

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the New England region, disposal of dredged material in the marine environment is generally controlled by management procedures requiring dumping at a disposal buoy under the supervision of a federal inspector. This procedure is quite expensive, particularly in manpower logistics, and often limited in accuracy and flexibility since buoys typically have a large watch circle and cannot be readily moved from one point to another. A different approach to disposal management, utilizing a computerized navigation system, has recently been employed with excellent results at the Boston Foul Ground in Massachusetts Bay. This report presents a description of the disposal control system installed aboard the 250 foot hopper dredge SUGAR ISLAND and an evaluation of the results attained over a series of 65 separate dumping operations between January 11 and February 1, 1983.