

17. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The subject matter of this marine environmental impact assessment report is the project of the Szczecin Maritime Authority (*Urząd Morski w Szczecinie*) consisting in disposing the dredged material from the sea areas in connection with the construction of a breakwater and outer port in Świnoujście.

The project being the subject matter of this Report is located in the coastal area of Zatoka Pomorska east of the Świna river mouth and the existing eastern breakwater.

The scope of the planned works includes:

Dredging works relating to the construction of a 2,980 m long breakwater for the outer port in Świnoujście,

Dredging works relating to the construction of a 250 m long groin,

Dredging works in the sea area of the planned port down to ordinate 14.50 m below bottom level,

Dumping the dredged material in a disposal site within the territorial sea.

In accordance with the Minister of Transport and Construction Regulation on the Procedure for Issuing Permits for the Disposal of Dredged Material and Waste or Other Substances in the Sea, dated 26 January 2006 (Dz. U. of 2006, no. 22, item 166), a marine environmental impact assessment is required in respect of the project consisting in disposing the dredged material to the sea.

Moreover, the project of the breakwater construction was classified, in accordance with § 3 Section 1 item 64 the Council of Ministers Regulation on Identifying the Types of Projects with Potentially High Environmental Impact and on Detailed Conditions for Projects Eligibility for Environmental Impact Assessment (Dz.U. No. 257 of 2004, item 2573, as amended), as a project with a potentially significant impact on the environment, for which an environmental impact assessment report may be required.

Dredging works within the outer port in Świnoujście are planned on an area of 1 km² and cubic capacity for 8.2 million m³ of dredged material. Dredged sediments will be disposed in an open sea disposal site (according to variant 2) with an area of 12 km² and average depth of 12.2 m below sea level. As a result, 1 to 1.5 m high mounds will be accumulated, which will subsequently be levelled. The dredging and disposal works will be carried out for 24 months. For the analysed works, an implementation variant that is least burdensome for the environment was chosen.

Seafloor sediments to be dredged were analysed for contamination (104 cores). The content of heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is lower than the values specified in the Minister of Environment Regulation on the Types and Concentrations of Substances Causing Dredged Material to be Contaminated (Dz. U. of 2002, no. 55, item 498), therefore, the material dredged within the sea area relating to the construction of the breakwater and outer port in Świnoujście is not contaminated and may be disposed in the marine environment.

Based on the analysis of environmental and biocenotic conditions, assessments and opinions of stakeholders as well as the scientific circles, two variants of the disposal site location were contemplated. As a result of ranking analyses, it was assumed that disposing the dredged material into the variant 2 open sea disposal site (cf. figure 2.1, section 2 of the Report) will be least burdensome for the environment. According to the analysis, works carried out at this place will not have a significant

impact on the protected Natura 2000 species and habitat sites. During the dumping of the dredged material, the dispersion range in the water column will slightly reach beyond the footprint of the disposal site, and the suspension and material spreading around the seafloor will not pose a threat to the fairway to the port in Świnoujście.

Following completion of the works, the bottom of the disposal site will be included in the ecosystem, recolonised and occupied by meio- and macrobenthos and used for fish spawning and feeding.

In the post-implementation phase, the disposal of the dredged material to the sea will have no significant impact on the elements of environment and biocenoses that were taken into consideration. No cumulative effects or cross-border impact are expected. Biological losses mainly concern meio- and macrobenthos units and also cover insignificant larval forms of benthic organisms and water column. The biological losses of the benthic fauna will be reconstructed relatively rapidly (within ca. one year), thanks to which the area's feeding base will not be disturbed. The port breakwater and its armour will be colonised as early as in the course of construction by plants and epiphytes, enhancing the biodiversity of the sea area.

No impact on birds is expected, as being highly mobile they are capable of quickly moving to other, neighbouring areas of Zatoka Pomorska that are richer in food resources.

Taking into account the protection of the fish stock, a break in the works (April to May) was planned. The proposed manner of dumping the dredged material / filling in the site sectors most distant from the spawning grounds (according to variant 2) with the dredged material will considerably reduce the impact of those works on herring's spawning. During the autumn spawning (September – November), the dredged material should be disposed in the northern sectors starting from point F towards point G (fig. 2.1 of the Report) within a site strip 1 km wide. The strip should be reserved for the material dredged during the autumn spawning. Immediately after the spring spawning, i.e. in June, the remaining most distant from the coastal line sectors of the site should be filled in.

Most of the local fish species are present not only in the area of the dredging works and dredged material disposal site but are also present all over Zatoka Pomorska, thanks to which any potential losses in the fish stock will be insignificant.

The planned project will increase the risk of a breakdown at the construction stage as a result of the dredgers' work and vessel traffic (collisions, oil spills). Therefore, it is assumed that the dredging works and dredged material disposal works will only be carried out in the weather conditions specified in the certificates of the vessels, which will minimise the risk of emergency situations occurring.

The estimated potential biological losses will not require any nature compensation. During and after the dredging works and dredged material disposal works, monitoring of the seafloor topography, the coasts and biological environment within the area of dredging and dredged material disposal is planned to be carried out in order to assess the changes that have occurred therein. The analysis on which this report is based was carried out pursuant to the balanced development rules and in compliance with the requirements to monitor the project's environmental impact (in the light of threats to, and achievement of the Natura 2000 network sites protection goals).

Conclusion

The implementation of the project titled "Open sea disposal of material dredged from sea areas in connection with the construction of the breakwater and outer port in Świnoujście" on the planned

areas of Zatoka Pomorska will have no significant impact on the environment and marine biocenoses. No negative impact on protected Natura 2000 species sites or habitats will take place, either.

Therefore, the project may be implemented in accordance with the assumed technology for the dredging works and for the disposal of the dredged material, as described in Chapter 2 of the Report, and in accordance with the practical measures intended to minimise any negative environmental impact, described in Chapter 12.