

Memorandum for Record

February 12, 2024

Subject: Supplemental Suitability Determination Memorandum for the USACE Navigation Operations & Maintenance Dredging of the Snohomish River Federal Channel, Everett, Washington.

Introduction

This supplemental suitability determination memorandum (SSDM) documents the consensus regarding the suitability of the proposed dredged material for unconfined aquatic disposal as determined by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Project Description

A suitability determination was issued for the Snohomish River Federal Navigation Channel in 2023 (DMMP, 2023). The 2022 sampling was conducted in areas where dredging was anticipated at the time of sampling. These areas are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Project Features & Characterization Depths

Section	Feature	Stations ¹	Design Depth ² (-MLLW)	Over-Depth ³ (ft)	Adv. Maint. ⁴ (ft)	Total dredge prism (DD + OD + AM) (-MLLW)
1	Deep Draft Channel	65+00 to 78+00	15	2	4	21
2	Lower Settling Basin	78+00 to 90+00	20	2	4	26
3	Shallow Draft Channel	90+00 to 110+00	8	2	4	14
4	Shallow Draft Channel	240+00 to 270+00	8	2	2	12
5	Shallow Draft Channel	283+00 to 292+00	8	2	0	10
6	Shallow Draft Channel	330+00 to 337+00	8	2	2	12
7	Upper Settling Basin	337+00 to 355+00	20	2	2	24
8	Shallow Draft Channel	355+00 to 381+78	8	2	0	10

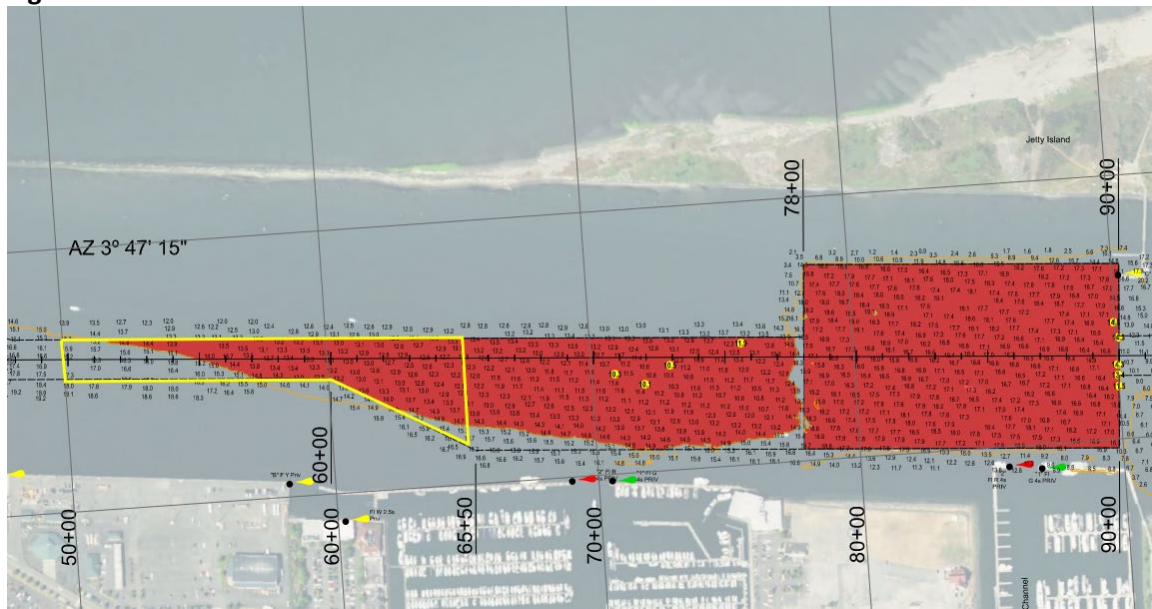
Notes:

- ¹ No dredging is proposed outside of designated stations.
- ² In most sections of the channel, Design Depth is the same as Authorized Depth. Full authorized depth of the upper settling basin is -40 ft MLLW but proposed dredging Design Depth is only to -20 ft MLLW.
- ³ Overdepth (OD) is allowable variance for dredger to reach authorized depth.
- ⁴ Advance maintenance is allowable where deeper dredging creates additional sediment capacity that can reduce the frequency of dredging.

In preparation for the 2024 dredging (starting in fall), USACE determined that areas outside of the characterized areas also need to be dredged. Specifically stations 50+00 – 65+00 and stations 110+00 – 120+50. The volumes and bathymetry (surveyed on March 15, 2023) of these areas are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Stations 50+00 to 78+00, 110+00 to 140+00 and 195+00 to 215+00 were dredged in late 2019. Stations 90+00-115+00 were also dredged in early 2021, so new material shown in the 2023 survey is from previously characterized suitable upstream areas (DMMP, 2018).

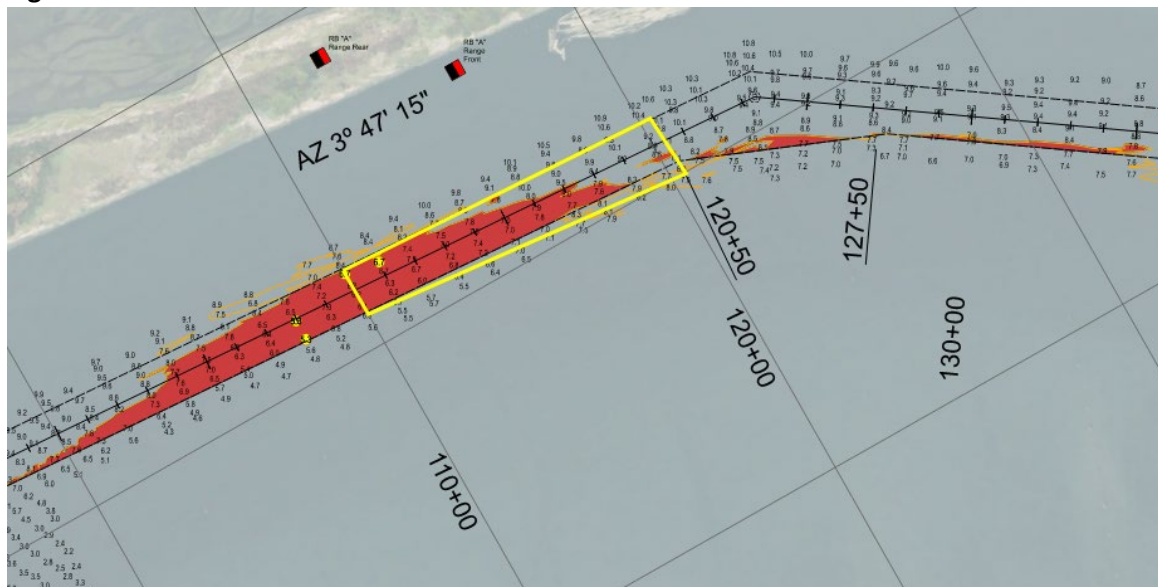
Figure 1.



Approximate Volume available 50+00 through 65+00 as of 03/15/2023:

- 0-15 (design): 13,119
- 15-17 (OD): 19,094
- 17-21 (AMD): Not applicable for 2024 and 2026 dredging

Figure 2.



Approximate Volume available 110+00 through 120+50 as of 03/15/2023:

- 0-8 (design): 2,797
- 8-10 (OD): 10,058
- 10-14 (AMD): Not applicable for 2024 and 2026 dredging

DMMP Determinations

Supplemental Suitability Determination

Because there are no known sources adjacent to these dredge areas and the shoals are recent deposition from previously characterized, suitable upstream material (DMMP, 2018), the DMMP agencies approve of dredging stations 50+00 – 65+00 and stations 110+00 – 120+50 through March 1, 2027. No advanced maintenance dredging will be conducted in these two areas until further characterization is conducted.

Additional Characterization

If USACE plans to dredge other areas that were not characterized in 2022, during the 7-year recency period (September 2029), DMMP recommends supplemental sampling in those areas.

Notes and Clarifications

All other determinations provided in the 2023 SDM (DMMP, 2023) are still relevant.

*The decisions documented in this memorandum do **not** constitute final agency approval of the project. During the public comment period that follows a public notice, resource agencies will provide input on the overall project. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.*

USACE Navigation maintains the appropriate environmental documentation to cover dredging, disposal and beneficial use.

References

DMMP, 2018. *Determination Regarding the Suitability of Dredged Material from the Snohomish River, Snohomish County, Everett, WA, Evaluated Under Section 404 Of the Clean Water Act, for Unconfined Disposal at the Port Gardner Disposal Site.* February 8, 2018

DMMP, 2023. *Suitability Determination and Ranking Memorandum for the USACE Navigation Operations & Maintenance Dredging of the Snohomish River Federal Channel, Everett, Washington.* March 29, 2023.

Agency Signatures

The signed copy is on file in the Dredged Material Management Office, Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

_____	_____
Date	Joy Dunay – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

_____	_____
Date	Erika Hoffman – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

_____	_____
Date	Laura Inouye, PhD. – Washington State Department of Ecology

_____	_____
Date	Shannon Soto – Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:
DMMP agencies
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DMMO File