

1 INTRODUCTION

The Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) is an interagency approach to the management of dredged material in Washington State. Two federal and two state agencies, all with roles in the oversight of dredging and disposal, cooperate to streamline dredged material evaluation and regulation. The Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) acts as the lead agency. Cooperating agencies are Region 10 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

1.1 HISTORY OF THE DMMP

The interagency approach to dredged material management began in 1985 after studies surfaced concerns about environmentally degraded sediment and water quality in Puget Sound. Plunging public confidence in agency management of dredged material led to the loss of shoreline permits for the Elliott Bay disposal site and a halt to much local dredging. This crisis led to the Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis (PSDDA) study, a 4.5 year initiative meant to restore confidence in agency regulation of unconfined open-water dredged material disposal. PSDDA was implemented in two phases, first in June 1988 for central Puget Sound and second in September 1989 for north and south Puget Sound.

The PSDDA program provided publicly acceptable and environmentally safe regulation of unconfined open-water dredged material disposal, but only for Puget Sound. In 1995 a long-term interagency management strategy was developed and implemented for the coastal estuaries of Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. In 1998, a long-term interagency dredged material management strategy was also developed and implemented for the lower Columbia River. With the expansion of PSDDA oversight into Washington water bodies beyond Puget Sound, the program name changed from PSDDA to DMMP.

1.2 USER MANUAL

The procedures in this User Manual replace guidance in all previous versions of the DMMP User Manual; the 2000 PSDDA Users Manual; the Evaluation Procedures Technical Appendix - Phase I (PSDDA, 1988); the Management Plan Report - Phase II (PSDDA, 1989); and the Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay Users Manual (Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual: Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, Washington, 1995). The updated procedures should be used for all projects in Puget Sound, on the Washington Coast, the north side of the Columbia River, and all other water bodies within the State of Washington.

Guidance described in this edition of the DMMP User Manual reflects technical and policy updates that have occurred through the sediment management annual review meeting process and public workshops. The User Manual is considered to be a living document and is revised periodically as needed to reflect changes made through the public review process.

1.3 THE DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE (DMMO)

The Corps' Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) provides a "one-stop" location for dredged material evaluations. The DMMO interfaces with the Corps' Regulatory Branch on dredging portions of the permit process, and provides assistance on sediment quality and dredged material management issues. DMMO staff is available to answer questions, assist in the

development of sampling and analysis plans and help troubleshoot during sediment sampling and testing (see DMMO on Figures 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3). The DMMO coordinates SAP and data reviews with the other DMMP agencies, prepares the SAP approval letter and drafts suitability determinations. **Any questions, problems or issues related to dredged material management should be directed to the DMMO:**

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