US Army Corps
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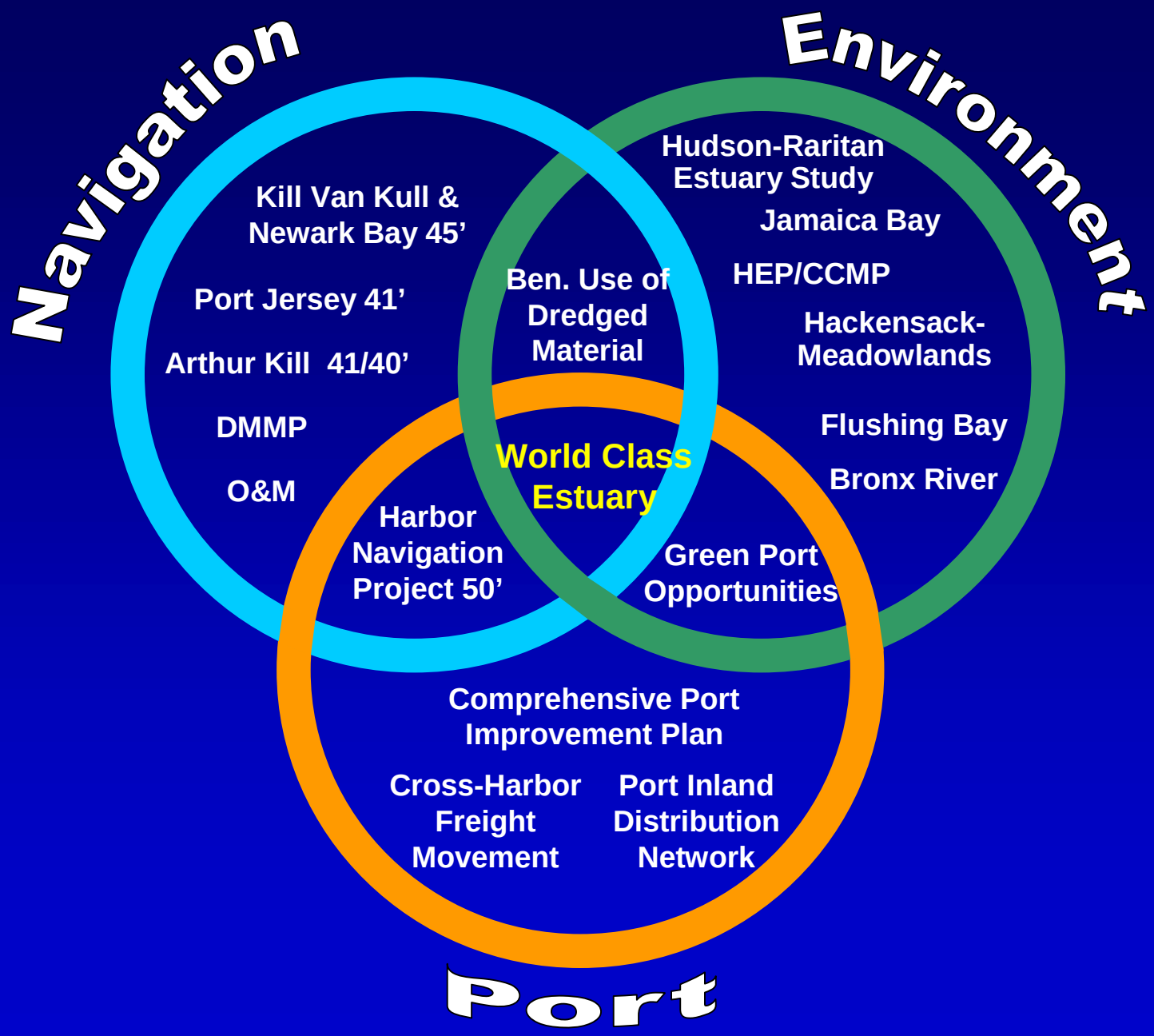
New York District

NY & NJ Harbor Estuary Initiatives

Joe Seebode

Harbor Programs Branch

A Vision for the NY/NY Estuary and Harbor



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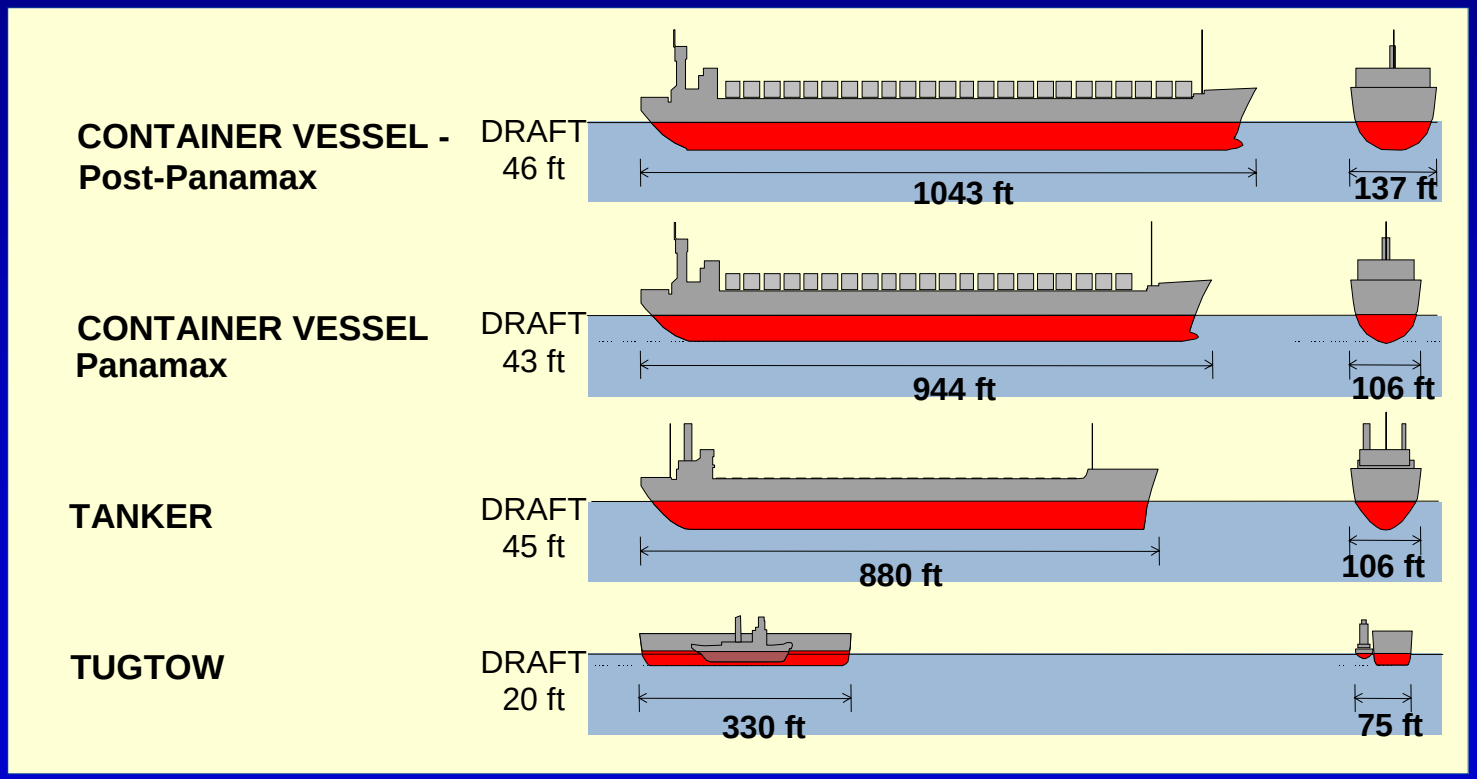
Navigation

- Reduce risk of ships running aground
- Allow economically efficient use of existing and future fleet
- Greater volume of cargo expected due to global market



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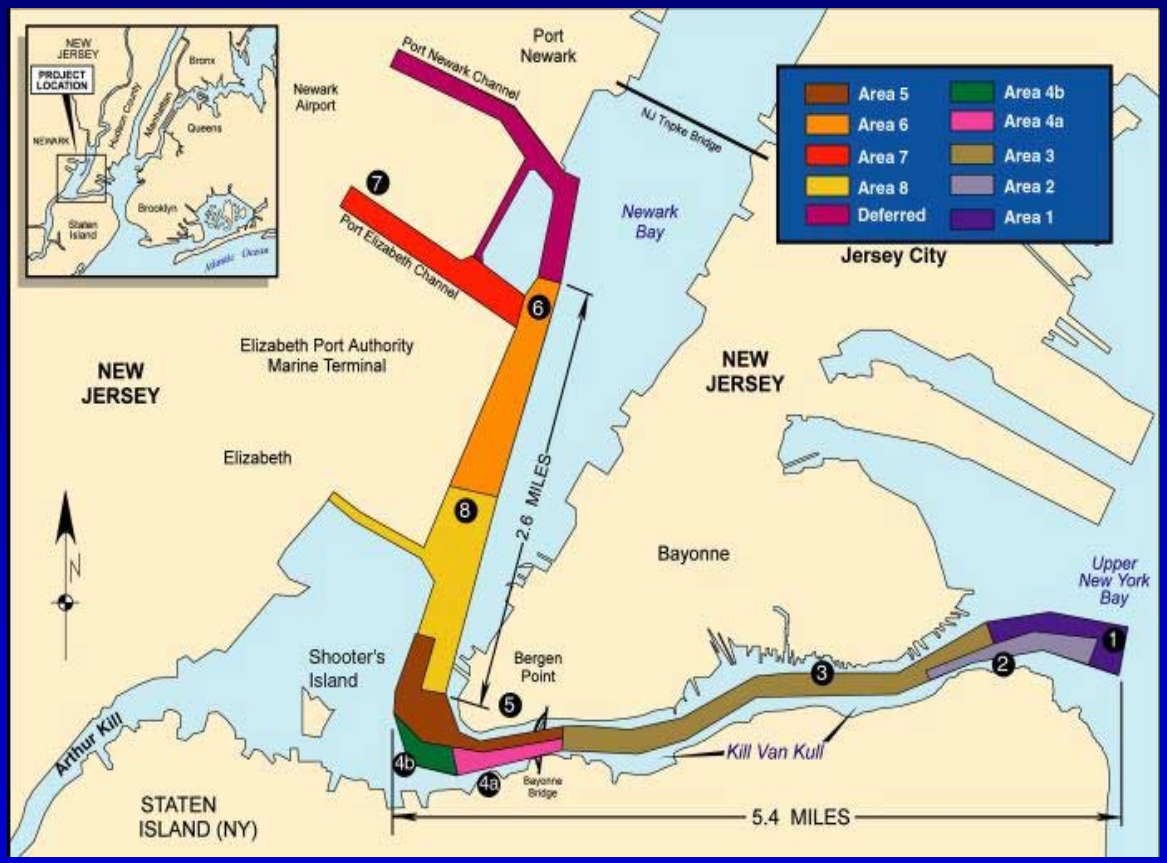
Kill Van Kull & Newark Bay Channels

(45 foot Project)

- **DESCRIPTION**: Channel deepening from 40 ft to 45 ft.
- **STATUS**:
  - Nine Construction Contracts
  - Two areas are complete
  - Two areas in construction
  - Two areas pending contract
- **COMPLETION**: 2004
- **FUNDING**: $733 million
- **SPONSOR**: Port Authority of NY & NJ
- **ENVIRONMENTAL WORK:**
  - 1.6 mcy of material beneficially used remediate brownfields
  - 5.3 mcy of material used to remediate the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS)
  - 1.5 mcy of rock to build and enhance fishing reefs



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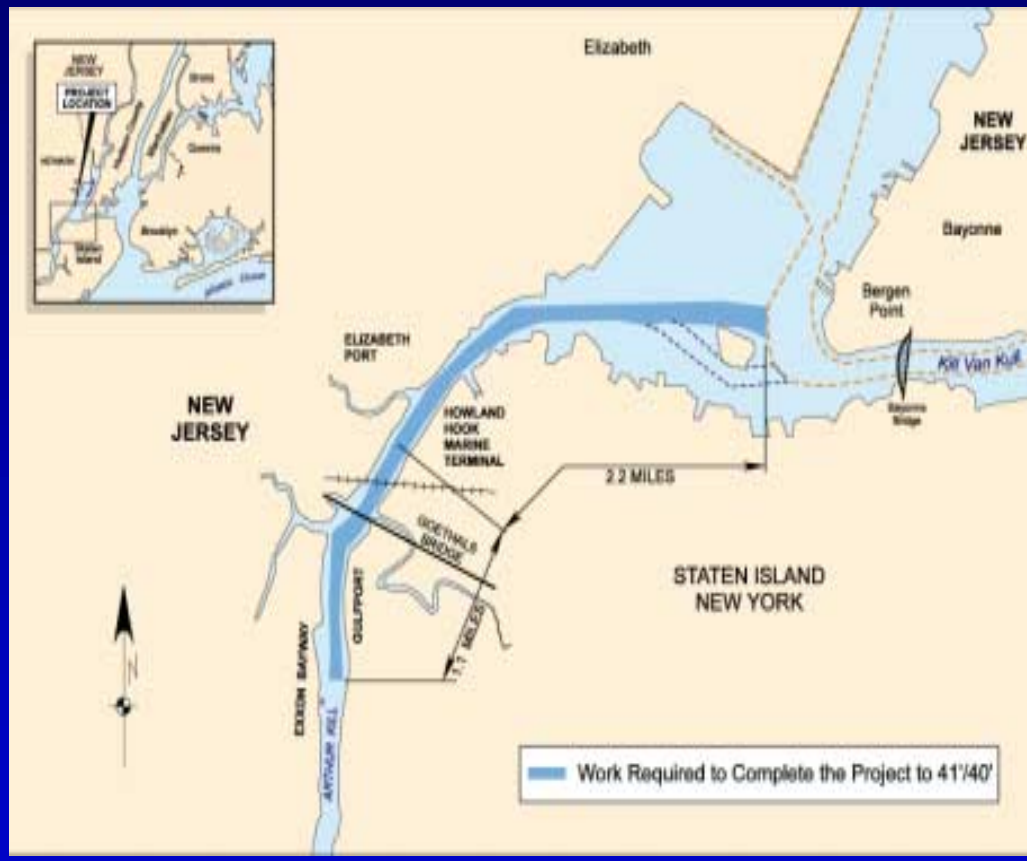
Arthur Kill Channel
Howland Hook Marine Terminal
(41/40 foot Project)

- **DESCRIPTION**: Channel Deepening from 35 ft to 41/40 ft
- **STATUS**:
  - Completing NEPA Process
  - Construction Contract Award – Sep/Oct 01
- **COMPLETION:** 2005
- **FUNDING**: Total Project Cost: $362 Million
- **SPONSOR**: Port Authority of NY & NJ
- ENVIRONMENTAL WORK;
  - Restoration of 20 acres of degraded wetlands for impact mitigation
  - 800kcy rock to build and enhance fishing reefs
  - 2.4 mcy material to remediate brownfields



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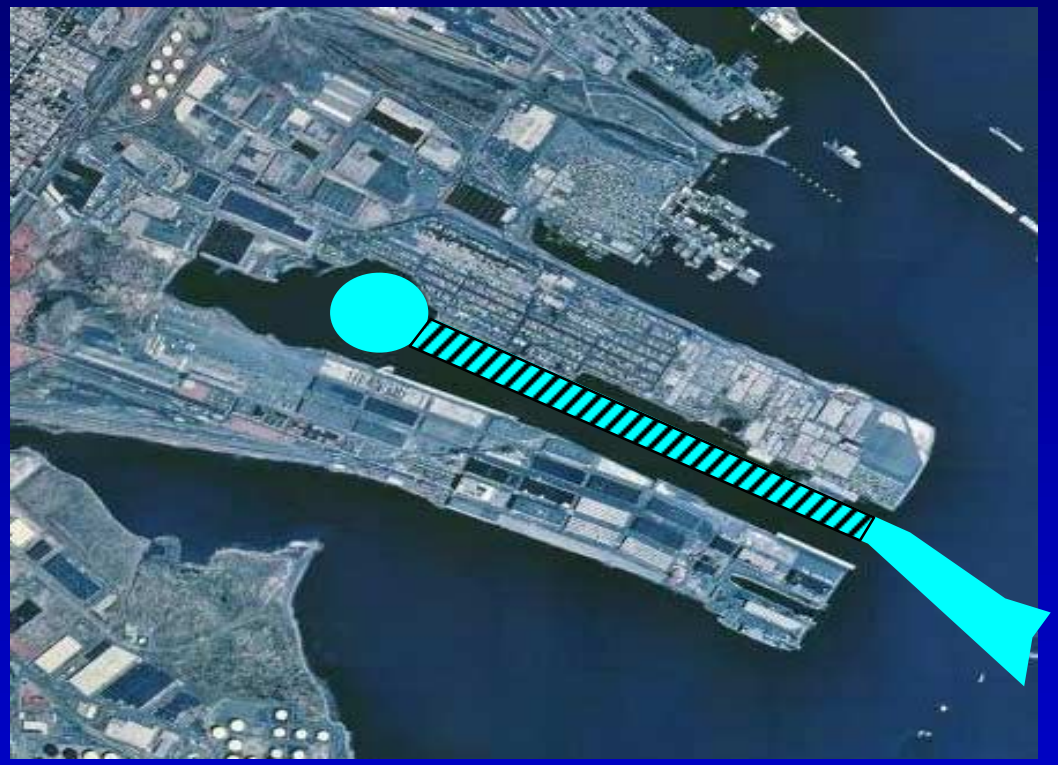
Port Jersey Channel

(41-foot Project)

- **DESCRIPTION**: Channel Deepening from 35/38 ft to to 41 ft.
- **STATUS:** Construction Contract Award – Sep 01
- **COMPLETION:** 2004
- **FUNDING**: Total Project Cost: $113 Million
- **SPONSOR**: NJ Maritime Resources (primary) & PANY/NJ (limited sponsor)
- ENVIRONMENTAL WORK:
  - 1.5 mcy of material for remediation of brownfields



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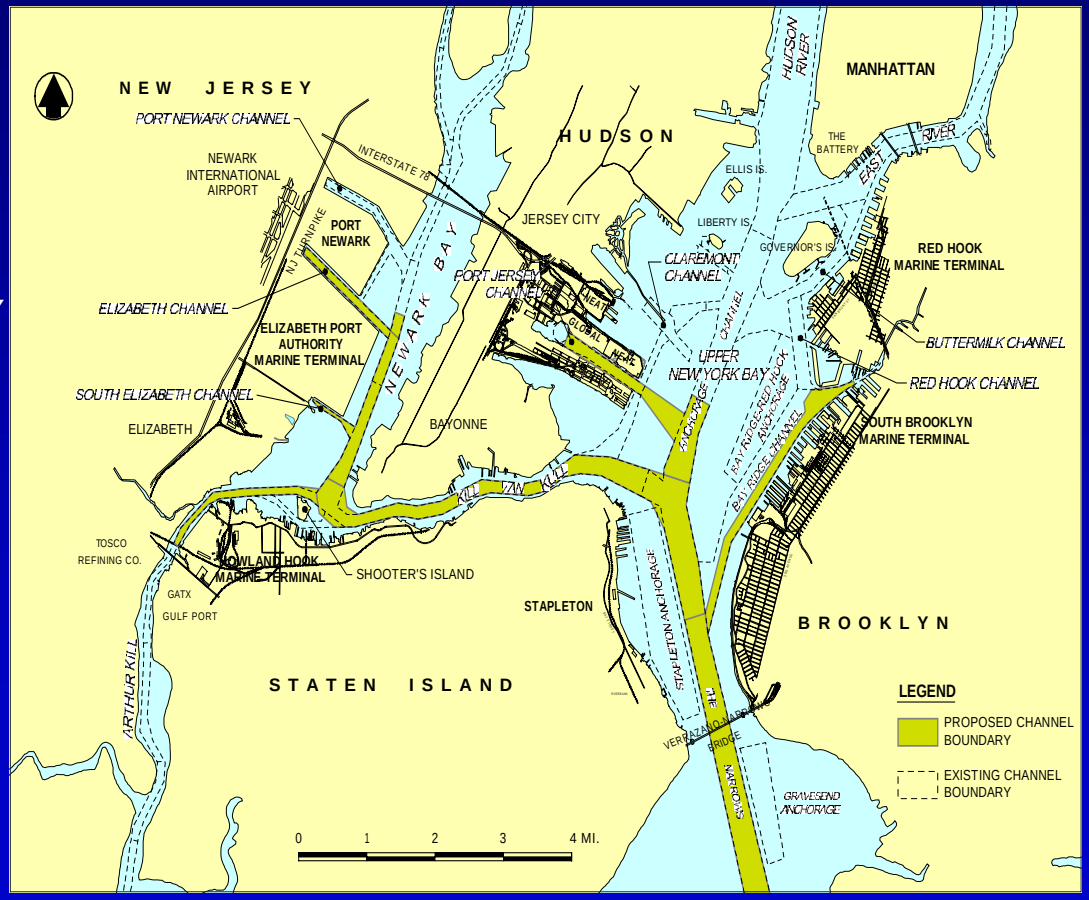
New York & New Jersey Harbor

(50-foot Project)

- **DESCRIPTION**: Deepen the Ambrose Channel to 53 ft, the Anchorage, Bay Ridge, Port Jersey, Kill Van Kull, Newark Bay and Arthur Kill to Howland Hook to 50 ft (52 ft in rock)
- **STATUS**:
  - Construction expected to begin in FY 03/04.
- **FUNDING**:
  - Total Project Cost: $1.8 billion
- **SPONSOR**: Port Authority of NY & NJ
- ENVIRONMENTAL WORK:
  - 28.3 mcy material to remediate the HARS
  - 7.1 mcy of rock to build fishing reefs
  - 8 mcy of material to remediate brownfields
  - 8.6 mcy of clay to close landfills in the Hackensack Meadowlands



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New York Anchorages

(Navigation Feasibility Study)

- **DESCRIPTION**:
  - Determine the feasibility of deepening the Red Hook Flats Anchorage for lightering purposes and to relieve congestion in the Arthur Kill.
- **STATUS**:
  - Recon. phase completed 94
  - Feasibility Study started Sep 00
  - Draft Feasibility Report/DEIS expected in July 02
- **FUNDING**:
  - Total Study Cost: $3.2 mil
- **SPONSOR**: Port Authority of NY & NJ
- ENVIRONMENTAL WORK:
  - 9 mcy of material for beneficial use
  - High likelihood for mitigation

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Federal Maintenance Fiscal Year 2001

PROJECT	PLACEMENT SITE	VOLUME (kCY)	DREDGING STATUS
East Rockaway Inlet	Rockaway Beach	205	Complete
Jamaica Bay (Rockaway Inlet)	Breezy Pt. Beach	250	Complete
Newark Bay – Elizabeth Pierhead Channel	Upland – TBD by PA	40	Late Spring 2001
Perth Amboy Anchorage and Ward Point Bend	HARS	850	Summer 2001
New York Harbor – Red Hook Flats Anchorage	TBD	150	Summer 2001
Flushing Bay & Creek – Bay Portion	HARS*	150	Summer 2001
East River – South Brothers Island Reach	HARS*	200	Summer 2001
Hudson River, NY	HARS*	260	Summer 2001

* Suitability Testing Ongoing

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Dredging-Environmental Efforts

- **Beneficial Use of Material**:
  - Removal of Contaminated Material (Isolation, Amendment, etc.)
  - HARS Remediation
  - Landfill and Brownfields Remediation (further reducing contamination inputs to the Harbor)
  - Pennsylvania Mine Reclamation
  - Creation of Fishing Reefs
  - Bank Stabilization
- **Mitigation Measures:**
  - Seasonal Construction Windows
  - No Barge Overflow
  - Environmental Buckets (Closed)
  - TSS Management
  - Bucket Hoist Speed Restrictions

Environmental Restoration

- Corps participates in environmental restoration as one of its primary missions.
- Purpose:
  - Environmental stewardship
  - Restore degraded ecosystems
  - Improve Fish & Wildlife Habitat
  - Reduce Sediment and Water Contamination

Means of Corps Involvement

- Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
  - Small scale projects, single purpose
  - Congressional Authorization not needed to construct a recommended project
- General Investigations
  - Large scale, multi-purpose projects
  - Congressional authorization needed to construct a recommended project
  - Can “Spin off” small scale recommendations into CAP

Continuing Authorities Program

- Gerritsen Creek (Salt Marsh)
- Lincoln Park (Salt Marsh)
- Treasure Lake (Freshwater wetland)
- City Of Rahway (Stream bank)
- Soundview Park (Salt Marsh/Embayment)
- Seacliff (Circulation/Water Quality)
- Manhasset Bay (Circulation/Water Quality)

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On-Going Studies

- **Current Studies**:
  - Hudson River: Restore previously filled wetlands, reestablish backwaters, soften shorelines, promote fish passage, improve tidal circulation
  - Jamaica Bay: improve water quality, restore coastal meadows, provide erosion control, mosquito control, restore salt marsh and tidal creeks
  - Flushing Bay: improve salt marsh, improved flushing, shoreline cleanup, tidal creek restoration, freshwater wetlands restoration, mosquito control.
  - South River: Restore native vegetation, increase species diversity, improve flushing, improve water quality, stabilize habitats, multi-purpose (also has flood control component)

Upcoming Studies

- Bronx River Basin: streambank and salt marsh restoration, fish passage, lake/pond renewal, improve freshwater wetlands, mosquito control
- Saw Mill River Basin: improve streambank restoration, fish passage, lake/pond renewal, improve freshwater wetlands, mosquito control
- Hudson-Raritan Estuary: (next slide)

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Hudson-Raritan Estuary
(Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study)

- **DESCRIPTION**: Identify, Select and Evaluate solutions for Estuary-Wide Ecosystem Restoration projects, including creation, enhancement and restoration of aquatic, wetland and adjacent upland habitats, and environmental dredging.
- **DEGRADED/LOST HABITAT**:
  - Inter-tidal wetlands/mudflats
  - Freshwater wetlands
  - Benthic & Shallow water
  - Shoreline & Coastal
  - Fish and Shellfish
- AREAS OF CONCERN:
  - Contaminants
  - Benthic Habitat Mapping
  - Artificial Reef Placement
  - Landfill impacts
  - Road/Rail Impacts on Marshes
  - Shoreline Debris/Structures
  - Seal Haul-outs
  - Salt Marsh losses

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Hudson-Raritan Estuary (Comprehensive Study)

- Two components:
  - Comprehensive Restoration Improvement Plan (CRIP):
    - Address Habitat fragmentation and other system-wide issues on a watershed basis
    - Coordinate all opportunities into a management plan for restoring the estuary as a whole
    - Recommend future restoration actions based on what's best for the system (may include non-Corps initiatives)
  - 13 specific study locations:
    - determine immediate restoration projects, (information will feed into CRIP).
    - Move project recommendations independently from others if warranted.
- STUDY FUNDING: $19 million, cost-shared 50-50% with the Port Authority of NY & NJ

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Gowanus Canal, Hudson-Raritan Estuary

- **DESCRIPTION**: Identify, Select and Evaluate solutions for the Gowanus Canal Ecosystem Restoration project, including creation, enhancement and restoration of aquatic, wetland and adjacent upland habitats, and environmental dredging.
- **STATUS**:
  - WRDA Sec 905b Fact Sheet completed (recon Rpt) Jun 00
  - Sign first FCSA in Jul 01
- **FUNDING**: $5 million
- **SPONSOR**: City of NY DEP

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Lower Passaic River, Hudson-Raritan Estuary

- **DESCRIPTION**: Identify, Select and Evaluate solutions for a Lower Passaic River Ecosystem Restoration project, including creation, enhancement and restoration of aquatic, wetland and adjacent upland habitats, and environmental dredging.
- **STATUS**:
  - Sign FCSA in Sep 01
- **FUNDING**:
  - $5 million Corps & Sponsor,
- **SPONSOR**: NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources

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How You Can Participate

- Attend Public meetings
- Provide comments in response to public meetings and notices
- Participate in HEP Habitat Workgroup
- Participate in Local Stakeholders Meetings (to be formed for HRE)
- Meet with us one-on-one

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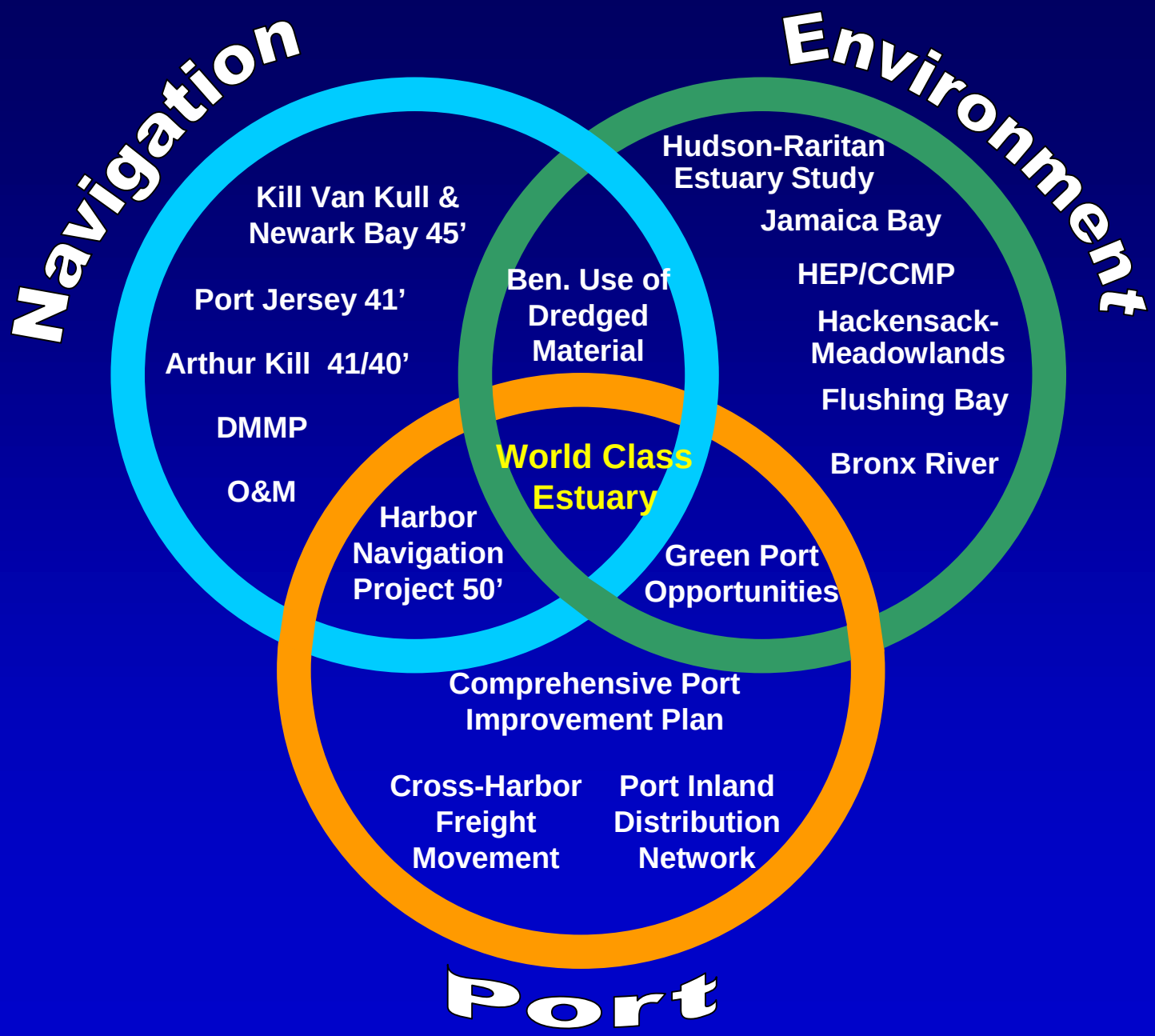
Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan for the Port of NY & NJ

- Initiated via Memorandum of Understanding Executed in December 1999/January 2000
- Goal of Concurrently Developing CPIP and CPIP-EIS
- Funded by Consortium comprising States, NYC, and PANY/NJ.
- Consortium Will Oversee Development of CPIP Concurrently With Federal Co-Leads & States Preparing CPIP-EIS under NEPA
- Currently Acquiring Necessary Consultant Support
- Stakeholder Consultation Begun

A Vision for the NY/NY Estuary and Harbor



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District Points-of-Contact

Harbor Programs Branch

- Joe Seebode, (212) 264–0110: Chief, Harbor Programs Branch
- Hal Hawkins (212) 264–9092: Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay
- Joe Forcina, (212) 264-0554, Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay, Harbor Drift
- Mike Millard, (212) 264–2054: Arthur Kill Channel-Howland Hook
- Tom Shea, (212) 264–5570: NY & NJ Harbor (50 ft), Hudson-Raritan Estuary and Anchorages
- Bryce Wisemiller, (212) 264–5797: Port Jersey Channel, Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan, Dredged Material Management Plan, HARS Criteria
- *Visit Us At www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor*

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Questions?