

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Meeting of the Environmental Impact of Human Activities Committee (EIHA)
Edinburgh (United Kingdom) and on-line: 21-25 March 2022

Terms of Reference for the Dredged Material Expert Assessment Panel, 2022-2023

Organisation of work

1. The group will be convened by TBC Netherlands. (EIHA agreed that the convenorship should change annually on a rotating basis of all participating Contracting Parties). Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK will participate in the EAP.
2. The work of the EAP should be guided by Annex 2, Article 4 paragraph 3 of the OSPAR Convention.

Scope of work

3. The EAP will carry out the following tasks associated with annual reporting in the period 2022-2023:
 - a. to agree on the format for the submission of data annually;
 - b. to check and agree the compiled annual data;
 - c. to review and update where necessary quality assurance procedures regarding reporting on dredged material;
 - d.
4. The EAP will, by 2023, review and potentially propose revisions to the OSPAR criteria, guidelines and procedures relating to the dumping of wastes or other matter and to the placement of matter ([Agreement 2014-06](#) and [Agreement 2015-06](#)) – NEAES S7.04. This should include consideration of:
 - a) whether Technical Annex II (Normalisation of contaminant concentrations in sediments) is appropriate to retain or remove;
 - b) given the anomalies identified during the assessment of 2008 – 2020 data, whether refinements to the reporting requirements would be beneficial;
 - c) also given the anomalies identified during the assessment of 2008 – 2020 data, whether a more harmonised approach to the application of OSPAR guidelines would be beneficial;
 - d) Consider inclusion of guidance on monitoring of litter particles in dredged material.

e) Additional points identified from the 2008-2020 data review (Ireland and the United Kingdom will advise the EAP on these).

5. Additionally, the EAP should

- a) develop a dashboard for spreadsheet software to facilitate the analysis of data by Contracting Parties;
- b) produce a six-year assessment for 2020 to 2026.
- c) assess contaminant concentrations, for individual ports (if considered useful) to see if concentrations have been falling.

6. The EAP will correspond and / or meet as considered necessary and report its conclusions to EIHA.