

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS FOR THE 28TH SESSION: COUNCIL -
PART II

Informal Working Group - Environment

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council2022@isa.org.jm.

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Submitted by World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA)

2. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Draft Regulation 45 Development of environmental Standards and Guidelines. Para 1a

3. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

Original text

(a) Environmental quality objectives, and indicators and thresholds, including but not limited to on ~~ecological balance of the marine environment~~ ecosystem, structures, functions and services, biodiversity status, plume, dispersion and dilution, toxicity, composition, water chemistry, as well as ~~and extent~~ sedimentation rates and light and noise emissions. This also includes ~~(a)is~~ Bbaseline data collection, including as well as all available data on the marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Proposed text to replace whole of the original text

1.(a) Environmental quality objectives including ecological balance of the marine environment, biodiversity status, plume dispersion and dilution, toxicity, and light and noise emissions.

1. (b) As part of the Guidelines, thresholds for plume dispersion and dilution, toxicity, and light/noise will be developed. These thresholds should be developed based upon best available scientific evidence, including collected baseline data as well as all available data on the marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150 word limit]

The text relating to Environmental Quality Objectives introduces requirements that in our experience are currently technically or scientifically very difficult to achieve, i.e., indicators and quantitative thresholds for ecosystem structures, functions, and services, composition and baseline data collection.

This paragraph is also introducing the concept of binding thresholds and indicators. It is too early in the development of the industry to set binding thresholds – thresholds should initially be guidelines with an aim to turn them into standards over time.