

Table 5-1. Dredged Material Ranking Guidelines

RANK	GUIDELINES
Low	Few or no sources of chemicals of concern. Data are available to verify low chemical concentrations (below DMMP screening levels) and no significant response in biological tests.
Low-Moderate	Available information indicates a "low" rank, but there are insufficient data to confirm the ranking.
Moderate	Sources exist in the vicinity of the project, or there are present or historical uses of the project site, with the potential for producing chemical concentrations within a range associated historically with some potential for causing adverse biological impacts.
High	Many known chemical sources, high concentrations of chemicals of concern, and/or biological testing failures in one or both of the two most recent cycles of testing. Projects located within or adjacent to a MTCA/CERCLA cleanup site may be subject to project-specific ranking guidelines with higher sampling and testing requirements.

5.1.2 Area-Specific and Project-Specific Rankings

To further facilitate the determination of sampling requirements, rankings for dredging projects in specific geographic areas or with adequate historical testing data were determined using the ranking guidelines in **Table 5-1**. Current rankings for the Puget Sound area are shown in **Table 5-2** and **Table 5-3**; for Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay in **Table 5-4** and in **Table 5-5** for the Columbia River.

5.1.3 Integration of Dioxin Data into Ranking Determinations in Puget Sound

In December 2010 the DMMP agencies implemented new interim dioxin guidelines for Puget Sound, which set a site management objective of 4 pptr TEQ for all disposal sites. In order to meet this goal, no DMMU with a TEQ of over 4 pptr can be disposed at dispersive sites. For disposal at non-dispersive sites, projects must have a volume weighted average of 4 pptr TEQ or less, with no single DMMU having a concentration greater than 10 pptr TEQ. Disposal of material with more than 10 pptr TEQ or not meeting the volume weighted average of 4 pptr TEQ is subject to DMMP Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) based on such things as the frequency of disposal site use and sequencing of dredged material disposal. The interim dioxin guidelines also include updated reason-to-believe guidance; in urban areas, there must be existing dioxin data that supports exclusion of dioxins as a chemical of concern (COC).

The DMMP uses BPJ to determine ranking relative to dioxin rather than including dioxin in the standardized ranking approach used with other COCs. Where dioxins are either known or suspected to be present, existing sediment dioxin data from the project and vicinity as well as source information will be used to design a sampling density appropriate for the project. This approach is used if elevated dioxin concentrations have limited distribution in a given area; there are demonstrated cases where the higher sampling density required for one portion of a project is not appropriate over the entire area to be characterized.