# Long Island Sound - Dredged Material Management Plan
# August 2012 Newsletter
## Volume 2

**Introduction**

This newsletter is the second in a series of newsletters to inform interested individuals on a study being conducted in Long Island Sound (LIS) to evaluate a full range of alternatives for the management of sediments dredged from navigation projects in the Long Island Sound region. This newsletter will provide information on completed study components, planned work, and schedules of public meetings. It will also be a method for us to solicit input and feedback from the general public.

The LIS Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) was developed as a follow-on to the 2005 designation of two long-term dredged material disposal sites in LIS by the US Environmental Protection Agency and in response to a request from the Governors of Connecticut and New York to the New England District of the Corps of Engineers (Corps). Since there are 55 existing Federal navigation projects that require periodic maintenance dredging in the LIS region in Connecticut and New York, extending from Throggs Neck to Block Island Sound, the Corps agreed to develop a DMMP for the LIS region.

As a first step, the Corps' New England District created a LIS DMMP Team consisting of the New England and New York Districts; the EPA, Regions 1 and 2; the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the New York Department of State; the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council. The inclusion of these various agencies on the project team would help ensure the DMMP utilized all available information and considered each agency's concerns in developing the plan.

The LIS DMMP will include an in-depth planning analysis of all potential dredged material placement and disposal alternatives. These alternatives include, but are not limited to, open-water disposal, beneficial use, upland disposal, and treatment technologies, which will be used as a basis for future individual permit and project approval decisions related to alternatives analyses for dredging in the Long Island Sound vicinity.

The LIS DMMP investigations are planned to conclude with the publication of the final report in 2013. Copies of the completed reports developed to date can be found on the Corps web page (http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm). In addition you may email comments or questions on the LIS DMMP to the project mailbox (LISDMMP@usace.army.mil).

**Reports Completed To Date**

In the last newsletter we provided some information on efforts that had been completed and investigations that were underway. A significant amount of additional investigations have been completed and are available on the project web page. Below is a brief summary of the reports that are currently available.

**Dredging Needs Report:** A survey was conducted of facilities that are dependent on dredging for continued usage, including: deep-draft shipping terminals; marinas and yacht clubs; boat repair and construction facilities; commercial fishing facilities; and, government facilities, including the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, municipal wharves, and port authorities. The survey requested information on type of facility, past dredging history, disposal sites used, estimated future maintenance and improvement dredging; and economic impacts to the facility if dredging was

not performed when needed. The Corps also used historical information from permit records in New England and New York to estimate potential dredging needs from facilities that did not respond to the survey. All of this information, combined with the projected dredging needs of the Corps' New York and New England Districts, allowed for the assessment of dredging needs for various time periods through 2035.

**Inventory Report on Upland Placement, Beneficial Use, and Dredged Material Dewatering Sites Phase 1:** An inventory was undertaken of potential alternative upland disposal sites, beneficial use opportunities and potential sediment dewatering and re-handling sites that would be necessary to accommodate upland placement. The identified alternative sites were quantified by: the types of material these sites require or will accept; the timeframes in which these sites require the material and the rates at which they can be accepted; the available capacity of the sites; constraints; existing permits; specific site requirements; and, distance from centers of projected dredging activity. The sites were screened into sites that were more likely usable by larger Corps dredging projects and by smaller non-Corps navigational interests.

**Upland, Beneficial Use & Sediment Dewatering Phase 2 Analysis:** This investigation characterized the larger sites surviving initial screening in Phase 1 to determine the feasibility of these sites for receipt of dredged material, the extent and cost of site preparation required, if any, to make the sites available for such use, the potential regulatory requirements for site use, the potential impacts to critical resources that would result from use of these sites, and costs associated with site use.

**Characterization of Smaller Upland, Beneficial Use and Sediment Dewatering Sites:** This investigation determined the potential capacity of the smaller sites that did not survive initial screening in Phase 1. This effort was done analytically and established a range of capacity for different placement elevations. This information will assist non-Corps dredge managers in identifying the potential of these sites in their alternative analysis for dredge material management.

**Literature Search**: An update of the literature review performed for the 2004 EIS was conducted that included, collecting and reviewing literature that provides information on the project area and specifics related to dredged material management.

**Environmental Data Update**: The effort updated the comprehensive database outlining the known environmental data that are available from the 2004 EIS effort, the Literature Review effort, and from Federal and State agencies. This information will be used in the alternative dredged material disposal site identification and screening.

**Cultural Inventory:** A cultural resources inventory was conducted identifying historic properties, including archaeological sites, and determined the prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the coastal areas along the Sound. This information will be used to screen potential dredged material management alternative sites.

**Economic Update:** This effort collected economic data to estimate the economic significance of navigation dependent industries within the harbors of Long Island Sound and to conduct an analysis of social and economic impacts of the "without project "(no dredging) alternative**.**

**Federal, State and Local Programs and Regulations:** This effort reviewed current environmental regulations for land, water, and air protection to determine if they limit or prevent use of potential management

alternatives. The report also identified recommendations for proposed revisions to regulatory statutes or State and Federal legislative actions to provide consistency between the States & allow favorable alternatives to be implemented, especially beneficial uses. The report also identifies programs that could assist navigation facilities in funding beneficial use or alternative disposal options.

**Current Investigations**
Currently work is underway to develop information that can be used in alternative evaluations and screening efforts. These investigations include:

**Potential Island/CDF Creation & Near Shore Placement Inventory:** This investigation is identifying potential sites for large Confined Disposal Facilities including island creation, Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cells, etc.. The effort will also include identification of potential locations for near shore placement. The report will describe and quantify potential costs, engineering, resource impacts, and potential benefits for each location.

**Air Quality Analysis**: This investigation will identify Air Quality Mitigation requirements for various typical dredging and disposal options, and quantify the costs and impacts of such actions for different sizes of projects. The resulting handbook developed from this effort will be helpful for non-Federal dredge managers in assessing their dredged material Management alternatives.

**Technical Working Group:** A Technical Working Group (TWG) was established to include DMMP Team members and representative Points of Contacts for other groups having an interest in Long Island Sound dredged material management, including other Federal and State agencies, and established Non-Government Organizations. There have been four meetings of the TWG. The TWG members will assist in identifying the screening priorities that their organization would favor through interviews with their organization representative. A future TWG meeting will be scheduled to review the results of the interviews on screening priorities.

**Development of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Model:** Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) provides better-supported techniques for the comparison of project alternatives based on decision matrices, and it also provides structured methods for the incorporation of project stakeholders' opinions in the ranking of alternatives. A Read Ahead package was sent out to TWG members and interviews will be conducted later this month.

**Transportation Cost Matrix:** This effort will update the Dredged Material Transportation Cost Matrix from the LIS EIS to current price levels and to include an expanded array of non-in-water disposal sites and alternatives. This effort will result in cost estimates for various sized projects using different types of dredging plants and will assist the non-Federal dredge managers in assessing their dredged material management alternatives.

**Where to Go for Information:**

We will be posting announcements and completed reports on our web site http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm
If you have questions please email them to LISDMMP@usace.army.mil or contact the Project Manager, Mike Keegan at 978-318-8087. The Project Team looks forward to working with all interested parties through the development of the DMMP.