

CIESM Congress Session : Seabed contamination
Moderator : Lucy Woodall, Natural History Museum, London, UK

Moderator's Synthesis

The presentations were focused on geochemistry and covered nutrient, organic pollutants and heavy metals. The moderator invited the audience to think more broadly about seabed contamination, by including biology and physical parameters in the discussion, and highlighted these aspects in her introduction.

Discussion points were

- Hotspots and monitoring MSFD
- Multidisciplinary collaborations- transport and food web bioaccumulation
- New technologies = new sources e.g. Vent mining
- New techniques to analyse the seabed

Although discussions were pretty much limited to the first two points, there was a consensus that current sources of contamination are generally known, but their paths of transportation and the impact of aspects such as seabed topography were less understood. It was also suggested, that in the future, background reference concentrations should be determined. This would require local effort which, for certain chemicals, would be very challenging. It was also acknowledged that due to differences in sampling it is often difficult to compare between sites for monitoring purposes.

While there was not enough time to discuss the potential of multidisciplinary collaborations, a few speakers noted in their presentations that there was a need to understand the impact of the pollutants that they found on the marine environment.

