



Sediments and Sludge Sampling

One of the most exciting challenges we can face in environmental research is to design a sediment sampling campaign in a river, the sea or in a harbour.

The aim can be quite diverse: contamination analysis, remediation, monitoring, environmental survey, etc. From the start we need to ask ourselves what information we expect to extract from the samples we will collect. It is worth bearing in mind the difficulties that we may have in the collection, from technical (depth of the water table over the sediments, depth of sediment to sample) to logistical problems (boats, sampling points, divers ...).

We may expect qualitative results, for example the presence of some compound, texture and a variety of other things. Or perhaps we are trying to establish a part of the recent history of sedimentation, a contamination event, effects of flooding, etc. Because of its intrinsic complexity, we can think about ambitious targets when planning our sampling campaign; the sampling work and cost is not much different if we aim to establish qualitative results by grabbing or more precise results by profiling our sediments.

