop brought together 32 experts from academia, industry/business and government from 15 different countries to exchange experiences and approaches regarding the use of biotesting and ecotoxicological data in the assessment of sediment and dredged material quality. The four topics addressed included:

- application of ecotoxicological testing in sediment quality and dredged material assessment frameworks;
- the use of ecotoxicological data for deriving sediment quality guidelines (e.g. environmental quality standards –EQS-, environmental assessment criteria –EACs-) against the background of the Water Framework Directive;
- the efficiency of sediment quality guidelines to protect the environment and its living resources;
- the applicability of passive sampling methodologies to derive thresholds suitable for assessment purposes.

The focus was on identifying challenges and potential solutions to overcome them, as well as the actions that could help bringing forward these four areas. The workshop report will include the outcomes of the discussions and an Action Agenda that should serve as an umbrella for the coordination and development of strategies at international and cross-sectoral level.

A first initiative coming out of the workshop is the working meeting on reliability of sediment toxicity (see next news item) to be organized in the week of 28 June – 3 July 2021, in the framework of the [SedNet Conference 2021](#).

