

INVITATION

Special Meeting to discuss International Co-operation

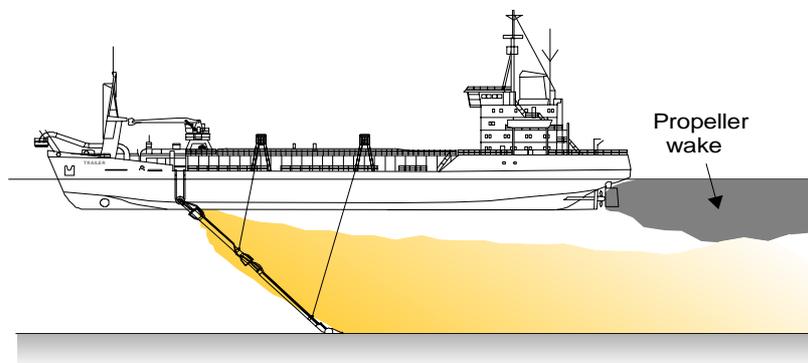
SEDIMENT RE-SUSPENSION BY DREDGING

The Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George Street, London,

Tuesday 14 October, 09:30 to 13:15 followed by lunch

There is an internationally recognised need to be able to better quantify the environmental effects of sediment that has been put into the water by dredging activity. As a significant step in this process the Dutch dredging contractors together with the Dutch Government commissioned HR Wallingford and Dredging Research Ltd to produce software that will reliably predict the rate at which sediment is re-suspended by a range of dredging activities. Pilot models (known collectively as TASS) have been produced in Phase 1 of the research but before they can be used with confidence they require proper calibration and refinement. This means that there is a need to monitor many dredging operations in a wide range of situations.

Phase 2 of the research has involved preparing protocols for taking calibration measurements. The draft protocols have been reviewed by experts from the UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, France and the USA. A final version was published in August 2003. During discussions with these experts it became clear that there is widespread interest in other countries being more involved in the research but the mechanism for doing so is not so clear.



The USA, through the ERDC, Army Corps of Engineers, entered into a cooperation agreement that provides funds for discussions and information exchange and provides in-kind contribution in the execution of field trials, both in Europe and the USA.

The UK Government (DEFRA) has begun to be involved by commissioning a brief report on the present state of the art and is funding a measurement exercise that will take place at Harwich.

We are now at the stage of wishing to invite other countries to join in with direct funding of the research, with practical assistance “in kind” with monitoring operations or both. A liaison committee involving the UK, The Netherlands and the USA meets twice a year. We would like to extend an invitation to other countries that are willing to subscribe in some measure to the research to join in that committee and help to steer the work in directions that will assist countries to meet their obligations under various international and national regulations in an informed way. The committee will be called ACCORD (Advice and Consultation Committee on Re-suspension by Dredging).

We therefore invite you to join with other interested parties at a special meeting at the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George Street (just off Parliament Square) London at 9:30 am on Tuesday 14 October 2003. The meeting has been deliberately planned to follow the London Convention Consultative meeting to save travel time and costs for some of the participants. You will be informed about the research by HR Wallingford and DRL and about the way that cooperation is already working in The Netherlands and the USA. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about how to move things forward.

Following the meeting there will be an informal lunch at The Institution, hosted by HR Wallingford.

For practical reasons only, we limited invitations to the USA and the European countries that we know have an interest at the present time. We anticipate no more than about 24 people attending.

We hope that you will join us but if you receive this invitation and there are others better placed to represent your government or organisation please pass it on to them. Please also inform us if you know of an organisation that is interested.

Please reply by E-mail to Neville Burt at HR Wallingford nev@hrwallingford.co.uk or telephone him on 01491 822348 (direct line). Please indicate whether you wish to join us for lunch.