



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.



# Long Island Sound - Dredged Material Management Plan

## January 2010 Newsletter

### Volume 1

#### **Introduction**

This newsletter is the first 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. Information on the project 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](mailto:LISDMMP@usace.army.mil)).

#### **Dredging Needs Report Available**

In the summer of 2008, the Project Team initiated a dredging needs survey for Long Island Sound. The purpose of the survey was to develop information that would assist in identifying the current and future needs for dredging of navigational facilities along the Sound in Connecticut, New York, and in Washington County, Rhode Island.

Although a dredging needs survey was conducted as part of the 2004 EIS for the

Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Central and Western Long Island Sound, it was decided that another survey should be conducted to update and build on that effort. The survey focused on 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.

Appropriate databases of historical dredging, including permits and placement records obtained from the Corps in both New England and New York, information obtained from the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York, and information obtained from other applicable government and local agencies were reviewed. On July 7, 2008 survey questionnaires were sent out to 942 navigational dependent facilities that are located in approximately 25 cities and towns in Connecticut and in five counties in New York (Bronx, Westchester, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk) and each coastal municipality in New York as well as the town of Westerly, Rhode Island. The questionnaires 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.

Reminder postcards were mailed on July 23, 2008, and a second questionnaire was mailed to non-respondents on August 4, 2008. Starting on August 22, 2008, various facilities were contacted by telephone to encourage a response and to assist in filling out the questionnaire. Officials in the states of Connecticut and New York identified the

facilities which they believed, were “critical” to estimate future dredging needs. At the conclusion of the dredging survey period, we received responses from 60% of the navigation dependent facilities and 100% of the critical facilities.

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 questionnaire. 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.

The Dredging Needs report is available online for downloading from the Corps web page (<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm>).

### **Inventory Report on Upland Placement, Beneficial Use, and Dredged Material Dewatering Sites**

As part of the 2004 Site Designation EIS, an inventory was undertaken of potential alternative upland disposal sites, and upland and along-shore beneficial use opportunities. The Project Team reviewed the prior inventory and also conducted a fresh inventory of potential upland and beneficial use alternative disposal sites. In addition, work was done to identify and inventory potential sediment de-watering and re-handling sites that would be necessary to accommodate upland placement.

An inventory of candidate upland and beneficial use sites and sediment re-handling sites included, but was not limited to:

- Open and closed landfills
- Dredged material placement sites

- Current or proposed transportation improvement projects
- Dredged material transfer facility
- Dormant harbor facilities (for dewatering and re-handling sites)
- Asphalt, cement and other aggregate processors
- Large scale development sites
- Brownfield/other development sites
- Closed mines and quarries
- Beach and dune nourishment
- Agricultural uses
- Habitat restoration, creation or enhancement
- Confined Disposal Facilities

Potential sites were reviewed on an initial basis using mapping tools such as GIS or on-line aerial photography resources.

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 at rates of acceptance; the available capacity of the sites; constraints; existing permits; specific site requirements; and, distance from centers of projected dredging activity.

The results of this investigation were compiled into a report that is available on-line from the project web site (<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm>).

Before any of the sites identified in the report may be considered in the DMMP as potential alternatives for beneficial use, material placement, or use as dewatering sites, much more site specific information needs to be collected and assessed. The public should understand that this report does not list sites that will or might be used for material placement, but rather it will identify sites that based on a preliminary examination warrant a closer, site specific

examination and evaluation to understand the sites' potential or reasons that they should be dropped from consideration.

### **Current Investigations**

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

**Literature Searches:** The Corps is conducting an update of the literature review performed for the 2004 EIS, collecting and reviewing literature that provides information on the project area and specifics related to dredged material management.

**Environmental Data Updates:** The goal for this effort is to update 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. It will also be used by the Project Team to determine the data gaps for information that needs to be obtained at a future date.

**Cultural Inventory:** A cultural resources inventory is being conducted that will identify historic properties, including archaeological sites, and determine 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:** The objective of this effort is to collect 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.

forward to working with all interested parties through the development of the DMMP.

## **Establishment of a Working Group**

The LIS DMMP Project Team will soon be sending out a letter to the various stakeholder organizations in the LIS project area inviting them to participate in a Working Group. Members of the Working Group, by reviewing and disseminating the information presented and discussed at various meetings, and relaying back their organization's comments and positions, will serve as a link between the DMMP Project Team and the organizations they represent. An independent facilitator will serve as a neutral forum for the discussions, structure the working group process, facilitate communications between the Project Team and members of the Working Group, and document the proceedings.

## **Public Participation**

At various times throughout the project, the Project Team will be conducting public information meetings. We will schedule these meetings in various locations in the project area both in the evening and during the day to reach out to as many people as we can. The purpose of these meetings is for the dissemination of information and to receive public input and feedback.

In addition to advertising the meetings in local newspapers, we will be posting announcements on our web site (<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm>) and sending out postcards to people on the project mailing list. Anyone who wishes to be added to the project mailing list should email [LISDMMP@usace.army.mil](mailto:LISDMMP@usace.army.mil) or contact the Project Manager, Mike Keegan at 978-318-8087. The Project Team looks