

Environmental management for dredging sediments

The requirement of developing nations

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ABSTRACT

Scientific research has characterized the effects of dredging, an underwater excavation process for navigational purposes or material extraction, and has shown its association with a number of chemical, physical and biological impacts. Due to this, much environmental management has been applied in the dredging industry in order to manage its detrimental effects. However, developing nations may have different approaches towards their dredging environmental management to compare to their companions with higher economic strength. Moreover, scientific evidence to make an informed decision is often lacking, hence affecting the number of research executed at these nations, limiting their efforts to preserve the environment. This paper reviews the dredging environmental impacts and its two important factors, dredging technology and sediment characteristic, that determine the magnitude of impacts through literature review, and discusses the need for a more integrated dredging environmental management to be developed for developing nations

Keywords

Integrated environmental management; Dredging; Multi-criteria decision analysis; Decision-making method; Developing nations

1. Introduction

Decrease of invertebrate species due to sediment change, increase of oxygen demand due to re-suspension of sediments that also affects lighting intensity, and increase of turbidity levels caused by plumes, can be triggered by dragging, scooping and dumping acts while dredging (Balchand and Rasheed, 2000, Crowe et al., 2010; de Leeuw, 2010). Besides the environmental impacts, conflicting issues including cost, public perception, rules and regulations, socio-economic and managerial aspects of dredging have received excessive consideration over the last few years. This comes from the fact that dredging has increased in demand due to numerous projects, from the decrease of the seabed of River Scheldt and the expansion of Panama Canal to the development of projects in India for the construction of ports due to increased waterborne transportation (George, 2011; Krizner, 2010; Schexnayder,

2010; Thacker, 2007). Dialogues over the sustainability of dredging practices have risen together with its popularity, highlighting the need for research in assessing its sustainability based on its conflicting issues including from environmental, socio-economic and managerial aspects. However, this kind of research has fallen short.

Furthermore, different types of decision makers including idealists, politicians or environmentalists can greatly influence decision-making processes of dredging industry, and often, contradictory views are expressed during negotiations and investigations (Alvarez-Guerra et al., 2010). In other industries, many development projects have benefitted from strategic environmental management that offers holistic analysis by integrating different environmental management tools in order to achieve a balanced and sustainable decision (Abriak et al., 2006, Agius and Porebski, 2008, Wang and Feng, 2007). Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) has been widely used to rank alternatives based on the assessment of different criteria (Alvarez Guerra et al., 2009; Balasubramaniam, 2005). This tool has previously been applied together with comparative risk assessment, adaptive management, life cycle analysis and risk assessment analysis (European Environment Agency, 2003, Langmead et al., 2009, Maxim et al., 2009, Ness et al., 2010).

Potentially disproportionate costs caused by considering one aspect alone, such as using sediment quality analysis only to characterize contamination level in a dredging area, in dredging decision-making have created waves of worry among dredging stakeholders (Burton, 2002). Thus, development of a sustainable decision-making method for dredging, taking into account the issues discussed above, is a necessity.

This paper assesses dredging environmental impacts and its two important factors (dredging technology and sediment characteristic) that determine the magnitude of impacts through literature review, and discusses the need for a more integrated dredging environmental management to be developed for developing nations.

2. Dredging technologies

Excavation, transport and disposal of sediments are the three main stages of dredging activities (Fig. 1). These are successively repeated until a target quantity of sediments is dredged (Thorn, 1975), with each stage requiring different technologies. Historically, and as the dredging industry has developed, technologies have improved, and today different types of dredgers are available to be utilized for different applications.



Fig. 1. Stages of dredging (Highley et al., 2007, Verbeek, 1984).

Dredging starts with the excavation of sediments at a site with a hydraulic and/or mechanical cutter (Antipov et al., 2006, Du and Li, 2010, Honmagumi and Chiyoda Kenki, 1995, Klein, 1998). Different types of dredgers are required for different sediments and depths, but similar extraction methods may be required for both capital and maintenance dredging, whether through suction or grab (Den Herder, 2010, Fujimoto and Tadasu, 1998). Trailer dredgers are commonly used at sea, and deepen by dragging their cutter along the seabed, extracting loose sediments until the hopper is full and ready for disposal (Gubbay, 2005, Messieh et al., 1991). Conversely, anchor dredgers are generally confined to small areas such as lakes and port basins, and move by anchor and/or hydraulic spud: a part of dredger that penetrated into the sea or river beds to retain stability while dredging (Mostafa, 2012, Quimby, 1914, Reba, 1975). Pit excavators and bar skimmers, on the other hand, are commonly used to extract sediments from river beds (Ge et al., 1999, Highley et al., 2007, Padmalal, 2008). Backhoe dredgers, trailing suction hopper dredgers and cutter suction dredgers are among the other types of dredgers frequently used to date (Guo, 2011, Ikeda and Nomoto, 1999, Lefever and Van Wellen, 2011, Lin et al., 2010, Liu, 2005, Tack, 2010, Tashiro, 2009).

Dredged sediments are then transferred into hopper barges or pipelines using suction pipes, conveyor belts, bucket or grab (Duran Neira, 2011, Nippon, 1996, Schnell, 1984). The hopper barges or pipelines then transport the dredged sediments to the intended disposal site. Dredging often still takes place during transport when the practice of excess dredging is applied, which involves the continuation of dredging after the hopper is full, with the surplus volume discharged over the hopper weirs (Highley et al., 2007, Thorn, 1975, Van Nieuwenhuijzen and Van Den Broeck, 2011). Finally, the dredged sediments are disposed at a selected site. Several methods are available for this, including agitation dumping, side casting, dumping in rehandling basins, sump rehandling operations, or direct pumping ashore. Open water disposal is the most economical and widely used method, with hopper barges as the usual means of transport (Katsiri et al., 2009, Kizyaev et al., 2011, Krishnappan, 1975, Saxena et al., 1975). During open disposal, the dredged sediments are barged to the designated dumping site and disposed through its bottom gate (Krishnappan, 1975, Thorn, 1975). Another technique is the use of pipelines to pump the dredged sediments onto land. This process includes loading sediments into the hopper, transporting them through pipelines; and then pumping them ashore (Welte, 1975).

During open disposal, either silt curtains or booms may be used to contain suspended sediments in order to prevent diffusion and help sedimentation (Elander and Hammar, 1998). A boom is a heavy structure comprising a plastic cover, connectors, skirt, tension member and ballast weight which is hooked to an air or solid float (Dreyer, 2006). A submerged or floating silt curtain consists of a tension member, ballast weight, anchor and curtain (Dreyer, 2006, Guo et al., 2009, Ishizaki and Rikitake, 2010, Otoyo, 2003, Sawaragi, 1995, Trang and Keat, 2010, Ueno, 2010). However, there is concern regarding their use due to the risk of contamination leakages (Morton, 2001, Su, 2002, Thibodeaux and Duckworth, 2001).

Open disposal is generally not permitted when handling highly contaminated sediments (Krizek et al., 1975). Contaminated dredged sediments often require remediation, for example through mechanical mixing and aeration (Kim, 2004, Toyo Kensetsu et al., 1994). Other remediation techniques include sequential extraction techniques, pre-

treatment, physical separation processes, containment, washing, thermal extraction, bioremediation, electro kinetics, solidification/stabilization, vitrification, and chemical oxidation (Morinaga Kumi et al., 1997, Mulligan et al., 2001, Pensaert et al., 2008). Many of these techniques are often costly; however precise dredging can lower the dredging cost by determination of dredging depth based on the pollution level prior dredging. This method can also provide a favourable environment for the benthos (Zhang et al., 2014).

3. The influence of sediments characteristics

Sediment characteristics refer to the role of sediments as a contaminant source. Sediments act as a sink in that they adsorb and retain contaminants that have settled on the bottom of rivers and marine waters, coming from both point and diffuse sources (Burton, 2002, Riley and Chester, 1971, Rothwell et al., 2010, Salomons and Brils, 2004, US Geological Survey, 2004). Point sources, defined as identifiable sources, include waste dumps, direct effluent from industry and household effluent (Office of Naval Research, 2008, Salomons and Brils, 2004, Zühlke, 1994). Conversely, examples of diffuse sources, defined as undetermined sources, include weathering, atmospheric deposition, erosion, sewer system sediments and mining traces (Parkhill, 2002, Salomons and Brils, 2004).

Sediments also retain nutrients, including N and P (Moss et al., 1996). The natural source of these nutrients is from the microbial processes of microorganisms, homogeneous reactions and equilibrium reactions (Stolzenbach and Adams, 1998). However, the level of nutrients can increase as a result of human activities, such as through the release of fertilizer-borne nutrients used in agriculture (Lair, 2009, Salomons and Brils, 2004). Along with nutrients, sediments also retain and transport metals including Zn, Hg, Cd, As, Pb, Cu and Ni. Among the sources of these metals are weathered sedimentary rocks and underwater volcanic actions. The use of chemicals in various industries, including pharmaceutical, textiles and agriculture also results in the release of volatile and soluble organic compounds into the environment, which at the same time shows that human activities can artificially increase metal and organic concentrations (Garrett, 2000, Holt, 2000).

Sediments can therefore also release contaminants into the environment, as contaminants bound on sediment particle surfaces and interior matrices can be released when sediments are disturbed (Burton, 2002, Fluck et al., 2010, Garrett, 2000, Salomons and Brils, 2004). Transportation of contaminants by sediments is dependent on several factors, primarily particle size (Jain and Ram, 1997). Sediment particles are classified into different sizes, namely fine particle size up to 2 μm (clay), particle size up to 16 μm (silt), particle size between 63 μm and 64 mm (sand and gravel), and particle size more than 64 mm (rock) (Nittrouer et al., 2007, Tsinker, 2004, Verbeek, 1984). Furthermore, contaminants in sediments may be transported in different forms, whether in dry gaseous state, dry particulate or wet deposition (Lair, 2009). Ocean and wetland systems, tides, currents and waves can be attributed to sediment transportation (Nielsen, 2009, Office of Naval Research, 2008).

Sediment Quality Guidelines (SQGs) have been used to screen potentially contaminated sediments before dredging, even though this is not a regulatory requirement (Burton, 2002, Wenning, 2005). Currently in the US, Ireland, the UK, Belgium and Canada, SQGs are used to determine the sediments' level of contamination at a dredging site, although

still not because of regulatory requirements (Pan, 2009, Praveena, 2008, Suedel et al., 2008, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2006). SQGs are utilized to evaluate the quality of dredged sediments in order to help protect both the environment and humans from contamination exposure (Burton, 2002). This means that if the sediments exceed the guideline values, it becomes necessary to consider an alternative technological means to handle them (O'Connor, 1998).

Along with SQGs, Water Guideline Values (WGVs) are used to monitor the chemical parameters of the water column affected by dredging operations. WGVs can be determined from two perspectives: water quality in aquatic water systems; and quality of water intended for potable use (MacGillivray and Kayes, 1994). They are usually derived from either studies on humans or animal toxicity, but the latter is more widely used.

4. Dredging environmental impacts

The easiest way to understand the environmental impacts of dredging is through a traditional source–pathway–target assessment of risks. With the sources covered under sediments characteristics earlier, and with pathways of contaminants mainly associated with transport of sediments and therefore dependent on dredging technologies, a conceptual model illustrating source, pathway and target linkages is presented in Fig. 2. This figure also indicated examples of impacts that could be due to the activities of dredging namely physical impacts (PI), chemical impacts (CI) and biological impacts (BI).

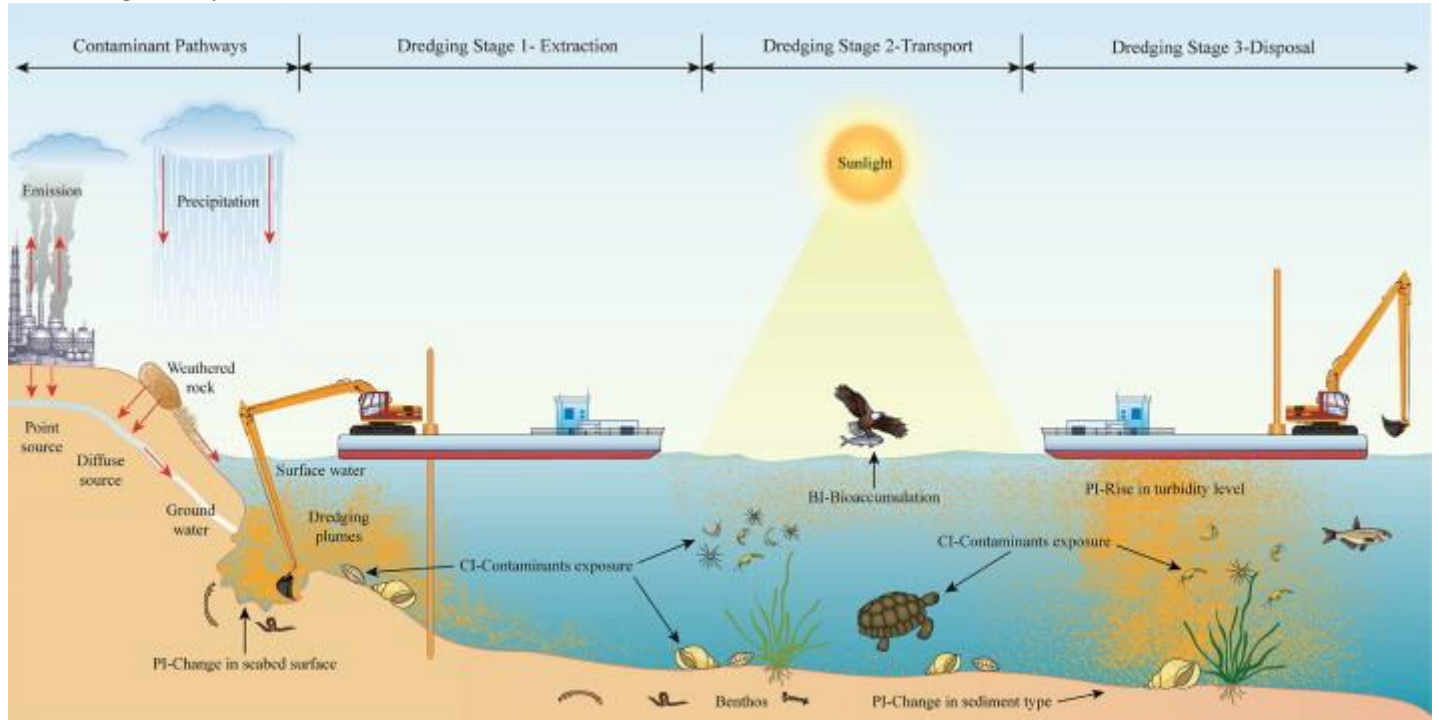


Fig. 2. Conceptual model for assessing dredging impacts.

Understanding the nature and extent of sediment contamination requires investigating the sources of pollution. Industrial effluents and sedimentary rocks represent point and diffuse sources for contaminated sediments, respectively. From such sources, contaminants can dissipate into groundwater, be released through precipitation, or

be transported by sediments into surface water, and finally adsorbed and retained in sediments on sea or river beds (De Nobili et al., 2002, Jain and Ram, 1997, Moss et al., 1996). Similarly, contaminant pathways into the environment are through media including sediments, air, groundwater, surface and marine water. Through contaminant precipitation, absorption or direct influent from point and diffuse sources into the media, contaminants are retained or transported directly into surface and marine water (Jain and Ram, 1997, Moss et al., 1996). This can be followed by bioaccumulation in food web communities triggered by the disturbance of sediments, including from dredging activities (De Nobili et al., 2002, Moss et al., 1996).

Fig. 2 illustrates that environmental impacts of dredging can take place during extraction, followed by transport and disposal of dredged sediments. Sediment extraction causes a variety of impacts, including dispersal of contaminants from sediments into the water, change in seabed surface, formation of dredging plumes and exposure of benthos and fishes to contamination. The dredged sediments are then transported to designated disposal sites. The impacts of these two stages can include bioaccumulation, contamination exposure, change of sediment type and rise in turbidity level.

Contaminant pathways including dredging technologies and sediments have been highlighted in Fig. 2. Examples of the risk of different technology and its level of contamination associated with these pathways are summarized in Table 1. It was found that a low environmental risk according to biological parameters is normally associated with low contamination. Additionally, mechanical dredgers (including mechanical shovel and clamshell) posed a lower environmental risk than hydraulic dredgers (cutter suction dredger). Nevertheless, the environmental risk according to chemical parameters remained high at both site categories, regardless of the technology used.

Table 1. The risk of different technology and level of contamination.

Dredging technology and level of contamination at dredged site	Environmental risk	Reference
Cutter suction dredger with cutter crown and sweep head (low)	38% Biological, chemical ^a	54% Groote et al. (1998)
Mechanical shovel (low)	29% Chemical	Piou (2009)
Clamshell (low)	0% Biological	Su (2002)
Dragline and excavators (high)	55% Biological, chemical	67% Ponti et al. (2009)
Mechanical shovel and bunds (high)	86% Biological	Ellery and McCarthy (1998)
Backhoe equipped with sieve bucket, excavator, auger dredger, silt curtains and oil boom (high)	80% Biological	Thibodeaux and Duckworth (2001)

a

The percentage represents the likelihood of the environmental parameter to degrade. It is calculated based on the number of times negative impact occurred in each research compared to 'positive' and 'no effect' impacts.

The impacts of dredging vary according to chemical, biological and physical parameters of the aquatic environment. Further descriptions of dredging impacts and parameters that have been monitored can be found in Table 2. Whether

these parameters increased or decreased as a result of dredging has been indicated with a mark (X) and numbered to show its reference.

Table 2. Impacts of dredging.

Parameter	During dredging		After dredging		During disposal		After disposal	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
Chemical impacts								
Organic compound in sediments and water			X (1, 2, 3, 22, 18)	X (5, 11)	X (21, 22)			
Inorganic compound in sediments and water	X (10)		X (10)					
Oxygen demand			X (4)					
Biological impacts								
Benthic fauna			X (1, 2, 7, 13, 18)	X (8, 19, 20)		X (23, 24)	X (27)	X (25, 26)
Benthic flora			X (6)	X (14)				
Fishes				X (15)				
Physical impacts								
Turbidity			X (12, 4)					
Transparency				X (13)				
Bed roughness			X (16)					
Erosion of the coastal area			X (17)					
Recovery rate after 2 years							X (26)	
Sand percentage							X (27)	

X (number of reference): 1 = (Ponti et al., 2009), 2 = (Toes, 2008), 3 = (Mackie, 2007), 4 = (Messieh et al., 1991), 5 = (Piou, 2009), 6 = (Munawar, 1989), 7 = (Constantino, 2009), 8 = (Balchand and Rasheed, 2000), 9 = (Douvere and Ehler, 2009), 10 = (Thibodeaux and Duckworth, 2001), 11 = (Shigaki et al., 2008), 12 = (Su, 2002), 13 = (Bonvicini Pagliai et al., 1985), 14 = (Ellery and McCarthy, 1998), 15 = (Thibodeaux and Duckworth, 2001), 16 = (Ellery and McCarthy, 1998), 17 = (Sergeev, 2009), 18 = (Rasheed and Balchand, 2001), 19 = (Padmalal, 2008), 20 = (Kenny and Rees, 1996), 21 = (Ljung, 2010), 22 = (Cappuyns, 2006), 23 = (Ware et al., 2010), 24 = (Crowe et al., 2010), 25 = (Cruz-Motta and Collins, 2004), 26 = (Powilleit et al., 2006), 27 = (Wilber et al., 2007).

5. Causes to environmental impacts of dredging

A number of possible causes for dredging impacts, as illustrated in the conceptual model, are presented in Table 3. The table shows that impacts of dredging are highly dependent on the levels of contamination of dredged sites and technologies used. Furthermore, the increase in chemical parameters that occurs during dredging and disposal shows that the disturbance of sediments exposes the ecosystem to contaminants. Increases in the levels of organic and inorganic compounds heighten the risk of contaminant exposure that can negatively affect flora and fauna. The change in physical parameters further reinforces this point. While it has been noted that some positive changes can

occur during the various stages of dredging, this review treats those more as anecdotal and suggests that the impacts are largely detrimental to the environment.

Table 3. The environmental impacts and possible causes.

Environmental impact	Possible cause	Remarks
Increase of chemical content in sediments and the water after dredging (Munawar, 1989)	Dispersal of contaminants into the water due to excavation Contaminants previously dispersed deposited back into sediments after dredging Excavation exposes new layer of sediments with higher value of contaminants	Silt curtain may not fully contain dispersal due to leakage (Thibodeaux and Duckworth, 2001)
Increase of oxygen demand (Messieh et al., 1991)	Increase of aquatic fauna Chemical pollutants maximize the need for oxygen to decompose	NA
Increase in number of polychaeta (Ponti et al., 2009)	Excavation exposes sources of food	Exposure of food sources attracts other polychaeta species, creates competition and congests the dredged site resulting in decrease of weaker species (Ponti et al., 2009)
Decrease in number of polychaeta (Ponti et al., 2009)	Excavation removes polychaeta from their habitat	Recovery rate is between 1 and 2 years (Kenny and Rees, 1996, Powilleit et al., 2006)
Decrease of light penetration (Douvere and Ehler, 2009, Munawar, 1989)	Dredging stages cause high level of turbidity	High level of turbidity is temporal (Herbich and Brahme, 1991, Messieh et al., 1991)
Increment of chemical body burden in crab (Su, 2002)	Dispersal of chemicals leads to bioaccumulation	NA
Habitat change (Padmalal, 2008)	Excavation changes sediment type and forces polychaeta species to change their habitat	NA

6. Other dredging problems

Current legislative actions aiming to preserve the environment from dredgingharmful effects, and their related problems, are listed in Table 4. Another important issue relating to dredging is its high cost. The cost of dredging varies according to the technology and equipment used, estimated volume, type of dredged material, distance from excavation to disposal site, time and distance of mobilization and demobilization, and disposal method. The high cost has always been the main problem for port operators, who are responsible for dredging and maintaining deep channels, but also need to spend funds to expand or build new terminals in order to cater for growing trade activities (Anderson and Barkdoll, 2010, Williams, 2008). Although operational costs are perceived as the biggest issue by a number of dredging stakeholders, few papers have discussed or analysed the cost of dredging. For example, Lee (2011) attempted to create a framework for dredging cost, analysing the construction operation process, type of river section, and the combination of equipment employed for river dredging. This analysis was based on historical data of river dredging projects conducted in South Korea (Lee et al., 2011).

Table 4. Dredging related rules and regulations in nations and their problems.

Criteria	The US	The UK	France	Malaysia
Dredging related rules and regulations	-	-	-	-
	Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), 1986	Water Framework Directive	Prevention and repression of marine pollution by immersion (Law n°76 599 of July, 7, 1976)	EIA 1987 Order, 11(c) Mining (Government of Malaysia, 5th November 1987)
	Harbour Maintenance Act of 1986	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Transitional Provisions) Order 2012	Require licence of immersion and public investigation (Decree n°82 842 of September, 29, 1982)	Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994
	Water Resources Development Act of 1996	Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985	Environmental protection and integration of environmental problem in all public or private activities likely to have environmental impacts (Law n°76 629 of July, 10, 1976)	Factories and Machineries Act 1967
	Clean Water Act (Gibb, 1997)	London Convention 1972 and OSPAR Convention for licensing of dredged material disposal	-	Wildlife Act 1972
		Harbour Act	Environmental protection and integration of environmental problem in all public or private activities likely to have environmental impacts (Law n°76 629 of July, 10, 1976)	Fisheries Act 1985
		Coast Protection Act 1949	-	Guidelines on Erosion Control for Development Projects in the Coastal Zone
		Merchant Shipping Act	-	
		Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	-	Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance Document for Sand Mining/Dredging Activities (Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia, 1997, Department of Environment Malaysia, 2007)
		Habitats Directive	-	
	Birds Directive	-		
	The Town and Country Planning Act 1971	-		
	Control of Pollution Act (Part 2) 1984	-	-Procedures of authorization and declaration (Law n°92 3 of January, 1992 Decree n°93 742 of mars, 29, 1993 and Decree n°93 742 of mars, 29, 1993)	
	Coast Protection Act 1949 (Bray et al., 1979, Eisma, 2006)	-	GEODE thresholds (Decree of June, 14, 2000) (Abriak	

Criteria	The US	The UK	France	Malaysia
Dredging problems	<p><u>Economic and environmental problems:</u></p> <p>Trends in the shipping industry toward larger vessels requiring deeper draughts</p> <p>The result of years of dismissing environmental problems as irrelevant</p> <p>High cost of sediment remediation (Gibb, 1997)</p> <p><u>Managerial problem:</u></p> <p>Conflicition between stakeholders from federal, state and local political leadership during dredging</p>	<p><u>Environmental problem:</u></p> <p>Loss of natural habitat</p> <p>The deteriorating water quality</p> <p>Polluted dredged material</p> <p>Beneficial use of dredged material (Vellinga, 2002)</p> <p>Conflicts on defining what constitutes waste to describe dredged sediments (Mink et al., 2006)</p> <p><u>Managerial problem:</u></p> <p>Potential friction between EU Directives and international conventions</p> <p>Other Directives on environmental protection, including Habitats and Birds Directives and Waste Framework Directive, lead to delays or cancellation of projects and to increase costs (Mink et al., 2006)</p>	<p>et al., 2006)</p> <p>EIA (OSPAR Commission, 2009)</p>	<p><u>Environmental problem:</u></p> <p>Harbour sites are located in sheltered zones where tides, streams, swell, and wind cause the trapping of sediments that becomes an obstacle for the access of ships to the harbour infrastructures</p> <p><u>Social problem:</u></p> <p>Dredging involves many stakeholders including the community and each stakeholder has a view and some interests can diverge</p> <p>The late involvement of environmental protection is responsible for blockings, loss of money and loss of time</p> <p>No public inquiry procedure while applications are being considered (Gac et al., 2011)</p>
			<p><u>Social and economic problem:</u></p> <p>Public participation (Emang, 2006)</p> <p>Economic vs the Environment (Briffett et al., 2004)</p> <p><u>Managerial and environmental problem:</u></p> <p>Conflict of power distribution (State vs Federal) that cause delays (Staerdahl et al., 2004)</p> <p>No mandatory action for monitoring (Briffett et al., 2004)</p> <p>No incentives for mitigation measures (Briffett et al., 2004)</p> <p>Difficult to enforce EIA 1987 Order (Emang, 2006)</p> <p>Lack of cumulative impact analysis (Briffett et al., 2004)</p> <p>Illegal sand dredging</p> <p>Environment aspect was not included during pre-planning stage (Briffett et al., 2004)</p> <p>Lack of baseline data/evidence based documents (Briffett et al., 2004)</p>	

Despite the fact that developing countries were estimated to become the largest dredging markets in the world over the next few years, stiff competition from foreign dredging contractors heightens the need to lower costs for local dredging contractors (George, 2011, Thacker, 2007). This, together with poor facilities and limited dredging and environmental expertise, increases the risk of environmental negligence in developing countries. In addition to the issues faced in developed countries, dredging operators in developing countries, for example Malaysia, face an even greater challenge of limited funds (Barrow, 2005, Bartelmus, 1986). Although the maritime industry in Malaysia has been treated as a priority by its government (Ministry of Finance Malaysia, 2010, Mohamad, 2010, Tun Abdul Razak, 2010), this nation is facing a challenge in effectively monitoring the impacts of dredging. The sensitivity of its environment, which is deteriorating, makes it more critical to investigate the impacts of dredging at a national level (Spalding, 2001).

7. Dredging environmental management

Environmental management tools that have previously been applied in the dredging industry are outlined in Table 5. These include tools for auditing and monitoring, data collection, and strategic monitoring and planning (Barrow, 2005, Bartelmus, 1986). Examples of tools used for auditing and monitoring include Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and risk assessment analysis (Guinée and Heijungs, 2000, Horne, 2009, Kiker, 2007, Linkov and Seager, 2011, Morrisey, 1993, Staerdahl et al., 2004). Another set of environmental management tools focus on data collection, with one example being the use of Geographical Information System (GIS).

Table 5. Environmental management tools and their application in dredging industry.

Environmental tools	management	Applications in dredging industry	Strengths and/or weaknesses
Auditing and monitoring	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Used globally (i.e. in Malaysia that stipulating dredging in the Environmental Impact Assessment Order of 1987) [1]	Reducing the unexpected impacts and providing an advance warning of environmental problems (Barrow, 2005). However, it can involve minimal public participation (i.e. in Malaysia) and can be excessively time consuming and costly (Barrow, 2005, Morrisey, 1993, Staerdahl et al., 2004)
	Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)	To support the choice of different sediment management options by compiling and evaluating the environmental consequences of each choice [2]	It can be a very data-intensive analysis that is complex, time consuming and costly (White, 1993)
	Risk assessment analysis	Examples: dredging risk assessment model applications (DRAMA), risk-based environmental windows, comparative risk assessment, water quality, sediment quality, and ecological risk assessment [3]	Its weakness associated with its dual nature of accounting for both probability and severity (Pan, 2009)
Data collection	Geographical Information System (GIS)	Examples: GIS-based dredging model system and geostatistical GIS model to identify cadmium and zinc contamination areas in sediments [4]	Substituting conventional maps and card indexes to display information
Strategic monitoring and planning	Integrated environmental management (IEM)	Examples: comparative risk assessment and MCDA, coupling of comparative risk assessment, MCDA, and adaptive management, coupling of MCDA, LCA and risk assessment analysis, harmonized framework for ecological risk assessment of sediments,	A combination of many environmental tools providing a holistic analysis

Environmental tools	management	Applications in dredging industry	Strengths and/or weaknesses
		evaluation of the Norwegian management system for contaminated sediments, Driving force–Pressure–State–Impact–Response (DPSIR) in Malaysia's dredging industry, and decision analysis approach to dredged material management [5]	

Reference: [1] = (Briffett et al., 2004, Government of Malaysia, 5th November 1987), [2] = (International Organization for Standardization, 1997, Vestola, 2009), [3] = (Agius and Porebski, 2008, Alvarez Guerra et al., 2007, Deliman et al., 2002, Liu et al., 2006, Suedel et al., 2008, Zeman et al., 2006), [4] = (Howlett et al., 2000, Vianna, 2004), [5] = (European Environment Agency, 2003, Langmead et al., 2009, Maxim et al., 2009, Ness et al., 2010).

A combination of strategic monitoring, planning and the above is gaining support as an integrated environmental management approach that aims to achieve sustainable development and maximize benefits for society, the economy, and ecosystems by integrating and balancing the issues of resource exploitation, social and economic activities, and environmental preservation (Wang, 2006). A number of applications of this tool have been developed, usually coupled with multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), which aims to create structured and defensible decisions (Kiker, 2007).

8. Potential of integrated environmental management framework for dredging industry

In general, a significant body of research has reviewed the environmental impacts of dredging, and many environmental management tools have been identified attempting to control its adverse effects. Nevertheless, these tools are subjected to their individual weaknesses that could limit their effectiveness.

It has been noted that environmental management tools and practices which enable the integration of the conflicting issues during dredging decision-making should be put into practice in order to make a sustainable decision and prevent its adverse impacts. Furthermore, the sources, pathways and impacts of dredging should be taken into consideration when identifying measures for reducing dredging impacts (Eisma, 2006, Oste and Hin, 2010, Raaymakers, 1994, Vellinga, 2002).

The concept of integrated environmental management has an all-encompassing definition; Wang (2006) has defined this concept as: “a process that aims to achieve sustainable development and maximize benefits for human society and ecosystems by balancing resource exploitation, socio-economic activities, and environmental protection through co-operation and coordination of administrative entities and stakeholders” (Wang, 2006). Hence, integrated environmental management could provide a structured framework to accommodate different views of stakeholders, and identifies the most suited scale of actions towards addressing multi-criteria and conflicting issues, as faced by many countries (Antunes and Santos, 1999). Successful applications of this concept have been seen in the Integrated Coastal Management and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which is among the tools of the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) (Antunes and Santos, 1999, Pacheco et al., 2007).

However, the focus of previous research has generally been on developed countries, with fewer attempts made addressing how these tools can be applied in developing countries. Developed and developing countries have very different primary concerns. In developing countries, the desire for economic growth and development often takes

precedence over environmental issues and concerns, while developed countries often have the economic strength to put greater emphasis on environmental concerns (Vellinga, 2002).

Understanding the conceptual model, as illustrated in Fig. 2, is a first step to help develop this framework. Source–pathway–receptor linkages, as described in the conceptual model, offer different opportunities for reducing, avoiding or mitigating environmental impacts. These measures can be applied by controlling the levels of contaminants from point and diffuse sources, managing the pathways by using appropriate, environmentally friendly technologies and remediating sediments before disposal, or by avoiding environmentally sensitive habitats and protecting sensitive environmental targets.

It is critical to employ a tool for environmental management that relates these choices to the wider issues of dredging. The use of integrated environmental management has gained support within the dredging industry (Abriak et al., 2006, Agius and Porebski, 2008, Wang and Feng, 2007). Coupling qualitative measurements with sediments data collection for the characterization of dredged sites could further lessen the dependency on scientific measurements, including sediments characterization, in the dredging decision-making process, thus making it more holistic, integrated and sustainable.

One of the most notable attempts on this was the methodology for dredging developed at the Port of Dunkirk, France (Abriak et al., 2006, Junqua et al., 2006). Its steps include characterizing dredged sites according to the types of sediments and sources of pollution, developing waste improvement options, and determining the most relevant management scenario. Through the active participation of dredging professionals, researchers and local communities, this methodology follows an integrated environmental management approach, making use of risk assessment and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) (Kiker, 2007). However, a variation to the Port of Dunkirk methodology, as in Fig. 3, that characterizes dredged sites according to sediments, and which requires costly data collection, might be more appropriate for developing nations. Moreover, focussing on scientific data alone will overshadow other important dredging considerations.

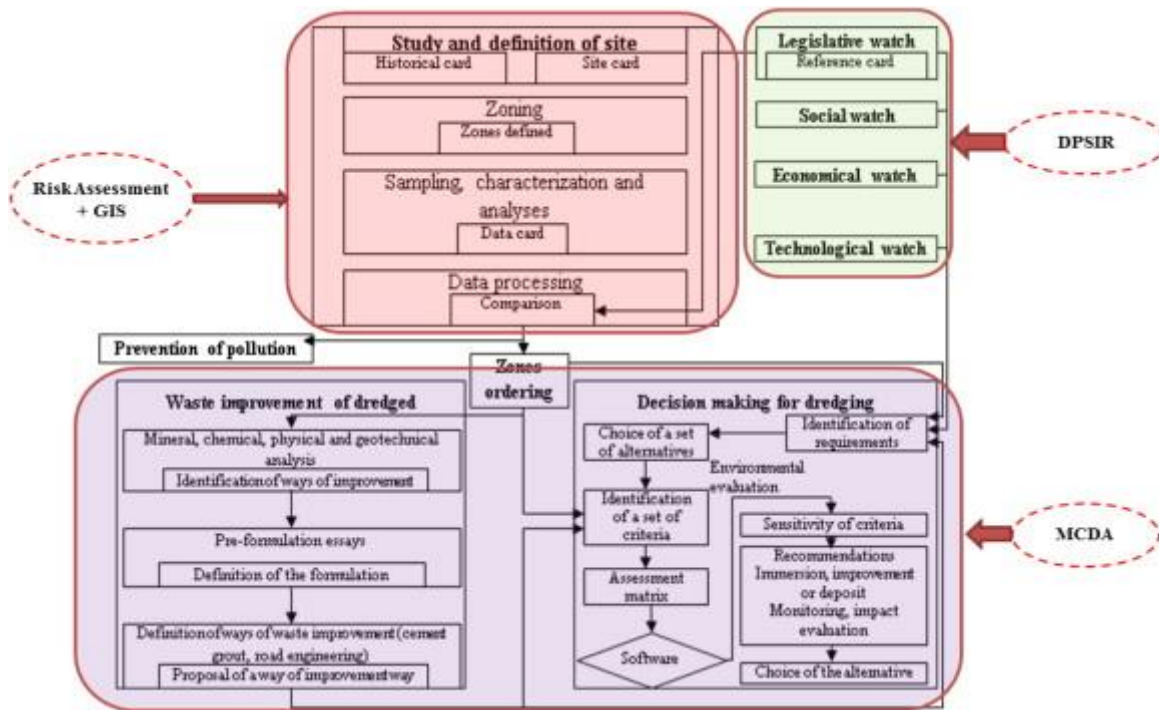


Fig. 3. Methodology for dredging at Port of Dunkirk, France (Abriak et al., 2006).

Developing countries have an opportunity and a duty to review and learn from practices in order to sustain growth without causing significant damage to their environment. Despite the fact that developing countries were estimated to become the largest dredging markets in the world over the next few years, stiff competition from foreign dredging contractors heightens the need to lower costs for local dredging contractors (George, 2011, Thacker, 2007). This, together with poor facilities and limited dredging and environmental expertise, increases the risk of environmental negligence in developing countries. In addition to the problems faced in developed countries, dredging operators in developing countries, for example Malaysia, face an even greater challenge of limited funds (Barrow, 2005; Bartelmus, 1986). Although the maritime industry in Malaysia has been treated as a priority by its government (Ministry of Finance Malaysia, 2010, Tun Abdul Razak, 2010, Mohamad, 2010), this nation is facing a challenge in effectively monitoring the impacts of dredging. The sensitivity of its environment, which is deteriorating, makes it more critical to investigate the impacts of dredging (Spalding, 2001).

A significant body of research has reviewed the environmental impacts of dredging, and many environmental management tools have been identified attempting to control its adverse effects. Nevertheless, the focus of research has generally been on developed countries, with fewer attempts made addressing how these tools can be applied in developing countries. Therefore, further research balancing the problems of dredging particularly for emerging economies such as Malaysia is a necessity. A variation to the Port of Dunkirk methodology (Fig. 3) which requires costly data collection and hard to implement (Choueri et al., 2010), might be more appropriate for developing nations. Developed and developing countries have very different primary concerns. In developing countries, the desire for economic growth and development often takes precedence over environmental problems and concerns, while developed countries often have the economic strength to put greater emphasis on environmental concerns. Despite

this, the development of any nation, regardless of economic status, should be balanced with the need to preserve the environment.

Malaysia is used here as an example of a developing country. It is among the most richly diverse regions for coral reefs, of which 91% are at risk due to anthropogenic activities, such as dredging (Spalding, 2001). In addition, Malaysia houses a number of tropical islands which are the habitat of abundant and exotic wildlife. It was also noted that the number of fisherman in Malaysia increased 3% in 2010 from the previous year, showing a growing dependence on the fishing industry (Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 2010; Omar, 2011). Furthermore, Malaysia is currently undergoing major economic development as part of a government plan to become a fully developed country by 2020. To that end, much effort has been made to increase the economic wellbeing and quality of life of its people (Mohamad, 2010). This has included the government's provision of USD 250 million over the years 2006–2009 to build and extend ports, and to ensure the safety of ship navigation for the fishing industry (Ministry of Finance Malaysia, 2010). Dredging is a major component of this, and it has been noted in previous research that Malaysia is facing difficulties in effectively monitoring the impacts of dredging (Manap et al., 2012), making even greater the need for this country to develop an effective environment management tool for dredging to avoid further environmental deterioration. However, a recent risk-based decision-making framework for the selection of sediment dredging option has been developed using Malaysia's case studies, which could be beneficial to dredging industry of this country (Manap and Voulvoulis, 2014a, Manap and Voulvoulis, 2014b).

9. Discussion

Conventional environmental management tools and analyses have been shown to only focus on certain aspects such as economic or scientific evidence, which is not well balanced and frequently sidesteps other important environmental, socio-economic, management, or technical concerns. Therefore, tools and analyses, which integrate and balance multiple criteria during sediment management decision-making, are a necessity. Developing and developed countries may have different approaches to managing issues of dredging and sediment management. Developed countries have the ability to emphasize the environmental issues due to their high purchasing power; however developing countries that strive for economic strength may not have the luxury of doing so.

In fact, the lower the average income of a country, the lower the pressure to value the environment becomes. Therefore, a country may select an approach to environmental management depending on its economic strength. The approach can be reactive, receptive, constructive or proactive (Vellinga, 2002). Nevertheless, countries with abundant natural resources such as Malaysia should not take for granted their biodiversity, as this treasure has been depreciated over the years (Spalding, 2001).

For countries that are striving to enhance the quality of life of their people (such as Malaysia and its 2020 Vision), the rapid development towards a strong economy may worsen the already reduced environmental status.

It should be noted by countries such as Malaysia that the pioneering countries of the industrial revolution, the UK and the US, are still paying their debts to the environment by remediating contaminated lands, due to their historical rapid development (Stolzenbach and Adams, 1998). Therefore, it is critical for countries such as Malaysia which still fall into the developing category to change their perspective now from reactive towards proactive, with respect to managing the impacts of dredging.

It is undisputed that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system in developing countries is weak and without neglecting the economic aspect, therefore a risk-based approach for integrated environmental management framework offering a holistic and integrated strategy that can improve the preservation of environment of these countries is a necessity (Ahammed and Harvey, 2004, Alshuwaikat et al., 2007, Jain, 1999, Jou and Liaw, 2006, Kolhoff et al., 2009, Rajaram and Das, 2008, Tang et al., 2005, Tortajada, 2000).

10. Conclusion

This paper indicates the need for an integrated approach to dredging environmental management that incorporates environmental implications and the disturbance of ecosystem equilibrium, which as demonstrated vary according to sediment properties and the technology used, in addition to the economic considerations which otherwise dominate the process, to be specifically develop for dredging at developing countries. The additional concerns of legislative challenges, negative public perception and cost must also be taken into account, thus creating the need for a more integrated approach to dredging management.

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