



## Preface

Dredging is essential to maintain navigation in ports, harbors and inland waterways and for the development of port facilities. Much of the more than 2 billion tonnes of sediments removed during worldwide dredging operations are ocean disposed. There are a wide variety of beneficial uses depending on the physical and chemical characteristics of the dredged sediments. Dredged material has been beneficially used throughout the US for the development of wetlands and aqua-culture, beach nourishment, shoreline stabilization and erosion control projects, the enhancement of agriculture, forest and horticulture, open-cast-mine reclamation, solid-waste management, construction and industrial projects (such as port development), material transfer to fills. However, approximately 10% of dredged sediments are contaminated by human activity to an extent that major environmental constraints need to be applied when depositing these sediments. Some dredged sediments from locations such as New York/New Jersey and Boston ports were found to contain contaminants such as metals, Dioxins, PAHs and PCB that required attention in management practices. Therefore, innovative, legally acceptable and economically feasible disposal and management options are needed for contaminated dredged materials. This special issue of the journal of hazardous materials on "contaminated dredged soils" discusses the state-of-the practice, recent developments and legal & environmental issues of dredging and management of contaminated dredged material. The papers included address the latest decontamination and reuse techniques for contaminated dredged sediments.

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