

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The dredging of Norwalk Harbor required the removal and disposal of approximately 16,000 m³ of Class III material in conjunction with the dredging of 78,432 yds³ of Class I and II material. In order to reduce the potential for adverse environmental impact resulting from the disposal of those sediments enriched with contaminants, a capping procedure similar to that used for the Stamford-New Haven disposal operation was proposed.

To accomplish this capping, a taut wire moored buoy was installed for control of the disposal operation. Since a significant amount of Class I and II material had to be dredged prior to the Class III portion, this material was dumped south of the buoy during the Spring of 1980 and the Fall and Winter of 1980-81. The distribution of that Class I and II material as of January 1981 is presented in Figure 1. At that time the material was located slightly southeast of the disposal buoy and was distributed in a small mound approximately 150 meters in diameter and 1.5 meters thick with a minimum depth of 18 meters slightly southeast of the disposal buoy position.

Between January and April 1981, additional material was dumped south of the buoy and Class III material was dumped north of the buoy. On April 7, 28 and 29 Science Applications, Inc. (SAI) personnel conducted specific measurements at the Norwalk disposal site to evaluate the conditions of the site following disposal of all Class III material and to provide baseline information. The studies conducted during this cruise included:

- a precision bathymetric survey
- surface sediment samples to obtain chemical and spoil thickness data
- diving observations to define the limits of spoil distribution, to characterize the surface features of the spoil mound and to observe the distribution of macrobenthic and epibenthic organisms in the vicinity of the disposal site.
- The results of these studies were presented to the New England Division in rough form on May 12, 1981. This document, therefore, represents a confirmation, expansion and permanent record of the data discussed during that meeting.