



# **NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY HARBOR INTERIM DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMMP) UPDATE**

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District**

**20 May 2024**



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## THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

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*Public feedback is an important part of the study process.*

*The Study Team appreciates your time today.*

### MEETING PURPOSE

1. Provide information about the Interim DMMP Update.
2. Hear your questions and feedback about the information shared today to inform the DMMP Update analysis.



## AGENDA

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- Welcome/sign-in
- Presentation by study team
  - Background
  - Interim DMMP Update Approach
  - Environmental Compliance and Coordination
  - Dredged Material Placement Needs and Opportunities
  - Interim DMMP Update Schedule
- Question & Answer Session



## ASKING QUESTIONS AND PROVIDING COMMENTS

- Submit your questions and comments through the chat
  - Send to “Everyone” (all participants)
  - The Study Team will provide answers during the presentation and Q&A Session
- There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and share comments during the Q&A Session if time allows
  - We will use the “Raise Hand” function and you will be able to unmute

Raise  
Hand



Chat



Unmute

Start video

Share



Participants

Chat



## BACKGROUND



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## BACKGROUND

**Q: Why do we dredge?**

A: Dredging is a central part of the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) largest mission – to maintain clear, safe and navigable federally authorized channels.

**Q: What is Dredged Material?**

A: Naturally accumulated sediment (or existing rock) that is excavated from the bottom of channels, berthing area and other navigation facilities to create or maintain sufficient depth for safe and efficient vessel operation



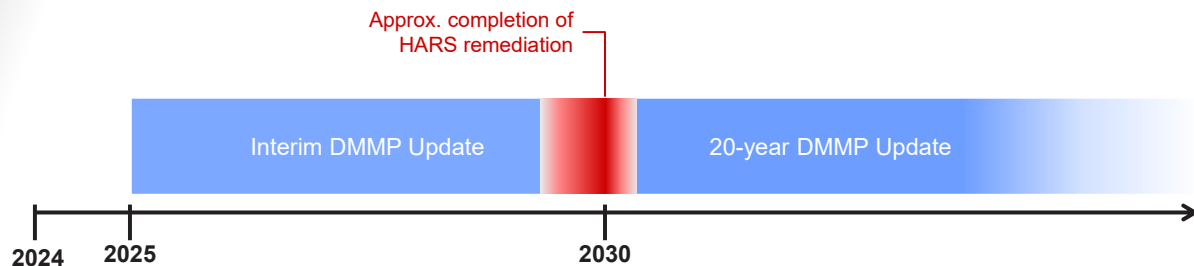
Photo: Vince Elias

Photo: USACE dredging operations in the Port Jersey Channel, New Jersey.  
Source: [New York, New Jersey Harbor deepening project provides environmental, economic benefits > U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters > Story Article View](#)



## INTERIM DMMP UPDATE

The intent of the Interim DMMP Update (2025-2029) is to manage all planned maintenance material, Department of the Army Permitted Projects, plus new Federal work occurring during the period of analysis.



An **Interim** approach is being taken due to uncertainties associated with the future of the HARS. The current Federal Standard (FS) applies to placement of Category I dredged material at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). WRDA 2020 requires the FS to account for the benefits attributed to placement.

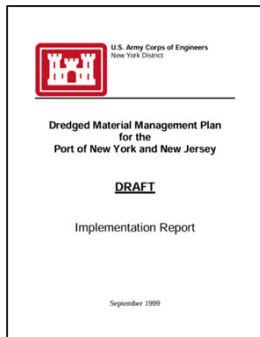
### Speaker Notes:

The Interim DMMP Update is an accounting exercise for all dredged material from the approximately 50 Federally Authorized channels located within a 40-miles radius from the Statue of Liberty. The reason for the interim approach is two-fold:

- The uncertainty associated with the future of the HARS.
- The updated Federal Standard definition that requires the Corps of Engineers to account for the economic cost and environmental benefits when considering placement locations.

## BACKGROUND

The DMMP Implementation Report (IR) for the Port of New York and New Jersey was prepared in 1999 by USACE-NAN. Previous DMMP Update was completed in 2008.



### Speaker Notes:

Since the publication of the DMMP IR report in 1999, the New York District has published a number of updates to the DMMP most recently in 2008. The Interim DMMP Update will build upon those prior updates. Both the 1999 DMMP IR and the 2008 update are publicly available on the DMMP website.





## BACKGROUND

**Beneficial uses of dredged material** are defined as “productive and positive uses of dredged material, which cover broad use categories ranging from fish and wildlife habitat development, to human recreation, to industrial/commercial uses” (USACE Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material, Engineer Manual 1110-2-5026).”

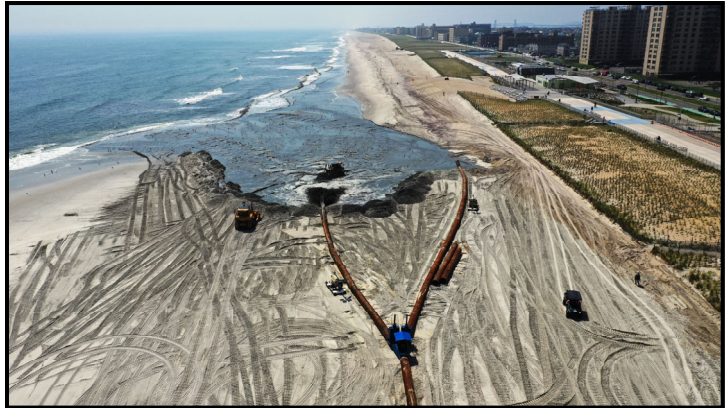


Photo: Beach nourishment in Rockaway, NY. April 2019.

### Speaker Notes:

A key part of the Interim DMMP Update outreach has been centered around the identification of potential beneficial use opportunities.



## TYPES OF BENEFICIAL USE

- Aquatic Habitats
- Beach/Shoreline Nourishments
- Wetland Habitats
- Parks and Recreation



*Left.* Nearshore placement site for FY23 Shrewsbury River, located on the east side of Sandy Hook, NJ.

*Bottom.* Aerial photo of Government Dredge, Murden, placing sand north of the north jetty during FY23 Shark River Maintenance Dredging.



Shoreline placement during the FY23 Sea Bright to Manasquan, NJ project.



### Speaker Notes:

Some examples of beneficial use include placement to develop and support aquatic habitat, beach, or shoreline placement with the intent to expand the beach; placement activities in the support of parks and recreational areas; and dredged material placed to support wetland habitats including fresh or saltwater wetland habitats.



## TYPES OF BENEFICIAL USE



*Top left.* Houghtaling Island placement site, as of December 2020.

*Top right.* Satellite view of the Hazleton Creek Associates placement site in Hazleton, PA (source: *Google Maps*)

*Bottom left.* PCFA Warren County District Landfill in Oxford, NJ.



- Construction and Industrial/Commercial Uses
- Strip Mine Reclamation, Solid Waste Landfill and Alternative uses.
- Multipurpose Uses and Other Land Use.

### Speaker Notes:

A few more examples of beneficial use include industrial and commercial uses where dredged material can be used to improve or construct harbor and Port facilities, roads, and historic preservation areas. Dredged material may also be used for the reclamation of abandoned strip mines, capping, or protecting solid waste landfills and the manufacturing of bricks and hardened materials, such as road surfaces.



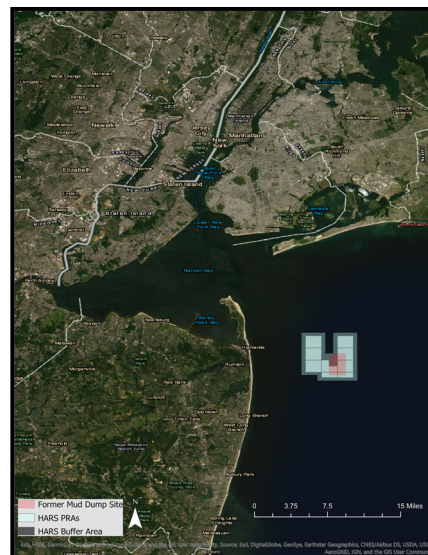
## BACKGROUND

**Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS)** was designated in 1997 under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, 33 U.S.C. 1401 (MPRSA),

HARS is comprised of a 15.7 nautical square mile area located approximately 3.5 nautical miles east of Highlands, New Jersey and 7.7 nautical miles south of Rockaway, New York.

Placement of clean dredged material at the HARS is an example of **beneficial use** placement.

Current HARS capacity is limited. As of June 2023, the New York District formally submitted a request to EPA Region II to begin the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) designation process.



### Speaker Notes:

A particular beneficial use of dredged material from the New York and New Jersey Harbor has been placement at the Historic Area Remediation Site, or HARS. It is located about 4 miles east of Highlands, New Jersey. The placement of dredged materials at the HARS reduces impacts from historical disposal events to acceptable levels, thereby improving habitat conditions for bottom dwelling organisms.

After 25+ years and nearly 86 million cubic yards of remediation material placed at the HARS, the HARS will continue to approach its capacity over the next few years. USACE - New York District submitted a formal request to EPA Region 2 to begin the process to designate a new ocean placement site.

The outcome of the EPA's designation efforts will provide guidance on the future management of dredge material necessary to maintain safe navigation, promote marine commerce, and safeguard the economic wellbeing of the region.



## UPDATED FEDERAL STANDARD

***"Federal standard"*** means the dredged material disposal alternative or alternatives identified by the Corps which represent the least costly alternatives consistent with sound engineering practices and meeting the environmental standards established by the 404(b)(1) evaluation process or ocean dumping criteria" (33 C.F.R. § 335.7).

Section 125A of WRDA 2020 (33 U.S.C. § 2326g), specifies that the economic benefits and efficiencies from beneficial use be considered when determining the Federal Standard (33 C.F.R. § 335.7).

Interim DMMP Update will outline and qualitatively assess the economic and/or environmental benefits of placement at BU locations when determining the Federal standard.

## DMMP UPDATE APPROACH



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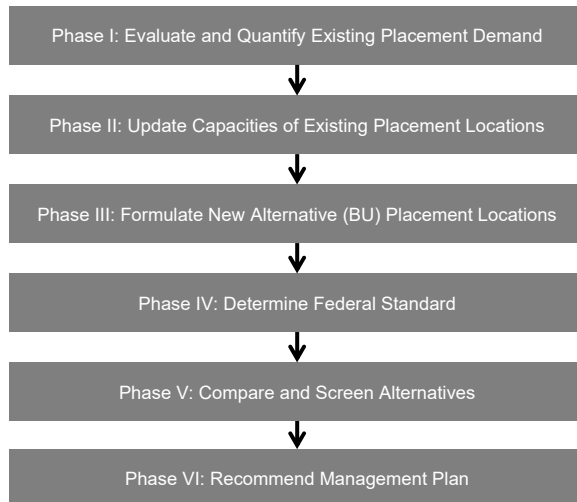


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## INTERIM DMMP UPDATE – APPROACH

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Federally authorized navigation channels in NY&NJ harbor



### Speaker Notes:

The Interim DMMP Update approach can be summarized into six phases. The first three phases include the evaluation of existing placement demand, updating the capacities of existing placement sites, and the formulation of new beneficial use placement locations. The information we gather from our public information sessions and meetings with stakeholders and industry experts will directly inform these three phases.

The updated placement data will then be used to evaluate the federal standard for all identified placement locations. The Interim DMMP Update will develop placement cost estimates and assess the economic and environmental benefits of placement at beneficial use locations. These qualitative benefit assessments and incremental placement costs will be used to rank the beneficial use placement locations and ultimately determine the federal standard. A set of screening criteria will be used to evaluate, screen, and prioritize placement alternatives.

Screening criteria typically relate to the capacity of the placement location, environmental acceptability, expense, and cost effectiveness among others. Following the comparison and screening of alternatives, the New York District can then move towards Phase VI to recommend a management plan.



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND COORDINATION



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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
  - Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement prepared for 1999 DMMP and 2008 DMMP Update
  - Supplemental Environmental Assessment will be prepared for the Interim DMMP Update
- Ongoing compliance coordination with resource agencies, tribes, and other interested parties
  - Endangered Species Act
  - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
  - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
  - and many more...
- Interagency Meeting on June 3, 2024
- Public comment period and additional Public Information Session(s) for Draft Integrated Report/EA in Fall 2024

### Speaker Notes:

NEPA is a federal law that requires Federal Agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental, social, and economic effects of their proposed actions and provide opportunities for public review. Depending on the action and the scale of the impacts, agencies generate a written report called an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement which is made publicly available.

For the Interim DMMP Update, a supplemental Environmental Assessment will be prepared. The supplemental Environmental Assessment will be integrated into the Interim DMMP Update report, so that it is one document. In addition to NEPA, the Interim DMMP Update will comply with other applicable environmental laws and regulations.

## PLACEMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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## PLACEMENT NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

To identify potential opportunities for beneficial placement of dredged material through 2029, the New York District team is actively coordinating with:

- Local, State, and Federal Stakeholders
- NGOs
- Industry Experts
- Academia

## INTERIM DMMP UPDATE SCHEDULE



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## SCHEDULE

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Action/Milestone	Date
Scoping, Alternatives Analysis, and Recommended Management Plan	Present – Summer 2024
Preliminary Draft Integrated Report	Summer 2024
Draft Integrated Report	Fall 2024
Public Information Session(s)/Public Comment Period	Fall 2024
Final Integrated Report	Winter 2024



## THANK YOU!

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Send additional questions or comments to: [DMMP-Update@usace.army.mil](mailto:DMMP-Update@usace.army.mil)

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Eric Pasay, NEPA Lead

Andrew Seaman, Plan Formulation Lead

Project Website: <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Dredged-Material-Management-Plan/>

### **More Opportunities to Provide Feedback**

- There will be public information meetings during the public comment period of the draft integrated report (Fall 2024).
- Meeting information will be posted to the study website and shared via email





## Q&A SESSION

The Study Team will answer all open questions from the chat box first, then, if time allows, open the microphone to participants to verbally ask questions and provide feedback.

### Ground Rules

- Be respectful of participants and the Study Team
- If there is time for verbal questions & answers following the responses to the questions and comments provided in the chat box, please raise your hand (see raised hand icon button in the bottom center of Webex screen)
- We will then recognize individuals to ask one question (please) to allow time for others to ask their questions