

Port Development: Doing the Right Thing

Dredging – You can't do without it: Are you doing the right thing the right way?

A proposed dredging project, either navigation, construction or environmental, can and is usually a very complex undertaking. The complexity of the various components will include but are not limited to, engineering requirements, geomorphological impacts, contaminant issues, environmental habitat concerns, political interests, stakeholder involvement (supporters or opponents of the project), contaminants, contracting, beneficial uses, treatment, placement site availability and selection, sustainability, financing, permitting (regulatory constraints/requirements), and equipment availability. More than a general knowledge of these and other drivers is mandatory to ensure project success. A project team is necessary as it is rare that knowledge of all of the above attributes is found in a single person. Broad initial planning and stakeholder involvement is necessary at the beginning and should be routine over the entire process. Facts regarding each step are a required driver as full documentation is mandatory. A summary of steps requiring this factual documentation are listed below. And the most readily available source of factual documentation is the internet. There are listed below, organizations that have authoritative internet sites in retrieving the needed information. With out knowledge and application of these facts a project will falter, require more time and costs and may simply be ruled unjustifiable.

Doing the Right Thing

1. **Why Dredge?**
 - Navigation, construction, mining, environmental
2. **Understand the dredging process.**
 - Types of dredgers – mechanical, hydraulic, special, others
3. **Know the regulations (national, regional, global)**
4. **Know the stakeholders (partners).**
5. **Understand sediment management.**
6. **Characterization of material is vital.**
 - Physical, biological, chemical for dredging methods, use, placement or treatment options, impact assessment.

Doing the Right Thing

7. Understand effects of the dredging process.
8. Consider all alternatives.
9. Assessment and mitigation of possible impacts.
10. Recognize dredged material as a resource.
11. Consider the need for sustainable relocation
12. Source control – be a player.

Finding the Right Information

Federal Agency Web Sites – USACE, F&WS, NMFS, NOAA, USEPA

State Agency Web Sites – DNR, DEQ, DOT

International Web sites - PIANC, CEDA, WEDA, EDA, WODA, IADC, IMO, SEDNET, and others

Doing it the Right Way

Permitting

USACE – RHA – Section 10

- CWA – Section 404(b)1 Dredge & Fill Permit
- MPRSA – Section 103 Ocean Dumping Permit
- Site Designation & Management

USEPA - CWA/MPRSA – Review, Concurrence, Approval

- CERCLA – Super Fund
- RCRA – Contamination
- TOSCA – Contamination

F&WS/NMFS – EFH, T&ES, CZM, Mitigation

States (cities and county) – Water Quality Certification, EFH, T&ES, Waterfront Construction Permits, Land Disposal Permits, Air Quality, CZC, Mitigation