

## Focus on Contaminated Sediment Management in Sweden

**Yvonne Ohlsson<sup>1</sup>, Ann-Sofie Wernersson<sup>1</sup>, Lijana Gottby<sup>2</sup>, Jon Engström<sup>3</sup>, Per Nilsson<sup>3</sup>, Tobias Porsbring<sup>4</sup>, Anna Stjärne<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Swedish Geotechnical Institute, 581 93 Linköping, Sweden

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

<sup>2</sup>Geological Survey of Sweden, Box 670, SE-751 28, UPPSALA, Sweden

E-mail:

<sup>3</sup>Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 106 48, Stockholm, Sweden

Yvonne.Ohlsson@swedgeo.se

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

<sup>5</sup>County Administrative Board of Västernorrland, 871 86 Härnösand, Sweden

**Introduction:** At the SEDNET conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in 2019 we presented the results of joint efforts between national Swedish authorities to achieve a national Road Map for contaminant Sediment Management. This work resulted in a government assignment in June 2019. The assignment came with funding in order to realize some prioritized parts of the Road Map. The assignment also included reporting future needs to carry on the national management of contaminated sediments, which has encouraged long term planning and also hiring of staff. The assignment will be reported in January 2021. Within the assignment period, other activities covered by the Road Map have been carried out in parallel, which the presentation will also cover.

**Methods:** The assignment includes several parts concerning; Data storing and management; Contaminated sediment mapping; Methodologies and guidance for inventory and prioritization, risk assessment and management; Developing a national knowledge platform; Developing an expert support function; Pilot tests and evaluation of remediation methods.

A prerequisite for the assignment is that it should be carried out “together”, i.e. not only in co-operation. In the 5 projects developed therefore all involved authorities are represented and sub-project leading is split over the authorities. Also, communication has been planned together, and several joint workshops and presentations have been held.

### **Results:**

Even if COVID-19 restrictions have provided challenges in a project so focused on working together, we have managed quite well and probably attracted even more participants in meetings and especially external workshops than would otherwise have joined in a, from north to south, almost 1600 km long country.

A National Knowledge Platform is being developed including a Sediment Website, a Stakeholder Network, user councils, an expert support function and the already existing Sediment National Authorities Network. The intention is that results and deliveries

from the assignment will be presented on the web-site, which will also continue to host existing and new knowledge even after January 2021. The results relating to data and mapping will add to the “National Overview” on the website. An important section will be “Guidances and methods” where e.g. the much-wanted Risk Assessment Guidance will be found. “Methods and experiences” will be fed by the 4 remediation pilot projects carried out as well as the evaluation of performed sediment remediations in Sweden and elsewhere. The roles and responsibilities of different authorities will also be found here, since this has been quite difficult to understand as a stakeholder.

Also, other activities within the joint Road Map have been going on next to the assignment. E.g. interaction with research funders have resulted in a research call, and also that contaminated sediments was include in a proposal for a new national research program on Water. The program on Water will start in 2021. Also, a workshop with researchers has been held discussing knowledge gaps in order to prepare for the coming calls.

**Discussion:** Contaminated sediment management concerns several national authorities as well as various competences. Hence, the key word in our early joint work between authorities as well as in performing the government assignment is “together”. “In cooperation” just isn’t enough to efficiently move forward. We see the current assignment as an important injection into a long-term joint work towards efficient and sustainable management of contaminated sites in Sweden.