

Vacancy MSFD TG Seabed representative

CEDA is looking for a representative to join the Technical Group on Seabed habitats and Sea-floor integrity (TG Seabed) and report back to the Marine Strategy Navigation Group (MSFD NAVI) chaired by CEDA.

Background

The aim of the European Union's ambitious [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD) is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. The MSFD was launched in 2008 to protect the marine ecosystem and biodiversity upon which our health and marine-related economic and social activities depend.

The EU has developed a common strategy for supporting the implementation of the MSFD. The main aim of this informal strategy is to allow a coherent and harmonious implementation of the Directive. It focuses on those methodological questions related to a common understanding of the technical, scientific and socio-economic implications of the MSFD. One of the objectives of the strategy is the development of non-legally binding and practical documents on various issues requiring attention in implementing the Directive.

The Common Implementation Strategy has three working groups: on Good Environmental Status (WG GES), on Programmes of Measures/Social and Economic Analysis (WG POMESA) and on Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange (WG DIKE). The main role of the working groups is to provide technical, scientific and socio-economic input to the Common Implementation Strategy.

The Technical Group on Seabed habitats and Sea-floor integrity (TG Seabed)

The Technical Group on Seabed habitats and Sea-floor integrity (TG Seabed) oversees technical work on issues related to the development of methodological standards for the assessment of seabed habitats and the achievement of good environmental status (GES) for sea-floor integrity in Europe.

The contribution of seabed habitats and sea-floor integrity to the overall goal of achieving good environmental status (GES) of Europe's marine waters is addressed by Descriptors 1 and 6 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The aim of the work of TG Seabed is to develop proposals in line with the requirements of Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and to operationalise, at European level, the determination of GES and the assessment of seabed habitats for MSFD purposes.

It provides a platform for expert exchange at EU level between the Member States, other countries and stakeholders including the related ongoing work of the Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs).

The sub-group reports to the Informal Commission Expert Group on the Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU) 2008/56/EC. The group was established in 2019.

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Marine Strategy Navigation Group

Formed in 2009 and chaired by CEDA, the [Marine Strategy Navigation Group \(MSFD NAVI\)](#) is a 'thematic cluster' of navigation sector bodies that coordinates the exchange of knowledge, experience and views of the participating associations and provides professional advice that can be used in the implementation of the MSFD.

Continuation of CEDA's active involvement in the MSFD implementation process and its role in MSFD NAVI is seen essential by the CEDA Board as decisions are relevant to CEDA member activities in the marine environment. The MSFD NAVI work done so far has proven that we do have the ability to make a positive contribution to the process to ensure that decisions are based on sound current technical and scientific knowledge, and take account of best practice.

Responsibilities

These could be summarized as follows:

- Attend TG Seabed meetings and report back to MSFD NAVI
- Attend MSFD NAVI meetings

Estimated effort

Activities	Estimated effort
Attend TG Seabed meetings	2 x per year, 1 day per meeting (in Brussels, possibility to join online)
Attend MSFD NAVI meetings	2-3 x per year, 1/2 day per meeting (mostly online, 1x per year in Brussels)

Required skills and qualities

- Sound technical knowledge of the MSFD topics and a good understanding of the practical concerns of the dredging/navigation sector and capability to discuss and present these topics at the required level
- Strong project management and verbal skills
- Good understanding of CEDA and its aims
- Willingness and capability to represent the wider interests of the MSFD NAVI members and not only the interest of a particular sector or company/organization
- Willingness and ability to travel to Brussels (or other European cities) to attend the various meetings of the European Commission (if needed, most meetings are open to online participation)
- Commitment for a period of three years (2026 – 2029)
- Approval and support of the employer
- Ability to carry out the work on a voluntary basis without compensation for time or travel costs



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Benefits

While undertaking this work requires considerable commitment from the individual and his/her organization, it is equally rewarding both professionally and personally. Benefits include:

- Exposure to knowledge, ideas, and approaches in a multinational, multidisciplinary range;
- Opportunity to gain experience with the European Commission's ways of working;
- Opportunity to broaden the professional network by international, leading experts specialized in the marine environment;
- Opportunity to contribute with state of the art dredging knowledge and best practice experience to a process that can have long lasting implications to dredging activities in Europe;
- International, professional recognition to the individual and his/her organization.

Expressions of interests

If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Mieke van Loenen, miekevanloenen@dredging.org).

CV and motivation letter can be submitted till 30/10/2026.