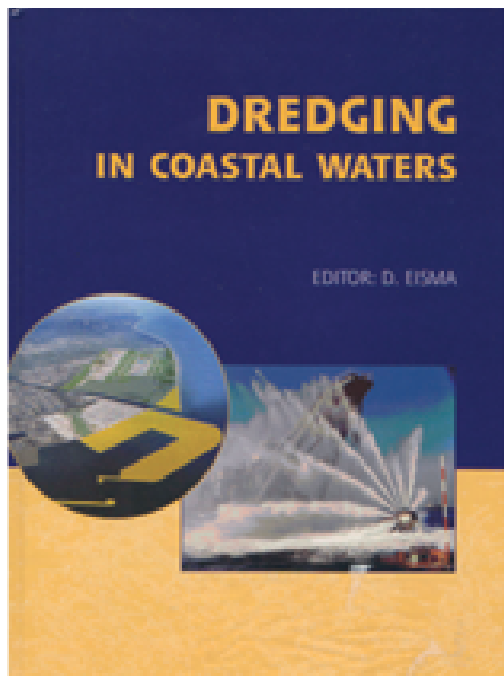


# BOOKS/PERIODICALS REVIEWED



## **Dredging in Coastal Waters**

EDITED BY D. EISMA

*Published by Taylor and Francis/Balkema, P.O. Box 447, 2300 AK Leiden, The Netherlands. 2006. 244 pages. Hardcover. ISBN: 0415391113. Price: £69.00/ \$124.00.*

It is always exciting to open the pages of a new publication on the subject of dredging. Not only is there the opportunity to forage for information on new techniques, experience from past projects, environmental effects data and other related matters, but for anyone who has ever tried to publish a technical treatise, there is the added interest in how the subject has been handled and the book has been structured. In this case, there could hardly be any doubt about the quality of the information being presented. The list of authors reads like a Who's Who in the dredging world and, taken as a series of essays on various dredging-related topics, the material is of top quality. Where one could be critical is in the presentation of this material in book format without, apparently, the chapters being merged sufficiently to eliminate repetition. That said, admittedly it is better to have repetition of good quality, than poor quality and there are no examples of the poor quality here. Quite the contrary.

The authors and their contributions are as follows (in the order they appear and as credited in the book):

- Gerard H. Van Raalte: "Dredging Techniques; Adaptations to Reduce Environmental Impact".

- Anders Jensen: "Environmental Investigation and Monitoring of the Fixed Links across the Danish Straits".
- W J Vlasblom: "Dredging in the Dutch & Belgian Coastal Waters and the North Sea".
- Neville Burt: "Dredging in UK Coastal Waters".
- Roberto Vidal: "Dredging in Spanish Coastal Waters".
- Robert E Randall: "Dredging in the United States".
- Peter D G Whiteside: "Dredging in Hong Kong".
- Weidong Sun: "Singapore Dredging".
- Pier Vellinga: "Dredging in a Changing Environment".

The book is edited and introduced by D. Eisma who is a retired professor in Marine Sedimentology at the University of Utrecht and the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel. The book opens with a general appreciation of the nature of dredging projects and dredging processes, together with a description of how these are made more environmentally friendly. This is followed by seven individual chapters relating to dredging works in Denmark, the coastal waters of Holland and Belgium and the North Sea, the United Kingdom, Spain, the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore. The final chapter is a more philosophical perspective of the nature of dredging in an environmental context.

Chapters 1 and 3 both contain a substantial amount of information on dredging processes and together could be described as a current "state of the art" inventory. Chapter 2, curiously located, and Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, are more country specific and deal with dredging works in the context of their environmental regulations. There is a wealth of detail here. The way to get the maximum benefit from this publication is probably is to read right through the whole book, noting points of interest and references, rather than dipping into it, as one might do for a standard text book. Many of the "essays" are based on previously published material, but expanded to fulfil the requirements of the book. As a whole they represent a significant contribution to the state of the art and a valuable reference.

Although an index is provided, the nature of the publication does not lend itself to easy access for specific subjects, particularly when they occur on a recurrent basis. However, the knowledge base as a whole is substantial and there is no doubt that the literature of dredging and its environmental context is considerably enhanced by this publication.

The book is available from Taylor and Francis at <http://www.taylorandfrancis.co.uk>

NICK BRAY