

## CENTRAL DREDGING ASSOCIATION UK

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 2022

This report summarises the activities of CEDA UK in 2022.

#### **1.0 Overview**

Throughout 2022 the Committee continued to hold hybrid meetings and events, with the December meeting, event and drinks reception held in person only. The committee also awarded its second award for Outstanding Contribution to the UK Dredging Industry at the December event, presented by Mieke van Loenen, CEDA General Manager, and awarded to three very worthy recipients.

Membership numbers reduced 40 (2021) to 37 (2022), whilst corporate numbers have increased from 8 (2021) to 12 (2022).

The CEDA UK Committee members continue to actively participate, and we are looking forward to our 2023 programme.

#### **2.0 Events and Activities**

2022 was a busy year for the CEDA UK Committee, with four seminars and two site visits. These were all well attended.

##### **John Sargent Lecture: THE UK'S NET ZERO JOURNEY - A MARINE PERSPECTIVE**

Dating back more than 260 years, The Crown Estate is a unique business with a diverse portfolio of assets, which it manages to create lasting and shared prosperity for the nation. The Crown Estate Act of 1961 established the organisation as an independent commercial business and over the last decade it has generated £3 billion for the benefit of the nation's finances.



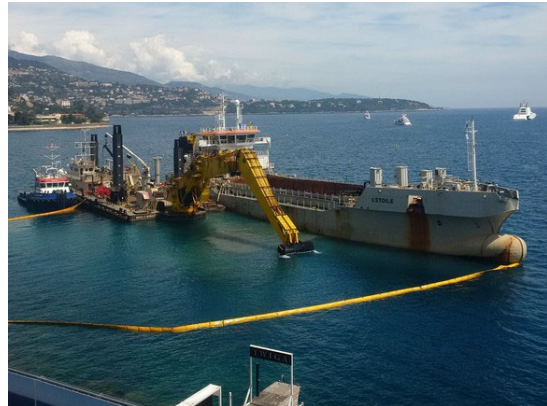
As the manager of the seabed, and half the foreshore, around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, it plays a key role in responding to the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss by enabling the UK's offshore wind industry, and facilitating the development of sectors such as cables, pipelines, CO<sub>2</sub> storage, and marine minerals. It works in partnership with its customers and stakeholders to help the country optimise the economic, environmental and social potential of the marine environment, supporting its long-term sustainable development.

This presentation discussed the journey that the UK is taking towards achieving its 2050 net zero target, outlining some of the existing and future challenges and opportunities that this journey presents, for policy and planning, technology and supply chain, habitat and environment.

## SEMINAR: MEASURES TO MANAGE THE EFFECTS OF DREDGING PROJECTS

Dredging activities can have significant effects on the marine environment. These effects can occur in numerous ways including direct habitat loss, changes to coastal processes, changes in sediment composition, increases in suspended sediment and the release of contaminants. It is therefore essential to identify appropriate management measures to ensure the protection of the marine environment.

This seminar discussed the latest approaches and technologies to manage the effects of dredging activities, using actual case studies from around the world.



## SITE VISIT: BLENHEIM PALACE

After completing phase one of this £5 million restoration project which saw the refurbishment and repair of the cascade weir connecting the Great Lake to the River Glym in 2020, Land & Water undertook phase two to desilt Queen's Pool.

Land & Water removed c 300,000 cubic metres of silt over the course of nine months, to return the lake to its ideal depth of two metres from its current shallows of 30cm. It's believed to be largest 'inland' dredging project undertaken in the country.



## SEMINAR AND SITE VISIT: DREDGING IN THE HARWICH HAVEN

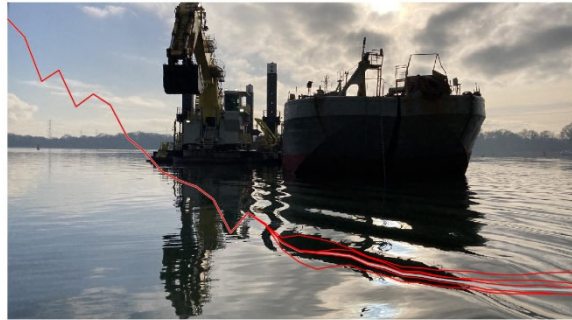
A major project was underway to deepen the Harwich Haven approach channel. The works ensured the Port of Felixstowe would continue to be a leading facility in global shipping. A range of dredging techniques were utilised to deliver the project, which was undertaken by a Boskalis Westminster Van Oord Joint Venture. The project also undertook beneficial reuse of suitable dredged arisings and contributed to a local project to increase the lobster population.



Speakers attended from Harwich Haven Authority, Boskalis Westminster Van Oord JV, the RSPB and Mersea Harbour Protection Trust.

## SEMINAR: REDUCING GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE DREDGING INDUSTRY IN THE DRIVE TO NET ZERO

The UK is committed to reach net zero green house gas emissions (GHG) by 2050 across their economy including in the domestic maritime sector, which is the largest contributor to the UK's domestic GHG emissions. This seminar considers the repercussions of the drive to net zero on the dredging industry and explores what is being done to help achieve decarbonisation.



Speakers attended from HR Wallingford, Royal IHC, the Canal & River Trust and Strathclyde University.

### **3.0 CEDA UK Outstanding Contribution Award**

2022 saw CEDA UK present its second Outstanding Contribution award, which recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the UK dredging industry, e.g. by years of service, promotion of the industry or contribution towards inspiring, informing or founding best practice and innovation in the industry. The 2022 Outstanding Contribution awards were presented by Mieke van Loenen, CEDA General Manager, and awarded to Nick Smith and jointly nominated Frank Weston and Peter de Vaal.

Nick Smith had recently retired from the Canal & River Trust (and his role on CEDA UK's committee) following 30+ years involved in dredging our inland waterways. He enjoyed a career that included managing the largest number of waste disposal licences held by a single organisation in the UK, supervising dredging works, helping to restore the Scottish Lowland canals, representing inland dredging interests to UK government and internationally, guiding colleagues across the Trust on legal waste management requirements and saving inland waterways managers £millions through his efforts on legislation and Landfill Tax exemptions.



Peter and Frank were jointly nominated. Frank Weston joined, what was then Westminster Dredging Company Ltd in 1966, aged 16 as a cabin boy, based in the company's yard in Bromborough on Merseyside. Peter de Vaal similarly joined in 1968. Both have worked for "the Wessie" and now Boskalis Westminster ever since.



Both Frank and Peter bring professionalism, enthusiasm, a wealth of practical knowledge and a sense of esprit de corps to any project and to their colleagues around them. They have seen the dredging industry change massively over fifty years, from what it was then, to the high tech, highly automated and safety conscious industry that it is today. They have not only adapted to that change but have also made great contributions to that change. They have always been very keen to pass on their knowledge and experiences to the youngest of our

personnel, treating them with respect, keeping them safe and giving them room to develop their skills with independence and just the right amount of hands-on management.

## **4.0 CEDA input to legislation**

CEDA UK takes an active interest in the development of national and European legislation that may affect the dredging industry. The focus during 2022 was the implementation of the revised Action Levels being carried out by Cefas. The Committee wrote to Defra, who is responsible for implementing environmental policy and regulation in England and Wales, to request information about the process and timescale for adopting any changes to the Cefas Action Levels, and to convey the importance of this to the UK Dredging Industry.

In the UK, CEDA attends the UK Water Framework Directive/Marine Strategy Framework Directive Navigation Sector Group which provides a forum for the navigation industry and government to liaise over the progress with these pieces of legislation.

Committee members have continued to play an active role in wider CEDA activities; Will Shields and Michael Costaras represented the Committee on the CEDA Main Board.

## **5.0 Future Events**

In 2022 the Committee is planning several interesting sites visits depending on project progress. Details will be provided when the visits are confirmed.

The title of the 2023 John Sargent Lecture will be on: Dock Filling for the New Everton Stadium Project at Bramley Moore Dock, Liverpool. Our technical seminars in 2022 will be held in:

- May
- October
- December

## **6.0 Liaison with kindred organisations**

The Committee has continued to liaise with kindred organisations including PIANC, the Federation of Dredging Contractors (now 'dormant'), AINA and of course, the CEDA Main Board. We continue to work with the ICE as part of its knowledge sharing programme. CEDA continues with its official observer roles in the London and OSPAR Conventions.

Furthermore, members of the committee are chairing the Thames Estuary Partnership's Dredging Liaison Group, helping to share knowledge and best practice.

## **7.0 Personnel**

Jayne Hornsby stepped down as Vice-Chair due to personal reasons, and the UK Committee would like to take this opportunity wish her a speedy recovery and return to the Committee. The UK Committee were pleased to welcome Darren Dodsworth, Kevin Kirkland, Will Manning and Martin Mannion to the Committee in 2022.

All members have made a strong Commitment to CEDA UK through attendance at meetings and leading technical seminars. I would like to thank the Committee members for their continued dedication to CEDA UK and enthusiasm for our activities. I look forward to, and appreciate, the continued input from all Committee members during 2023. I would also like to thank Kate Beardsley and Shelly-Ann Russell for their support in 2021 and look forward to working with them and their colleagues at the ICE in 2023.

Jamie Gardiner - Chair of CEDA UK Committee  
January 2023