

Current Developments and Challenges on Sediment Toxicology in Scientific and Regulatory Contexts

CHAIRS: Francesca Pellizzato, Hugo Waeterschoot



Monday 12th May 2014, 13:55 – 16:00, room: Boston 2

Following on from the Topical Scientific Workshop on Risk Assessment for the Sediment Compartment held at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in May 2013 the session aims to discuss further the current developments and challenges on sediment toxicology in the scientific and regulatory contexts both in the EU and other jurisdictions. The workshop reviewed the state of the art in sediment toxicology and risk assessment and developed updated scientific principles and guidelines for assessing the ecological risks of chemical substances in sediments. As a result of the workshop a number of knowledge gaps in bridging science with regulation were identified. In relation to sediment toxicity testing as a regulatory tool, key areas identified as requiring further attention include developing further internationally recognised test methods addressing the diverse sediment community, expanding the list of benthic organism groups and species and their functional traits also including bioaccumulation tests addressing different routes and ways of uptake. More specifically in the regulatory context, the development of risk assessment and testing methods for specific types of chemicals, for multiple stressors and mixtures of chemicals were identified as issues of high importance. In addition, interactions of, for example, the benthic and pelagic compartments, extrapolation from laboratory to field, between ecosystems and regions and different sediment types were seen to require further attention. The need to address the efficiency of regulatory thresholds was also emphasised. During this session the latest developments in these areas identified by the scientific and regulatory communities worldwide would be covered. Presentations within the described focus areas are invited to be presented during this session covering perspectives of both regulators and scientific community as well as views of industry. A presentation on the main outcomes of the Sediment workshop and related developments may be addressed.

SESSION TYPE: Platform and Poster