

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Visual observations of dredge material disposal sites by divers and remote television has been a major part of the Disposal Area Monitoring System (DAMOS) for several years. Recently, particular emphasis has been placed on specific areas in Long Island Sound. A major effort at the Central Long Island Sound site has been oriented toward valuation of the capping procedures used in the Stamford-New Haven disposal operation. In addition to those studies, continued monitoring of the New London disposal site has taken place.

The major objectives of the visual observation were to:

- define characteristics of disposed dredged material
- document these characteristics and changes in the sediment surface through underwater photography
- conduct systematic sampling at specific locations to evaluate dredged material stability, develop procedures for measuring the boundaries of dredged material mounds through visual observations
- evaluate the effectiveness of capping procedures in isolating contaminated dredged material
- investigate post-disposal, recolonization, faunal behavior and biological reworking of surface sediment
- define characteristics of benthic environment surrounding disposal sites and monitor these areas for potential impact from disposal operations

The following sections will provide details of the procedures used and the results obtained from observations at the Central Long Island Sound and New London sites.