

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment  
**THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**IAIA08 Session Chair's Report**

**Session number and name:** 2.7 Excellence in Marine & Coastal Impact Assessment: Dredging Focus

**Day:** Wednesday **Date:** 7 May 2008 **Time:** 1400-1500 **# Persons attending session:** 60

**Name(s) of Session Chair(s)**  
James Stoddart

**Contributors:**  
James Stoddart, Riku Koskela, Tom Foster, Kevin McAlpine, Ray Masini, Maarten Kuijper

**(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes discussed in this session**

- a) can we evaluate whether predictions of EIA are met
- b) can models accurately predict the extent of potential impact in marine communities
- c) use of frameworks to aid proponents undertaking EIA

**(b) One or more emerging trends**

Use EIA processes to drive management to be earlier in the process

**(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:**

**(i) dimensions of IA effectiveness (i.e. what are the characteristics of effective IA?)**

EIA should consider hierarchical areas of effect from "impact to influence"

**(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness**

Uncertainty in understanding the effects of dredge plumes or resuspension on marine benthos

**(iii) how these barriers might be overcome**

Link studies with examples of real projects

**(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)**

Not considered in this session