Working Group on Marine Sediment (WGMS)

2017/MA2/HAPISG01 The **Working Group on Marine Sediments with respect to pollution** (WGMS), chaired by Claire Mason, UK, and Maria Belzunce, Spain, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2018	5–9 March	San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia, Spain	Interim report by 1 June	
Year 2019	4–8 March	Évora, Portugal		Change in Chairs Outgoing: Craig Robinson, UK Incoming: Claire Mason, UK
Year 2020	2–6 March	Lisbon, Portugal	Final report by 15 April	Joint meeting with MCWG and WGBEC

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
A	Respond to potential requests for advice as required.		2.1; 2.2	3 years	Advice
B	Dredging activities 1) Review the regulated substances and thresholds used in management of dredging activities	A major source of contaminants in marine sediments, the substances considered, their thresholds and management approaches are different in each country.	2.1; 6.1	3 years	Review document & recommendation, if required
	2) Review and recommend monitoring approaches to disposal sites		2.1; 3.1; 6.4	3 years	Review document & recommendation, if required
C	Sediment Quality Guidelines Review recent publications that may contain data to refine existing sediment assessment criteria	More data may be available to refine existing BACs / EACs; there are no existing criteria for some prioirity substances (e.g. PBDEs) for use in MSFD / OSPAR status assesments.	2.1; 3.2; 6.1	3 years	Annual updates and final report.
D	Plastic litter: To assess the relevance and the potential risk impact of (micro-) plastics in sediments and follow up of outcomes of other expert	(Micro-)plastics are included in MSFD Descriptor 10, are of emerging concern and can be a vector for contaminant	2.1; 2.2; 2.5	3 years	Annual updates and final report.

	groups	transfer to sediments, or from sediments to biota			
E	Emerging issues 1. To review and inform on the occurrence of substances of emerging concern in sediments, including platinum group and rare earth elements, as well as organic contaminants 2. To consider other forms of pollution, e.g. microbiological	Sediments are a sink for many of these pollutants, but may also be a source.	2.1; 4.5 2.1; 2.2	3 years	Annual updates and final report.
F	Impact of renewable energy devices To explore the potential risk impact in terms of inputs (corrosion, anti-corrosion agents…) and release of contaminants due to sediment scouring	Changes in hydrodynamics may release sediment-bound contaminants; there may be inputs of contaminants during installation, operation and decommissioning. This is under active research by a member of the group.	2.1; 2.2; 2.7	3 years	Report (with recommendations, as appropriate)
G	Passive sampling				
	1) To publish guidelines on passive sampling of sediments	Documents are in advanced drafts and will be completed	2.3; 3.3; 4.4; 6.1	1 year	Two ICES TIMES papers
	2) To publish a review on passive sampling techniques	A review document is at an advanced stage of drafting and will be completed	2.3; 3.3; 4.4; 6.1	1 year	Cooperative Research Report
	3) Review and update on developments	Passive sampling is an advancing area of research that could improve on existing monitoring techniques	2.3; 3.3; 4.4; 6.1	3 years	Annual updates and final report.
	4) continue to develop a database to provide information of use in developing assessment criteria for passive sampling techniques		2.3; 2.5; 3.2; 6.1	3 years	Dataset and advice to OSPAR on progress

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Completion of the different draft documents on Passive Sampling (PS) and submission as two ICES TIMES papers (Guidelines on PS in sedimens) and one Cooperative Research Report on the techniques for passive sampling of marine sedments. Progress work towards completion of the remaining ToRs

Year 2	Progress work towards completion of the remaining ToRs
Year 3	Final Report

Supporting information

Priority	This Group handles key issues regarding monitoring and assessment of contaminants in sediments. The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the understanding of the relationship between human activties and marine ecosystems (estimation of pressure and impact, …). Consequently, these activities are considered to have a high priority.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10-15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	The normal secretarial support to an ICES Expert Group is required.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are no obvious direct linkages.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There are close working relationships with Marine Chemistry Working Group (MCWG) and Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants (WGBEC); some members of WGMS are also members of these. The work of WGMS is also relevant to the Working Group on the Effects of Extraction of Marine Sediments on the Marine Ecosystem (WGEXT) and to the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG ML).
Linkages to other organizations	OSPAR, HELCOM, MEDPOL, EU/JRC Expert Network on Contaminants.