

# US Army Corps of Engineers

Report to the US Commission on Ocean Policy

Northeast Meeting

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Colonel Thomas L. Koning

Commander

New England District

# USACE New England District Topics

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- The future of our regional harbors and ports
- Disposal of dredged materials
- Jurisdiction for federal approval of activities in waters of the US
- Establish coordinated interagency priorities on ecosystem restoration
- Shore protection planning for sea level rise
- Remediation of contaminated sediments.

# The Future of our Harbors and Ports - Priorities and the Issue of Competition

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- Competition versus alliance?
- Where will the deepest ports be in the US?
- **Action:** Establish a national port and harbor 2050 and 2100 vision to prioritize navigation needs and the use of federal resources.



# Disposal of Dredged Materials - a Cumbersome and Long Process

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- Currently CWA and MPRSA are the two statutes governing disposal of dredged material and they are inconsistent.
- Bioassay and bioaccumulation testing can cost a small marina \$40K or a major port \$4 million.
- Current statutes are rigid and it can take several years to analyze dredged material and complete NEPA documents and permitting.
- **Action:** Set a policy to streamline dredging and dredged material disposal activities under one statute, which is flexible to allow the use of advanced technologies.

# Jurisdiction for Federal Approval of Activities in Waters of the United States

- Non-extraction projects in US waters do not have a complete ocean policy formulation.
- Wind and wave energy projects in ocean waters are currently not subject to lease.
- **Action:** Define a national policy for non-extraction ocean energy projects and commercial ventures.



# Need to Establish Coordinated Interagency Priorities on Ecosystem Restoration

- Ecosystem restoration is a common goal of many federal programs.
- It is important to establish environmental restoration priorities of federal interest.
- The Coastal America partnership has defined federal resource restoration opportunities in the New England region and we see tangible results.



- **Action:** Encourage more partnering among federal agencies to maximize the restoration of aquatic habitats.

# Shore Protection for Sea Level Rise

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Sea level rise will alter our current shoreline protection strategy

**Action:** Create a federal 2050 and 2100 shoreline profile and institute management plans accordingly



# Remediation of Contaminated Aquatic Sediments

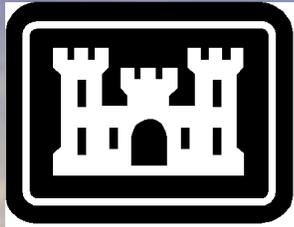
- Many urban watersheds and harbors have highly contaminated sediments from centuries of pollution (below Superfund level).
- **Action:** Establish a dedicated fund and program authority for the evaluation and remediation of contaminated sediments in our coastal watersheds.



# National Security

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Proposed Ocean Policy should not preclude the ability of our armed forces to effectively execute their mission in the areas of homeland security and national defense in the waters of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and US territories and possessions.



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**Questions?**

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