

**SUBJECT:** REGENCY DETERMINATION FOR THE PROPOSED 2015/2016 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE GRAYS HARBOR FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL.

- 1) **Introduction.** This memorandum reflects the determination of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Dredged Material Management Office regarding the application of the DMMP recency guidelines to proposed Operation and Maintenance (O&M) dredging of the Grays Harbor federal navigation channel with in-water disposal at the South Jetty and Point Chehalis dispersive disposal sites or beneficial re-use.

This recency determination applies to the USACE plan to dredge 900,000 cubic yards from the Outer Harbor (Bar Channel, Entrance Channel, Point Chehalis Reach, South Reach) and 2 million cubic yards from the Inner Harbor (Crossover, North Channel, Hoquiam, Cow Point) sections of the navigation channel as part of O&M dredging. Inner Harbor dredging (via clamshell) will occur between stations 715+93 and 1234+99 (Figures 1 and 2). Outer Harbor dredging (via hopper) is expected to occur between mid-Bar and mid-Crossover Reach (220+00 to 795+00).

Dredging is scheduled to occur from July 2015 to mid-September 2016 according to the following timeline:

Timeframe	Area to be dredged	Technology
July 16, 2015 – mid September 2015	Inner Harbor O&M	Clam-shell
October 1, 2015 – February 14, 2016	Inner Harbor O&M and Deepening <sup>1</sup>	Clam-shell
April 1, 2016 – May 31, 2016	Outer Harbor	Hopper
July 16, 2016 – mid September 2016	Inner Harbor O&M and Deepening <sup>1</sup>	Clam-shell

- 2) **Background.** Maintenance dredging of the Grays Harbor federal navigation channel occurs annually. The navigation channel has historically been divided into outer harbor reaches (Entrance, Bar, Point Chehalis, and South Reach) and inner harbor reaches (Crossover Reach, North Channel, Hoquiam Channel, Cow Point Reach, Aberdeen Reach, and South Aberdeen Reach) (Figure 3). In-water disposal of the maintenance dredged material from both the inner and outer harbor sections of the navigation channel was most recently approved in a DMMP suitability determination on February 9, 2012 (DMMP, 2012). The 2012 determination applied to O&M dredging to previously approved channel depths, which was primarily to -36 ft mean lower low water (MLLW) in the Inner Harbor reaches, plus 2 feet of advanced maintenance and 2 feet of overdepth.

The outer harbor reaches consist mainly of coarse-grained material in a high-energy environment, geographically removed from sources of contamination and thus meet exclusionary criteria specified in Section 40 CFR 230.60 of the Clean Water Act.

In the 2012 determination, the sediment ranking of the non-exclusionary sections of the navigation channel was documented as low, and a recency period of 7 years (November 2018) was provided. Disposal was approved at

<sup>1</sup> See DMMP (2013) for the suitability determination applicable to the deepening project.

the Point Chehalis and South Jetty open-water dispersive sites or for beneficial use.

In 2013, the USACE approved realignment of the federal navigation channel to take advantage of deeper water along portions of the waterway. The reaches affected by the realignment include South Reach, Crossover Reach, and North Channel. The agencies determined that the sampling conducted for the 2012 suitability determination was sufficiently representative of the realigned channel and no additional sampling or test was required (DMMP, 2014).

- 3) **Recency Determination.** The recency guidelines indicate how often a project needs to conduct sediment characterization. Recency guidelines apply to projects that have been tested but not yet dredged, and to projects that have been maintained with repeated dredging since previous testing. Under the recency guidelines, sediment sampling and testing is not needed for this cycle of O&M dredging.
- 4) **References.**

DMMP, 2012. *Determination on the Suitability of Proposed Federal Operation and Maintenance Dredged Material from Grays Harbor, Washington Evaluated Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, for Open-Water Disposal at the South Jetty and Point Chehalis Dispersive Disposal Sites, and at the South Beach and Half Moon Bay Beneficial Use Sites.* Prepared by the USACE for the DMMP Agencies, February 9, 2012.

DMMP, 2013. *Determination Regarding the Suitability of Dredged Material from the Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, Evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, for Open-Water Disposal at the South Jetty or Point Chehalis Dispersive Sites, or for Beneficial Use.* Prepared by the USACE for the DMMP Agencies, February 5, 2013.

DMMP, 2014. *Applicability of the DMMP Suitability Determination for the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel Operation and Maintenance Project, Dated February 9, 2012, to the Realigned Federal Navigation Channel and Post-Deepening Conditions.* Prepared by the USACE for the DMMP Agencies, January 3, 2014.

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Figure 1. Inner Harbor Planned Clamshell Dredging (Crossover and North Channel)

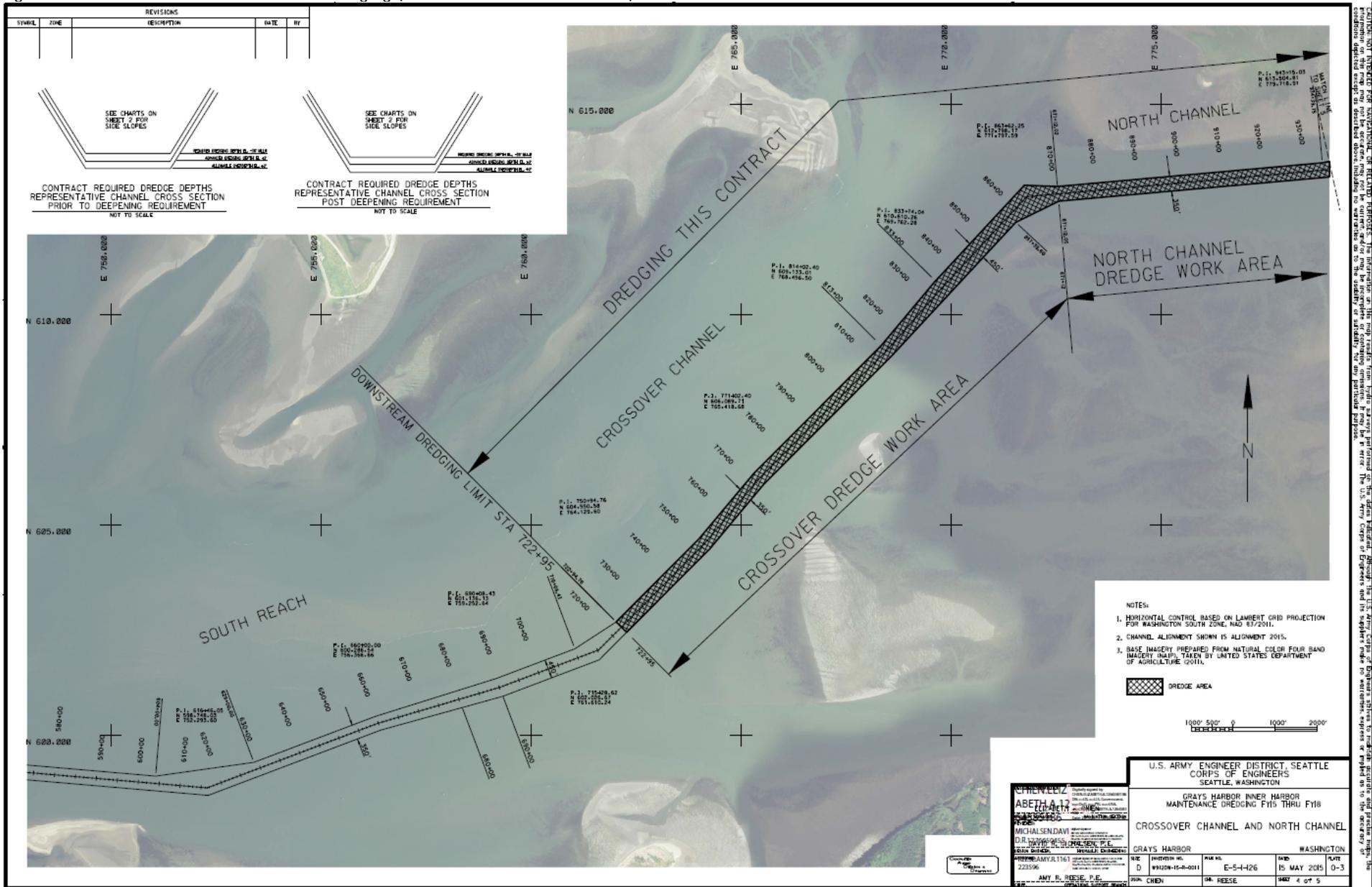




Figure 3. Grays Harbor Federal Navigation Channel Reaches



Grays Harbor Maintenance Dredging  
Characterization

Grays Harbor Federal  
Navigation Channel Reaches