

Wolska, L., Mędrzycka, K. Assessing the Ecotoxicity of the Bottom Sediments from the Sea Ports of Gdansk and Gdynia. *Ochrona Srodowiska* 2009, Vol. 31, No. 1, pp. 49–52.

Abstract: Bottom sediment samples collected at the sea ports of Gdansk and Gdynia upon dredging operations were tested for ecotoxicity, using bacteria of the species *Vibrio fischeri* and the crustacean *Heterocypris incongruens* as bioindicators. The results make it clear that, apart from two samples taken at the sea port of Gdynia, the equalized bottom sediments from both the sea ports can be classified as nonhazardous. However, some of the bottom sediment samples collected at different depth showed a substantially higher toxicity towards the bioindicators used than did the equalized samples. Chemical analyses failed to fully confirm the negative ecotoxicity of the bottom sediments. The noticeably high toxicity of the nonequalized samples seems to suggest that the bottom sediments might have been contaminated with compounds which are not regarded as their bioindicators. The results obtained have substantiated the conclusions drawn by other researchers on the benefits from the use of biotests when assessing the hazards of dredged material disposal in the aquatic environment.

Keywords: Sea port, bottom sediments, dredging, ecotoxicity.