

This report summarises the activities of CEDA UK in 2020.

1.0 Overview

2020 was a rather different year for CEDA UK, given the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the committee continued to be proactive and continued to hold committee meetings and seminars, albeit virtually rather than in person.

Membership numbers dropped from 52 (2019) to 39 (2020), whilst, corporate numbers have reduced from 9 to 8.

The CEDA UK Committee members continue to actively participate and we are looking forward to our 2021 programme.

2.0 Events and Activities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold any in-person events; however, we did hold on-line technical webinars in 2020. These were very well attended.

Future Considerations for the Ports and Dredging Industry

Ports are constantly expanding in order to be able to accept larger vessels and the ever-increasing growth of the global shipping market. As a response to this, capital dredging campaigns are required to widen and deepen shipping channels, as well as to provide access to new berths and port infrastructure. There is also the increasing effort needed to maintain the navigational depths required to keep the shipping channels and berths open for use.



The dredging industry is facing numerous challenges to keep our ports open, whilst also minimising its impact on the environment. This seminar considered some of the issues the dredging industry faces, with a look to the future on how these are changing. This on-line event was attended by 158 people.

How the ports and dredging industry are changing, from the perspective of a Dredging Contractor and Harbour Authority.

As an island nation, the UK relies heavily on its ports, which have always been fundamental to the economy; however, they face numerous challenges every day in order to be able to operate in the constantly changing regulatory and legislative environment, manage the ever increasing size and number of vessels and to provide the services they need to support them.



Likewise, the dredging industry is constantly having to adapt and look for more innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of its customers and other external influences. Building on our October seminar, this event considered the practical issues that port authorities and dredging contractors face and how they are adapting to overcome these. This on-line event was attended by 109 people.

3.0 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 of the UK has continued to be on what Brexit may bring and how that could affect maritime industries. There still remains considerable uncertainty and CEDA UK will maintain a watching brief as we move through 2021.

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.

4.0 Future Events

In 2021 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 2020 John Sargent Lecture will be on the theme of Working with Nature. Our technical seminars in 2021 will be held in:

- May
- October
- December

5.0 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 are represented on the ICE Maritime Panel by Paul Hesk. 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.

6.0 Personnel

Keith Dee, Jayne Hornsby, Will Shields and Colm Sheehan were all re-elected during the 2020 AGM.

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 2021. I would also like to thank Shelagh Fleming and Shelly-Ann Russell for their support in 2020 and look forward to working with them and their colleagues at the ICE in 2021.

Jamie Gardiner
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