

World Organization of Dredging Associations Statement on Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

Noting the significance of the December 2015 UN Paris Climate Change Agreement, the World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA) agrees that concerted and timely efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation are crucial to reducing risks to people, and to safeguarding human social and economic well-being and the ecology of the planet in the near and long term.

The members of WODA* are *committed* to:

- Increasing energy efficiency and managing carbon in relation to dredging projects, including reduction of carbon emissions and creating carbon sinks through habitat development;
- Contributing to enhanced resilience and reducing risks to the world's shorelines, coastlines, inland, estuarine and marine water resources, waterways, infrastructure; and
- Advancing innovation, dredging knowledge, and best practices and sharing these to support the above actions.

The members of WODA *recognize* that:

- Dredging and sediment management are essential to maintaining and improving our quality of life, economic well being, and ecosystem health.
- An integrated, holistic approach to carbon management in relation to dredging projects is needed: , optimization of dredging processes, innovations in the design of dredging vessels, the use of alternative fuels, as well as the use of sediment to support carbon sequestration offer opportunities that should be further developed.
- Adaptation measures for climate change need to be based on a well-informed approach that makes appropriate use of surveying, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- Natural systems and nature-based infrastructure (e.g., beaches, dunes, barrier islands, wetlands, and reefs) serve a critical role in supporting resilient coastal systems. Dredging and sediment management that support natural systems and nature-based infrastructure is a key component of adaptation strategies, policies, plans, and actions.
- Flexible, evidence-based, and science-informed regulatory frameworks are essential for the timely and efficient implementation of innovative solutions.

Acknowledging the challenges facing nations around the globe to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, WODA members will collaborate with a wide range of other professional groups, kindred associations, and stakeholder groups to identify, share, and implement effective solutions that benefit communities, the economy, and the environment.

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* WODA is a broad-based organization representing all segments of the dredging community.