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Establishment of environmental controls for dredging works

The CEDA/IADC Series of guides contains much information on the environmental aspects of dredging culled from case histories, research results and practitioners in the field. It promotes particular approaches to environmental evaluation and procedures for carrying them out. It provides the reader with a vast amount of relevant background reading and many sources for further research. It is unbiased and favours neither the promoter of dredging works nor those who are opposed to dredging being carried out.

It does *not*, and never set out to, prescribe specific controls for dredging works on a generalized basis. It is not intended to be used in this manner and, in fact, *should not* be used in this manner. It is intended to be an aid to planners, engineers and environmental scientists when they are making their own individual assessments.

The setting of suitable environmental controls for a specific dredging project should be carried out with great care. Like matrimony, it should not be entered into unadvisedly, lightly or wantonly.

In fact, it is often the single most important aspect of the planning of the project as a whole.

The golden rules for establishing environmental control are:

- The promoter/designer/regulatory authority should set the limits or levels on the various environmental parameters of concern.
- The set parametric limits or levels should be based on local conditions and local environmental sensitivities – not transplanted from another climate or site, whose characteristics will invariably be different.
- The contractor/operator should be allowed to operate his equipment in any reasonable manner that allows the environmental goals to be met.
- If you are a planner/designer/regulatory authority *do not* try to tell the contractor/operator how to operate his equipment. If you do, it will almost always cause unnecessary aggravation, and will often result in the works being executed in an over-cautious and irresponsibly expensive manner.