

Hamburg Declaration

“From Gaps to Integration”



World Organisation of Dredging Associations

**CENTRAL DREDGING ASSOCIATION
EASTERN DREDGING ASSOCIATION
WESTERN DREDGING ASSOCIATION**

WODA provides an independent forum for improving communication and technology transfer, and promoting integration and understanding of knowledge and experiences among all interested stakeholders to facilitate the economic and ecological sustainability of dredging and navigation projects.

WODA, published its Environmental Policy during WODCON XV in Las Vegas in 1998. The foundation of the Policy rests upon the recognition that:

- Carefully designed and well executed dredging projects that are conducted in an environmentally sound manner contribute to a stronger economy, and
- Dredging projects can be conceived, permitted, and implemented in a cost-effective and timely manner while meeting environmental goals and specific regulatory requirements.

In conformity with and furtherance of that policy WODA,

Observes that:

- A key to successful implementation of the environmental policy is wide understanding of scientific, technical, regulatory, and managerial aspects of dredging and dredged material management;
- With regard to the development and implementation of dredging activities, there are gaps (i.e., different levels of knowledge and understanding between people and between organizations) between different geographic regions, between regulators and operators, between environmental and economic interests, between different stakeholders, and between disciplines;
- Gaps can result in inappropriate regulatory guidance, inefficiencies in project implementation, and potential harm to the environment.

Understands that:

- The objectives and requirements of dredging projects should be ecologically sustainable and technically feasible, while simultaneously enhancing the economy;
- Feasible dredging technologies and practices are available that can meet ecological sustainability objectives;
- Monitoring and evaluation of projects can be used by responsible authorities to improve the decision making process;
- A healthy environment is essential to our social and economic well-being, and is integral to all activities including dredging;
- An integrated approach can provide a basis for considering economical acceptability and ecological sustainability. An integrated approach encourages open lines of communication between all stakeholders early and often during the dredging project design and implementation, considers the full range of environmental and economic issues of the project and in relation to the overall watershed or harbor/port; and
- There is much to learn from each other's experience and knowledge with regard to different countries, different disciplines, different roles, and different objectives.

Offers to:

- Assist in closing the gaps and move towards an integrated approach by means of communication of knowledge and participation in discussion at all appropriate levels.

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Chairman WODA Board of Directors

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Hamburg, Germany