US Army Corps of Engineers®
Seattle District

Port of Grays Harbor
On Washington's Pacific Coast

Grays Harbor, Washington
Navigation Improvement Project
General Investigation Feasibility Study

DRAFT Limited Reevaluation Report

Prepared by:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District

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Executive Summary

This Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and attached appendices document the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reevaluation of the economic justification of authorized depths and potential environmental impacts of deepening the federal deep-draft navigation channel in Grays Harbor, Washington from the currently maintained depth of -36 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) to the full legislatively authorized project depth of -38 feet MLLW. Congress authorized the Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project (NIP) in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, Public Law 99-662. This reevaluation focused on two alternatives that would deepen approximately 14.5 miles of the 27.5-mile federal navigation channel, along with a No Action alternative. Channel deepening would occur from the South Reach upstream to Cow Point Reach adjacent to the Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 4.

The recommended plan, based on the economic and environmental analyses conducted for this reevaluation, is Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW. Alternative 3 maximizes net benefits (average annual benefits less average annual cost) and is the plan that maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED). This is the federal recommended plan. The depth in the recommended plan is the original legislatively authorized project depth and no additional congressional authorization would be required to implement the recommended pan.

The Grays Harbor NIP is located 50 miles west of Olympia on the southwest coast of Washington. Grays Harbor is approximately 110 miles south of the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and 45 miles north of the mouth of the Columbia River. The cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores, and Westport are located within Grays Harbor. The segment of the channel that was evaluated for deepening is from South Reach upstream to Cow Point Reach.

The 1986 authorization provided for deepening the navigation channel to a project depth of -38 feet MLLW. Post-authorization engineering, environmental and economic studies, reflected in a General Design Memorandum (GDM) of February 1989 resulted in a justified channel depth of -36 feet MLLW from the bar to Cow Point and -32 MLLW feet from Cow Point to Cosmopolis (economic analysis was based on timber industry and log vessels that, at that time, did not need -38 ft MLLW.) The Corps deepened the channel in 1990, in accordance with the 1989 GDM. This is the current depth of annual maintenance dredging.

The reevaluation documented in this LRR and appendices focused on the following problem: As a result of the current channel depth of -36 feet MLLW, and narrow tidal windows, deep draft vessels calling at Grays Harbor have to be partially loaded or experience tidal delays due to insufficient channel depth. The purpose of the economic analysis in this study is to estimate the NED benefits associated with harbor improvements, specifically channel deepening, that are designed to allow for more efficient navigation in Grays Harbor by the existing and projected

future[1] deep-draft vessel fleet over the 50 year period of analysis. The purpose of the environmental analysis in this study is to assess the potential environmental impacts of channel deepening. This draft LRR includes a net benefit analysis and the attached draft supplemental environmental impact analysis (SEIS) (Appendix C) includes a full environmental evaluation of potential impacts of deepening the existing channel. Elements of the environmental evaluation are summarized in the LRR. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for this study is a SEIS that supplements the 1982 EIS prepared during the NIP feasibility study and a 1989 SEIS.

Non-Federal Sponsor: The Port of Grays Harbor, Washington (Port) is the non-federal sponsor of this study. The Port sponsored the 1982 feasibility study. The Port includes four marine terminals, supported by large, paved, secured cargo yards; an on-dock rail system and more than 104,000 sq ft of on-dock covered storage. Historically, Port business focused on timber, with diversification away from timber starting in 2007. Port growth since 2007 includes over $200M in private investments. Based on 2012 data, approximately 1.9M short tons moved through Grays Harbor; approximately 96% were exports going mostly to Asia. Main commodities include barge and bulk liquid, agricultural processing and autos.

Alternatives Evaluated: For this reevaluation, the project delivery team (PDT), which included Corps representatives from Seattle District (NWS) and Port representatives, evaluated the following three alternatives to address the study objectives and identify a plan that is technically feasible, economically justified and is environmentally acceptable (see Section 5 for detailed descriptions):

- Alternative 1: No Action (Continue Current Channel maintenance to -36 Feet MLLW)
- Alternative 2: Deepen Channel to -37 Feet MLLW
- Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 Feet MLLW

Economic Analysis: The economic feasibility and justification of the recommended plan for this study were determined by comparing average annual costs and benefits for the two deepening alternatives (Alternative 2 and Alternative 3) to each other and to the without-project conditions (Alternative 1) during the 50-year period of analysis. The plan that maximizes net benefits (benefits less cost) is the plan that maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED). This plan is the federal recommended plan. The plan that maximizes NED benefits, based on this economic analysis, is Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW. Transportation cost savings were calculated using the HarborSym model, a planning-level simulation designed to assist in the economic analysis of coastal harbors using data such as port layout, vessel calls and transit rules to calculate vessel interactions within the harbor. The table below documents this comparison.

[1] The economist determines the current vessel fleet composition then projects the future one based on numerous factors such as projected commodity flows, commerce, current fleet, port capacity and limitation, etc.

NED Analysis for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to -37 feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW)
Average Annual Benefits	$2,154,000	$4,470,000
Average Annual Cost	$766,000	$1,331,000
Net Benefits	$1,388,000	$3,139,000
Benefit to Cost Ratio	2.81	3.36

Environmental Analysis: For the environmental analysis, the Corps analyzed project-related effects of the three alternatives. The environmental consequences analyses presented in the SEIS determined that the effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment, over and above the effects of continuing execution of the present management regime of annual maintenance dredging as evaluated in prior NEPA documentation, would be minor. Alternative 3 would have a slightly greater effect on the natural environment compared to Alternative 2 because the navigation channel would be dredged to a greater depth. Alternative 3 would remove a greater volume of material during the initial deepening of the channel, which could have potentially greater effects on invertebrates, fish and wildlife, and water quality. In addition, Alternative 3 would require the use of two clamshell dredges during dredging of the inner channel reaches, compared to the use of one clamshell dredge under Alternative 2, to allow for a larger volume of material to be dredged during the same in-water work window. The use of two dredges as opposed to one would result in a greater effect on air quality, noise, artificial lighting, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Alternative 3, however, would also have a greater benefit to the human environment compared to Alternative 2. Deepening the navigation channel would alleviate tidal delays and light loading of the current vessel fleet, which is currently caused by insufficient channel depths at all tidal stages. Because Alternative 3 would be deepening the navigation channel to its legislatively authorized depth of –38 feet MLLW, compared to –37 feet MLLW under Alternative 2, greater benefits would be achieved under Alternative 3, such as increasing the Port's efficiency to transport goods in and out of the harbor.

Implementation: Implementation of the recommended plan (Alternative 3) would require the removal of 1.752 million cubic yards of sediment to construct, over and above the projected volumes of material dredged and placed in order to maintain the channel at its present -36 feet MLLW depth. Both annual maintenance dredging and deepening from the present maintained depth to the project depth of -38 feet MLLW must be conducted in the same dredging year. Subsequent annual maintenance dredging requirements would increase by an estimated 107,000 cubic yards. Construction dredging would occur over approximately six months for the inner harbor reaches, approximately 1.5 months longer than current maintenance dredging, and would occur within the same seven month dredge window as current maintenance dredging. The duration of dredging for the outer harbor reaches would be approximately 1 month, the same as under current maintenance dredging. The total volumes dredged for both annual maintenance and deepening to -38 feet MLLW in the construction year would require an

estimated 3,842,000 cubic yards (maintenance volumes to reach -36 feet MLLW, plus deepening volumes for the recommended plan (Alternative 3)).

Project construction (i.e., the dredging process) to deepen the pertinent channel reaches to -38 feet MLLW, including scheduled work periods, types of equipment, and methods for dredged material placement, would be implemented as per current maintenance dredging, with the following exceptions: dredged material for nearshore nourishment would be pumped ashore via submerged/floating hydraulic pipeline moored in Half Moon Bay, a long-reach excavator would be used to remove some material from the Cow Point Reach, material determined to be unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal would be transferred and disposed upland, and dredged material would be placed in a shifted Point Chehalis aquatic site during construction of the deepened channel. An additional clamshell dredge and barge would be needed in the inner harbor reaches under this alternative. Dredged materials would be deposited at the existing Half Moon Bay, South Jetty, South Beach, and upland at the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site (when feasible) placement sites used during maintenance dredging. The Point Chehalis aquatic site would be shifted approximately 1,000 feet to the north north-west during the construction year to take advantage of deeper water and the existing favorable hydrodynamics that transport material away from the channel. Material unsuitable for open water disposal would be placed at an appropriate upland site.

Approximately 22,400 cubic yards of sediment that would be dredged during construction of the recommended plan from the Cow Point 32a subunit are unsuitable for open-water disposal due to toxicity expressed in the sediment larval bioassay. This material would require appropriate upland disposal (at the former Hoquiam waste water treatment lagoon). Dredged Material Management Unit (DMMU) subunit 32a would be physically surveyed after construction, and a determination would be made at that time whether an additional round of testing is required of that sub-unit prior to any subsequent maintenance dredging episode in that sub-unit's footprint.

In subsequent years, the newly deepened channel would be dredged for maintenance purposes, implemented utilizing the same scheduled work periods, types of equipment, methods for dredged material placement, and placement locations as are used for current maintenance dredging operations. The estimated volume of material dredged from the inner and outer harbor reaches of the navigation channel associated with the recommended plan during the construction year are provided below, as well as the additional increment of maintenance dredged material volume necessitated by the two feet of channel deepening in the subsequent years. The volumes listed include two feet of advance maintenance and two feet of allowable overdepth in each alternative, as well as 15% contingency to account for potential variability in sedimentation rates from year to year.[2]

[2] As noted in the table, the economic analysis assumed deepening would start at -36 ft MLLW, and used the deepening increments below -36 ft MLLW for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. The supporting environmental analysis documented in the attached SEIS (Appendix C) evaluated effects of deepening below the annual maximum volume of dredged material of 2.09 mcy. As a result, the SEIS includes larger deepening volumes for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3.

Estimated Dredged Material Volumes (cy) to Deepen Channel to -38 ft MLLW

Navigation Channel Reach	Construction Increment to Deepen Channel to –38 feet MLLW	Total Dredged in Construction Year (Maintenance to -36 feet MLLW plus Construction Deepening to -38 feet MLLW	Annual Increase in Maintenance Dredging Attributable to Deepening to -38 feet MLLW[c]
Inner Harbor Reaches			
Cow Point[b]	348,000	1,313,000	21,000
Hoquiam	359,000	509,000	22,000
North Channel	274,000	449,000	17,000
Inner Crossover	264,000	639,000	16,000
Outer Harbor Reaches			
Outer Crossover	257,000	492,000	16,000
South	250,00	440,000	15,000
Total	**1,752,000**	**3,842,000**	**107,000**

[a] Assumes deepening would begin from –36 feet MLLW and includes advanced maintenance and overdepth dredging volumes, as well as 15% contingency to account for potential variability in sedimentation rates from year to year. Initial channel deepening volumes obtained from the September 2012 condition survey by the Corps vessel *Shoalhunter*.

[b] Volumes include the Cow Point Turning Basin.

[c] Increased annual maintenance attributable to the two foot deepening increment from -36 ft to -38 ft MLLW (Rosati 2004)

Cost Estimate: The fully funded current cost estimate to construct the recommended plan is $19.7 million. The additional volume of material that would be dredged during subsequent operation and maintenance of the recommended plan (107,000 cy) would be an incremental increase above the current O&M volume. The O&M cost of the increment from -36 feet MLLW to -38 feet MLLW would be approximately $483,000 annually. See Appendix E for the Total Project Cost Summary.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAEQ	average annual equivalent
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
BA	Biological Assessment
BCR	benefit-to-cost ratio
BNSF	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
CG	Construction General
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
cy	cubic yard
DMMP	Dredged Material Management Program
EA	Environmental Assessment
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERDC	Engineer Research and Development Center
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EOP	Environmental Operating Principles
EPA	see USEPA
EQ	Environmental Quality
FY	fiscal year
GDM	General Design Memorandum
GI	General Investigation
LCA	Local Cooperation Agreement
M&O	maintenance and operation
MLLW	mean lower low water
NED	National Economic Development
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NIP	Navigation Improvement Project
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
O&M	operations and maintenance
OSE	Other Social Effects
P&G	Principles and Guidelines
PoGH	Port of Grays Harbor
PDT	Project Delivery Team
PPA	Project Partnership Agreement
ROD	Record of Decision
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
SLR	sea level rise
U&A	Usual and accustomed
UP	Union Pacific Railroad
USC	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act

1 Introduction

The Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project (NIP) Limited Reevaluation Report and attached appendices document the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reevaluation of the economic justification of authorized depths and potential environmental impacts of deepening the federal deep-draft navigation channel in Grays Harbor, Washington from the currently maintained depth of -36 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) to the full legislatively authorized project depth of -38 feet MLLW. This reevaluation focused on two alternatives that would deepen approximately 14.5 miles of the 27.5-mile federal navigation channel, along with a No Action alternative. Channel deepening would occur from the South Reach upstream to Cow Point Reach adjacent to the Port of Grays Harbor (Port) Terminal 4 (Figure 1).

The project delivery team (PDT) for this study included Corps representatives from Seattle District (NWS) and the Port. The study followed the Corps Civil Works planning process for a limited reevaluation, outlined in the Corps Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100). This limited reevaluation report (LRR) documents the planning process and results, and includes content needed for a limited reevaluation. Elements of the environmental evaluation are summarized in the LRR. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for this study is a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) attached as Appendix A that supplements the 1982 EIS prepared during the NIP feasibility study and a 1989 SEIS.

1.1 Purpose and Scope of Limited Reevaluation

The purpose of the economic analysis in this study is to estimate the net benefits (average annual benefits less average annual cost) of deepening alternatives to identify the plan that maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED). NED benefits associated with harbor improvements, specifically channel deepening, are designed to allow for more efficient navigation in Grays Harbor by the existing and projected future[3] deep-draft vessel fleet. The purpose of the environmental analysis in this study is to assess the potential environmental impacts of channel deepening. This draft LRR includes a net benefit analysis and the attached draft SEIS includes a full environmental evaluation of potential impacts of deepening the existing channel. The draft LRR and draft SEIS also present details of Corps and partner participation needed to implement a plan.

The Port requested in letters to the Corps in 2005 and 2012 to restrict the reevaluation to the legislatively authorized project depth of -38 feet MLLW. This project falls under the Categorical Exemption described in Section 3-2 (Navigation) of ER 1105-2-100. As noted in ER 1105-2-100, for harbor and channel deepening studies where the non-Federal sponsor has identified constraints on channel depths, the Corps is not required to analyze project plans greater (deeper) than the plan desired by the sponsor. Seattle District and Northwestern Division

[3] The economist determines the current vessel fleet composition then projects the future one based on numerous factors such as projected commodity flows, commerce, current fleet, port capacity and limitation, etc.

agreed to limit the scope of the reevaluation to legislatively authorized depths. As such, the scope of the study is to determine the economic justification and environmental impacts of deepening the navigation channel the remaining two authorized feet.

The PDT evaluated the following three alternatives to address the study objectives and identify a plan that is technically feasible, economically justified, and is environmentally acceptable (see Section 5 for detailed descriptions):

- Alternative 1: No Action (Continue Current Channel maintenance to -36 Feet MLLW)
- Alternative 2: Deepen Channel to -37 Feet MLLW
- Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 Feet MLLW

1.2 Study Authority

This limited reevaluation was initiated at the request of the Port to investigate deepening the Grays Harbor navigation channel, which was not constructed to the legislatively authorized depth, based on post-authorization evaluations described below.

Congress initially authorized construction and maintenance of the navigation channel principally through the River and Harbor Act of June 3, 1896 (29 Stat. 202, Ch. 314) and through the River and Harbor Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 409, Ch. 831); as subsequently amended, among others, by the River and Harbor Act of March 2, 1945 (Public Law 79-14) and the River and Harbor Act of September 3, 1954 (Public Law 83-780).

Congress authorized the NIP in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, Public Law 99-662. The authorizing legislation is as follows:

PUBLIC LAW 99-662 – NOV 17, 1986

> Section 202 General Cargo and Shallow Harbor Projects
>
> AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSTRUCTION. – The following projects for harbors are authorized to be prosecuted by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans and subject to the conditions recommended in the respective reports designated in this subsection, except as otherwise provided in this subsection:
>
> GRAYS HARBOR, WASHINGTON
> The project for navigation, Grays Harbor, Washington: Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated May 4, 1985, at a total cost of $95,700,000, with an estimated first Federal cost of $63,100,000 and an estimated first non-Federal cost of $32,600,000.

The 1986 NIP authorization provided for deepening the navigation channel to a project depth of -38 feet MLLW. The Corps evaluation presented in the 1989 General Design Memorandum (GDM), Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project resulted in a justified channel depth of -36 feet MLLW from the bar to Cow Point and -32 MLLW feet from Cow Point

to Cosmopolis, based on detailed post-authorization engineering, environmental and economic studies[4]. The Corps deepened the channel in 1990, in accordance with the 1989 GDM. This is the current depth of annual maintenance dredging. The project was authorized for a total cost of $95.7 million, but total initial construction was less than $30 million.

Title I of the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act authorized "…restudy of authorized projects..." and provided funds to conduct the reconnaissance (905(b)) phase of the reevaluation study to deepen the channel beyond the current project depth of -36 feet MLLW. Northwestern Division, Corps of Engineers (NWD) approved a 905(b) report in 2009 that concluded there is a federal interest in reevaluating deepening the Grays Harbor NIP project.

1.3 Location and Study Area

The Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project (NIP) is located 50 miles west of Olympia on the southwest coast of Washington. Grays Harbor is approximately 110 miles south of the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and 45 miles north of the mouth of the Columbia River. The cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores, and Westport are located within Grays Harbor (Figure 1).

The federal navigation channel traverses the harbor, providing shipping access between the Pacific Ocean and the lower reaches of the Chehalis River where the cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis are located. As shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, the channel is divided into nine distinct reaches. For this reevaluation, the study area includes only the six reaches from the South Reach upstream to Cow Point Reach adjacent to the Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 4 (Figure 1). This segment of the navigation channel is legislatively authorized to -38 feet MLLW, but was implemented and is maintained at -36 feet MLLW.

The Quinault Indian Nation is the only tribe with usual and accustomed fishing (U&A) rights in Grays Harbor. The Chehalis Tribe relies on the fish that migrate up the Grays Harbor estuary to the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. The Corps also coordinates with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Hoh Indian Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation and the Shoalwater Bay Tribe in regards to cultural resources as these Tribes have historically used the Grays Harbor estuary.

[4] The economic analysis in the GDM was based on timber industry and log vessels that, at that time, did not need -38 ft MLLW.

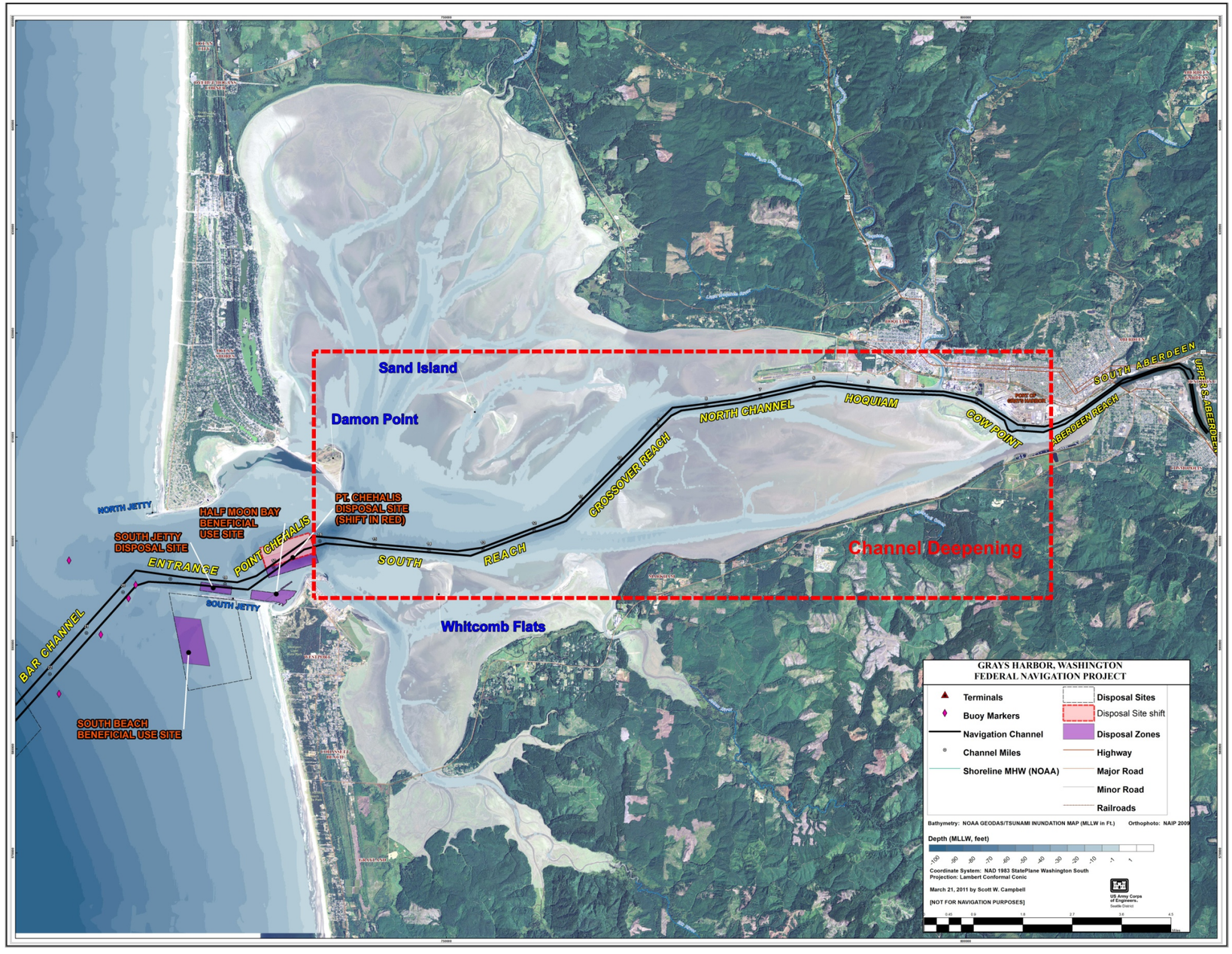

Figure 1: Study Area and Vicinity

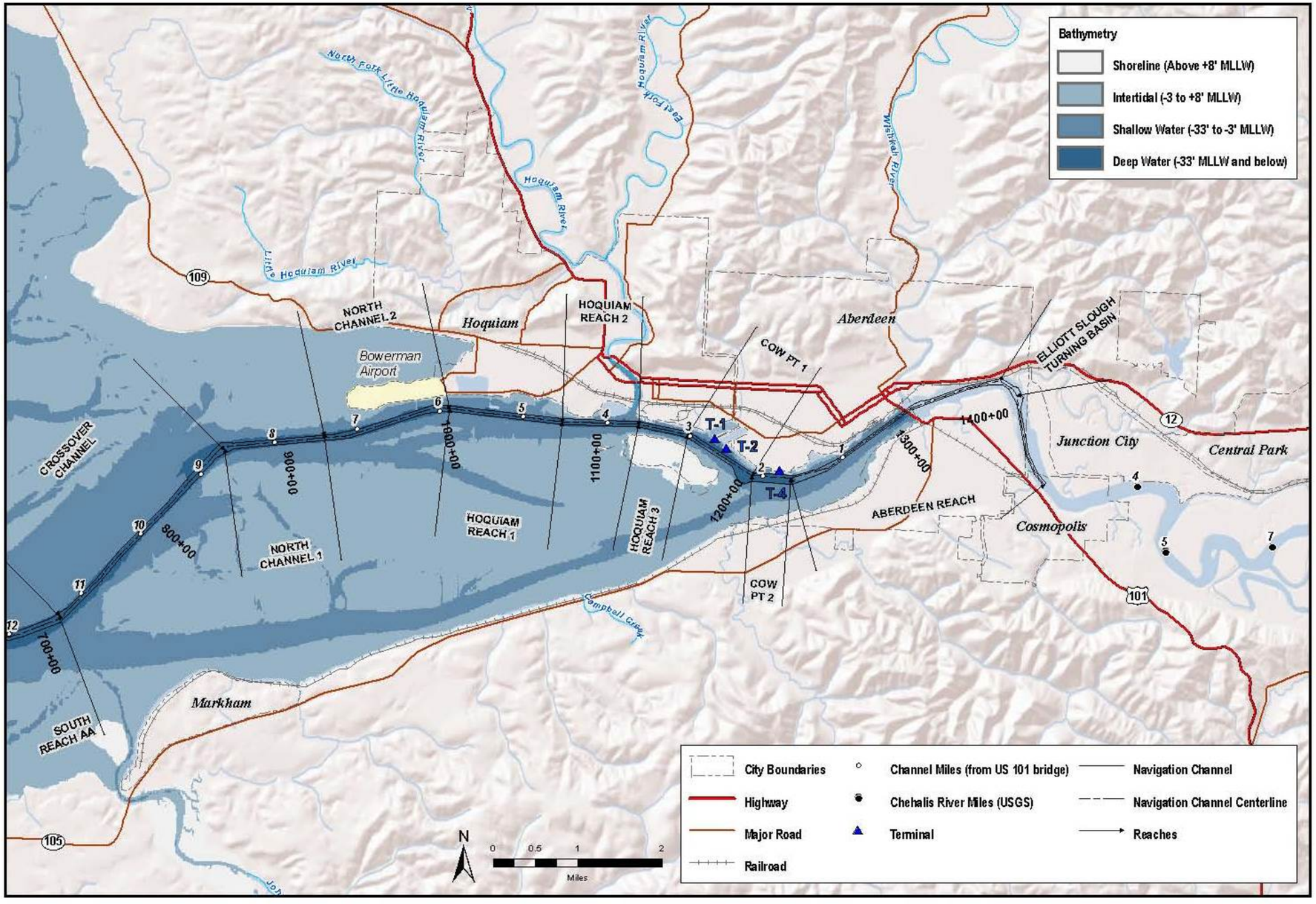

Figure 2: Inner Reaches, Grays Harbor NIP

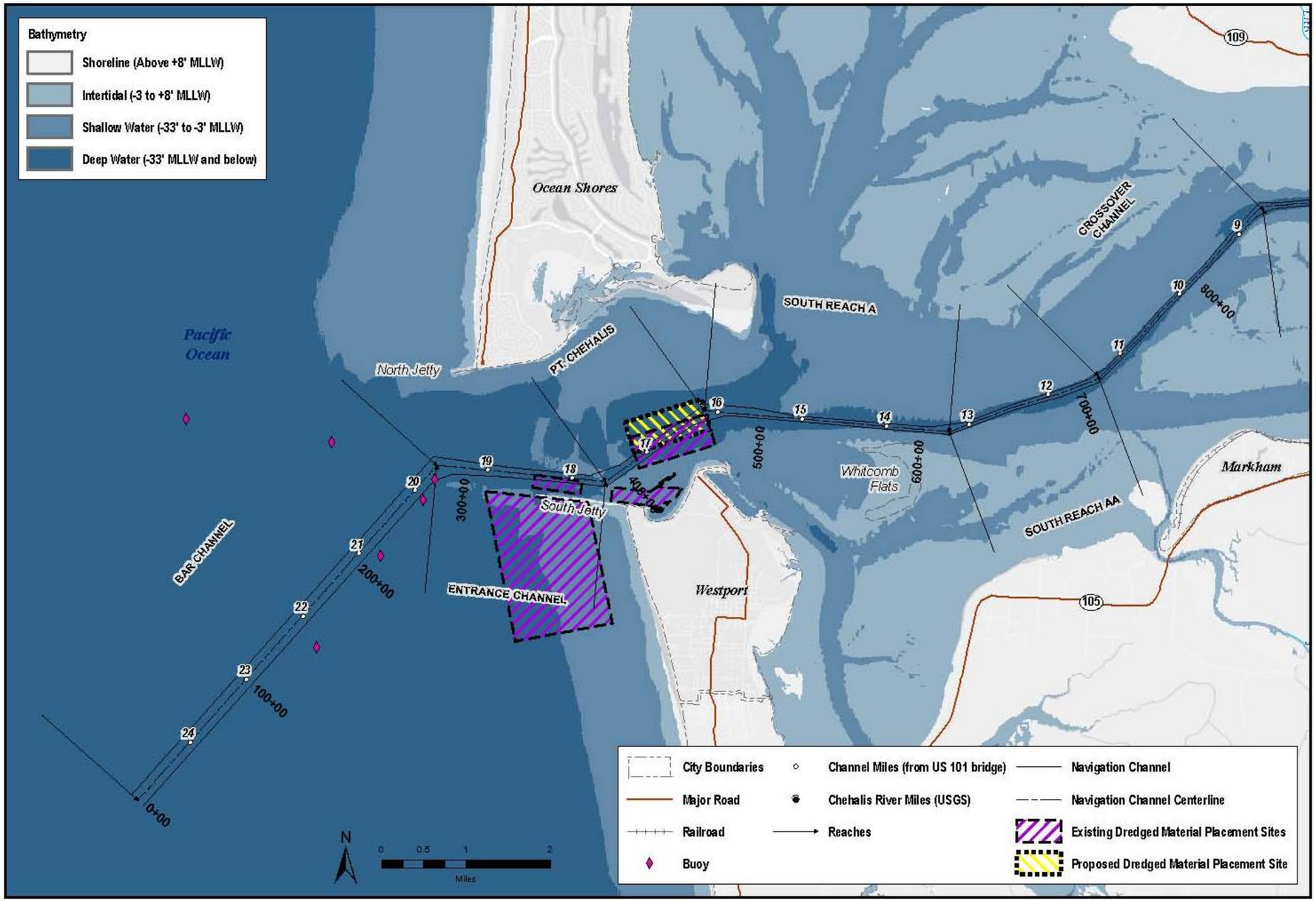

Figure 3: Outer Reaches, Grays Harbor NIP

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1.4 Non-Federal Sponsor

The Port of Grays Harbor, Washington (Port) is the non-federal sponsor of this study. The Port sponsored the 1982 feasibility study. The Port includes four marine terminals, supported by large, paved, secured cargo yards; an on-dock rail system and more than 104,000 sq ft of on-dock covered storage. Historically, Port business focused on timber, with diversification away from timber starting in 2007. Port growth since 2007 includes over $200M in private investments. Based on 2012 data, approximately 1.9M short tons moved through Grays Harbor; approximately 96% were exports going mostly to Asia. Main commodities include barge and bulk liquid, agricultural processing and autos.

1.5 Key Dates for the Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project (NIP)

Below are key dates in the project history of the Grays Harbor NIP:

- 1982 – Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed for channel improvement below -30 feet MLLW; EIS concluded further study warranted for crab mitigation, sediment management and disposal site locations.
- 1986 – WRDA 1986 authorized Navigation Improvement Project to -46 feet MLLW (Outer Harbor) and to -38 feet MLLW (Inner Harbor).
- 1989 – Corps General Design Memorandum and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) documented studies conducted during PED; recommended deepening to full depth in Outer Harbor and to -36 feet MLLW in Inner Harbor[5]. Economic analysis showed justification to deepen to -36 MLLW in Inner Harbor, based on timber industry and log vessels that, at that time, did not need -38 ft MLLW.
- 1990-1991 - Deepening completed.
- 2009 - Reconnaissance 905(b) Analysis and Report: Documented Federal interest in continuing evaluation of implementing legislatively authorized depth of Inner Harbor to -38 feet MLLW.
- 2014 – Draft Limited Reevaluation Report: Documents analysis of economic benefits and costs associated with depths of -37 and -38 feet MLLW; Port of Grays Harbor is the non-federal sponsor.
- 2014 – Draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS): Documents scope and purpose of project, alternatives considered, and potential environmental impacts of alternatives.

1.6 Description of Authorized Grays Harbor NIP

As noted above, the scope of this reevaluation is limited to evaluating deepening six reaches of the navigation channel. For reference, the primary features of the legislatively authorized deep draft navigation project described in the 1982 feasibility report included other actions: improvement of the existing 24-mile long, 30-foot deep, and segments of the navigation channel to a project depth of -38 feet MLLW; expansion of two existing turning basins; crab and fish mitigation; and replacement of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) bridge at Aberdeen. (The

[5] South Reach is in the Outer Harbor for purposes of this LRR, but was not dredged in 1990 to its full depth.

channel itself and twin jetties that secure the mouth of the bay were authorized under the River and Harbor Act of 1896, and modified by subsequent acts.)

1.7 Description of Implemented Grays Harbor NIP

The Corps deepened the Inner harbor of the deep draft channel to -36 feet MLLW in 1990, based on the 1989 Corps GDM, with a deep draft channel over 22 miles long from the Pacific Ocean near Westport inland to Cow Point (near Aberdeen). The deep draft channel is 1,000 feet wide over the entrance bar and through the entrance channel reach and decreases to 350 feet wide near the Port of Grays Harbor terminals at Cow Point. The authorized UPRR bridge replacement was removed from the project scope in FY 1995 at the Port's request, because of non-resolution of political and financial issues related to modification of the bridge. The 1989 SEIS included mitigation for loss of 2 acres of sub-tidal salmon habitat by creation of 4 acres of intertidal habitat plus 18 acres of buffer zone (Junction City area) and placement of oyster shell to mitigate for losses to harvestable Dungeness crabs.

1.8 Problem

As a result of the current channel depth of -36 feet MLLW and narrow tidal windows, deep draft vessels calling at Grays Harbor have to be partially loaded or experience tidal delays due to insufficient channel depth.

1.9 Opportunities

Opportunities of a deeper navigation channel include:

- Vessels could operate more efficiently by being fully loaded or reducing delays caused by tidal cycles
- Increased efficiencies could result in decreased cost to move commodities through the Port of Grays Harbor, resulting in lower cost of consumer goods
- Vessels carrying more cargo could reach the Port facilities
- U.S. producers could be provided improved access to world markets
- Economic competitiveness of producers would be improved
- Would allow increased beneficial use of dredged materials

1.10 National Objective

The national or federal objective of water and related land resources planning is to contribute to National Economic Development (NED) consistent with protecting the nation's environment, pursuant to national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other federal planning requirements. Contributions to NED are increases in the net value of the national output of goods and services, expressed in monetary units. Contributions to NED are the direct net benefits that accrue in the planning area and the rest of the nation.

1.11 Planning Objectives

The water and related land resource problems and opportunities identified in this study are structured as specific planning objectives to provide focus for the formulation of alternatives.

These planning objectives reflect the problems and opportunities and represent desired positive changes in the without project conditions.

The primary objective of federal navigation activities is to contribute to the Nation's economy while protecting the Nation's environmental resources in accordance with existing laws, regulation and executive orders. Navigation channels meet the federal objective by reducing transportation costs and improving the efficiency and safety of the deep-draft navigation system, thereby reducing vessel operating costs, resulting in potential savings to the consumer. The specific planning objective for this study is:

- Reduce navigation transportation costs for the existing and projected future traffic of deep-draft vessels, and improve efficiency and reliability of navigation to and from Grays Harbor over the 50-year period of analysis, as feasible and economically justified, within the parameters of the channel as legislatively authorized.

1.12 Planning Constraints

The following planning constraints represent restrictions that should not be violated. Compliance with environmental policies is addressed in the SEIS (Appendix C).

- The evaluation of alternatives to deepen the navigation channel beyond -36 ft MLLW will not re-evaluate the justification of deepening to -36 ft MLLW.
- The evaluation of alternatives to deepen the navigation channel will be limited to alternatives between -36 ft and the full legislatively authorized depth of -38 ft MLLW.

1.13 Assumptions

The PDT developed the following preliminary assumptions. The PDT will review and refine these assumptions during the feasibility study:

- The segment of the channel being evaluated is dredged to its currently justified depth (i.e. -36 feet MLLW project depth plus two feet annual maintenance and two feet allowable overdepth) prior to implementing a recommended plan for a deepening project beyond a project depth of -36 feet MLLW.
- Annual maintenance dredging would occur within the same dredging year as a deepening project.
- Each of the deepening alternatives would require subsequent maintenance dredging.
- The minor channel alignment modification from South Reach to North Channel that Seattle District is pursuing separate from this reevaluation has been previously approved and implemented, resulting in significantly lower dredging volumes in the project area both for O&M and for construction of a deepening alternative. (Dredging volumes assuming completion of this minor channel alignment modification were used in this reevaluation.)
- The reduction in vessel operating costs is cost savings that is passed on to the consumer, thus improving consumers' economic condition and quality of life.

- Approximately one to two percent of the material to be removed by new channel depth dredging (depending which action alternative is implemented) has been found to be unsuitable for open-water disposal. Therefore, a suitable upland disposal site will be required.

1.14 Funding Since Authorization

Table 1 below lists funding for the Grays Harbor NIP since Congress authorized the project in 1986.

Table 1: Funding Allocations for Grays Harbor NIP Since Authorization

Year	Total Obligations	Construction Obligations	RE Obligations
1986	$1,020,000	$1,020,000	$0
1987	$440,000	$440,000	$0
1988	$700,000	$700,000	$0
1989	$1,370,000	$1,370,000	$0
1990	$14,701,367	$14,701,367	$0
1991	$396,000	$396,000	$0
1992	$2,889,000	$2,889,000	$0
1993	$506,000	$506,000	$0
1994	$2,104,000	$2,104,000	$0
1995	-$1,365,000	-$1,365,000	$0
1996	$54,000	$54,000	$0
1997	$105,000	$105,000	$0
1998	$49,225	$49,225	$0
1999	$1,206,167	$1,206,167	$0
2000	$20,895	$20,895	$0
2001	-$25,000	-$25,000	$0
2002	-$27,000	-$27,000	$0
2003	$32,000	$32,000	$0
2004	$3,482,417	$9,000	$3,491,417
2005	$20,000	$20,000	$0
2006	$0	$0	$0
2007	$0	$0	$0
2008	$42,245	$42,245	$0
2009	$42,589	$42,589	$0
2010	$59,503	$59,503	$0
2011	$467,133	$467,133	$0
2012	$915,021	$915,021	$0

1.15 Prior Reports and Existing Projects

The PDT used information contained in the following studies and analyses concerning the federal navigation project at Grays Harbor as background material for this reevaluation of the NIP. A detailed list of additional reports that were used as background material for the SEIS is included in Appendix C.

1. **Interim Feasibility Report and Final EIS, Grays Harbor, Chehalis and Hoquiam Rivers, Washington, Channel Improvements for Navigation**, September 1982: Study determined the need for, and feasibility of, improving the safety and efficiency of deep-draft navigation in Grays Harbor. Major features included 24.3 miles of channel improvement from the outer bar through the harbor entrance and estuary past the city of Aberdeen and up the Chehalis River to Cosmopolis (authorized channel would range from -46 feet MLLW at the outer bar and entrance to -38 feet MLLW through the estuary to Port of Grays Harbor terminals at Aberdeen and -36 feet MLLW above port terminals to Cosmopolis), replacement of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge at Aberdeen, construction of three turning basins, placement of dredged material in open-water at the harbor entrance (Point Chehalis and South Jetty sites) and in the ocean and in two confined sites at Aberdeen, and mitigation for lost shallow-water fish feeding habitat and crab mortalities from dredging. Benefit to Cost Ratio of 1.34 to 1.

2. **Grays Harbor, Washington Navigation Improvement Project, Report of Chief of Engineers**, dated May 1985.

3. **Grays Harbor, Washington Navigation Improvement Project General Design Memorandum (GDM) and Environmental Impact Statement Supplement (EISS),** dated February 1989. The GDM recommended scope-reducing design refinements based on detailed engineering, environmental and economic studies. Major features included deepening and widening 23.5 miles of the existing 30-foot channel across the ocean bar (46 feet deep and 1,000 feet wide), through the harbor entrance (46-38 feet deep and 1,000-600 feet wide) and outer harbor (36 feet deep and 350 feet wide), to the inner harbor and river channel (36 feet deep and 350-250 feet wide) plus additional deepening in each reach for advance maintenance dredging (two feet) and allowable overdepth dredging (up to two feet), expansion and deepening of the Cow Point and expansion only of the Elliott Sough turning basins, modification of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge at Aberdeen from swing-span to lift span[6], and mitigation for lost shallow-water subtidal salmon habitat and crab mortalities from dredging. Benefit to Cost Ratio 1.84 to 1.

[6] The authorized UPRR bridge replacement was removed from the project scope in FY 1995 at the Port's request, because of non-resolution of political and financial issues related to modification of the bridge.

2 Evaluation / Decision Criteria

Table 2 summarizes evaluation and decision criteria that are based on the planning objectives and constraints identified above. These criteria were used to evaluate and compare alternatives. These include project-specific criteria, in addition to the four criteria in *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*, referred to as the Principles and Guidelines (P&G)[7]. Criteria associated with evaluation of environmental impacts of the alternatives are described in the SEIS (Appendix C of this LRR.)

Table 2: Summary Table of Evaluation/Decision Criteria for Feasibility Study

Criteria	Metric	Threshold/Inventory
Cost	Dollars	Econ Analysis, Cost Engineering estimate
Economic Benefits	Dollars	Econ analysis
Contribution to federal objective (NED)	Y/N	Econ analysis
Meets planning objectives	Y/N	List objective that is met
Avoids planning constraints	Y/N	List any constraints not avoided
Environmental impacts	Degree of impact	To be addressed in SEIS
Completeness	Y/N	Qualitative assessment
Effectiveness	Y/N	Qualitative assessment
Efficiency	Y/N	Qualitative assessment
Acceptability	Y/N	Qualitative assessment

The Corps developed Environmental Operating Principles (EOP) to ensure that Corps missions include totally integrated sustainable environmental practices. The EOPs relate to the human environment and apply to all aspects of business and operations. For the purposes of this feasibility study, the EOPs are not used as evaluation criteria. However, the PDT is conducting required NEPA analysis and documentation as a means to address principles of open and transparent processes, and will evaluate alternatives against the P&G criteria and other project-specific criteria listed above to ensure the recommended plan is consistent with protecting the nation's environment, pursuant to national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other federal planning requirements. In addition, the Corps will continue to consider these principles throughout the implementation of the recommended plan.

[7] *Completeness* is the extent to which an alternative plan provides and accounts for all necessary investments or other actions to ensure the realization of the planning objectives, including actions by other federal and non-federal entities; *Effectiveness* is the extent to which an alternative plan contributes to achieving the objectives; *Efficiency* is the extent to which an alternative plan is the most cost-effective means of achieving the objectives; *Acceptability* is the extent to which an alternative plan is acceptable in terms of applicable laws, regulations and public policies.

3 Existing Conditions

This section describes existing conditions at the time the study was conducted.

3.1 Economic Existing Conditions

The Port of Grays Harbor was founded in 1911 and relied primarily on demand for forest resources (timber). The Port diversified its business in the early 2000s, following shifting global demand for less-costly sources of timber. This diversification involved capital investment of approximately $18 million in rail and rail capacity and an additional $200 million of private investment in port facilities. The Port has seen a steady increase in trade volume over the past decade. The Port's diversification of commodities led to a 42% increase in cargo volume from 2006 to 2012.

3.1.1 Economic Profile of Project Area

The major population surrounding the project location, assumed to be the majority user of the project area with respect to employment and tax income from operations, is the population of Grays Harbor County, Washington. See Appendix A (Economic Analysis) for details. The resident population of Grays Harbor County is approximately 73,000 (Bureau, 2013). The total number of businesses in Grays Harbor County is approximately 1,747, with the highest percent of industries being in retail trade (15.8%) (BEA, 2011). The unemployment rate in December 2012 was approximately 12.4%, approximately 2% higher than the average 9.36% unemployment rate for all counties in the state of Washington (BLS, 2013).

3.1.2 Hinterland Transit Connection[8]

The Port is connected to the surrounding area by the following infrastructure:

- **Highway:** Grays Harbor is connected to its hinterlands by rail and Highway 12, a four-lane state highway connecting Grays Harbor to Interstate 5. This connects to Interstate 90 and provides access to the midwest United States - a major supplier of food and farm product exports – and central area of the United States.
- **Rail:** Rail service to the Port provides access to Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) railroads, via Rail America's Puget Sound and Pacific short line railroad. A rail loop runs through the marine terminal complex providing a continuous rail loop to all three main cargo terminals that allows trains to be continuously loaded or unloaded for movement through Port facilities. Additional auto tracks are under construction to increase auto handling capacity. A second rail loop will be constructed, providing shippers additional import and export handling capacity. An inter-modal 2,800 lineal foot on-dock rail system with direct discharge options and four parallel spurs is available (Harbor, 2013)
- **Air:** Bowerman Airport is approximately five miles from the Port, and is primarily used for general aviation.

[8] "The inland trade region served by a port is called its hinterland. That hinterland usually consists of a number of cargo hinterlands defined by the inland origins or destinations of specific commodities. Collectively, the cargo hinterlands of actual and potential commerce of the project port define the economic study area." (IWR, 2010)

3.1.3 Existing Shipping and Receiving Facilities

Table 3 below summarizes existing marine terminals at the Port.

Table 3: Summary of Existing Shipping and Receiving Facilities at Port of Grays Harbor (Adapted from Port of Grays Harbor web site)

Terminal	Length (feet)	Depth (feet)	Use(s)
Terminal 1	480	-41 MLLW	• Barge & Bulk Liquid • Adjacent uplands storage area • Liquid bulk commodity shipping access to Port customers Imperium Grays Harbor and Westway Terminal Company • Imperium Renewables submitting permit application in 2013 for new storage tanks, rail infrastructure, office space to develop additional 10.7 acres within Port, adjacent to existing Imperium biodiesel plant; Imperium anticipates products will vary over life of facility; may include biodiesel, ethanol, U.S. crude oil, jet fuel, gasoline, diesel, vegetable oil, feed stock (Renewables, 2013). These upgrades to facility and infrastructure are expected to take place regardless of proposed deepening of existing channel. Thus, this development would be reflected in both -with and -without project conditions.
Terminal 2	600	-41 MLLW	• Dry and Liquid bulk • Agricultural Processing • Served by rail loop
Terminal 3	600	-41 MLLW	• 150 acre marine industrial site • Deep water terminal • On-site rail (BNSF, UP) • Less than 1 mi from Bowerman Airport • Grays Harbor Rail Terminal, LLC proposing bulk liquids rail logistics facility at Terminal 3 to handle liquid bulk, primarily crude oil or light oil; Grays Harbor Rail Terminal is conducting feasibility study expected to be complete by year end 2013
Terminal 4	1,400	-41 MLLW	• Main general cargo terminal • Break-bulk, Auto and Ro/Ro[9] • 100,000 sq ft covered warehouse space • Dockside warehousing • Paved uplands • On-dock rail service • Pasha Automotive Services, the leasee of Terminal 4, signed a 20 year agreement with the Port of Grays Harbor in 2009 and as of August 2012 moved over 100,000 Chrysler vehicles through the port (Bruscas, 2012).

[9] Roll-On/Roll-Off Vehicle Based Shipping

Terminal (continued)	Length (feet)	Depth (feet)	Use(s)
Weyerhaeuser	1,250	N/A	• Independent terminals for handling log vessels and wood products operated by Weyerhaeuser • Not a major user today or in near future of Grays Harbor Navigation Channel • Moving little to no major volumes of commodities, and, as such, not being factored into economic analysis • Located upriver of proposed NIP improvements

3.1.4 Tonnage[10]

After the initial steep decline in tonnage in the late 1990s, the Port has seen a general increase of tonnage movement (Figure 4). The revival of the Port is due in large part to the Port's strategy change to diversify services and commodities. Figure 4 shows that in 2006 the Port moved approximately 1.28 million short tons and by 2012 was moving approximately 1.9 million. This represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 6.8%.

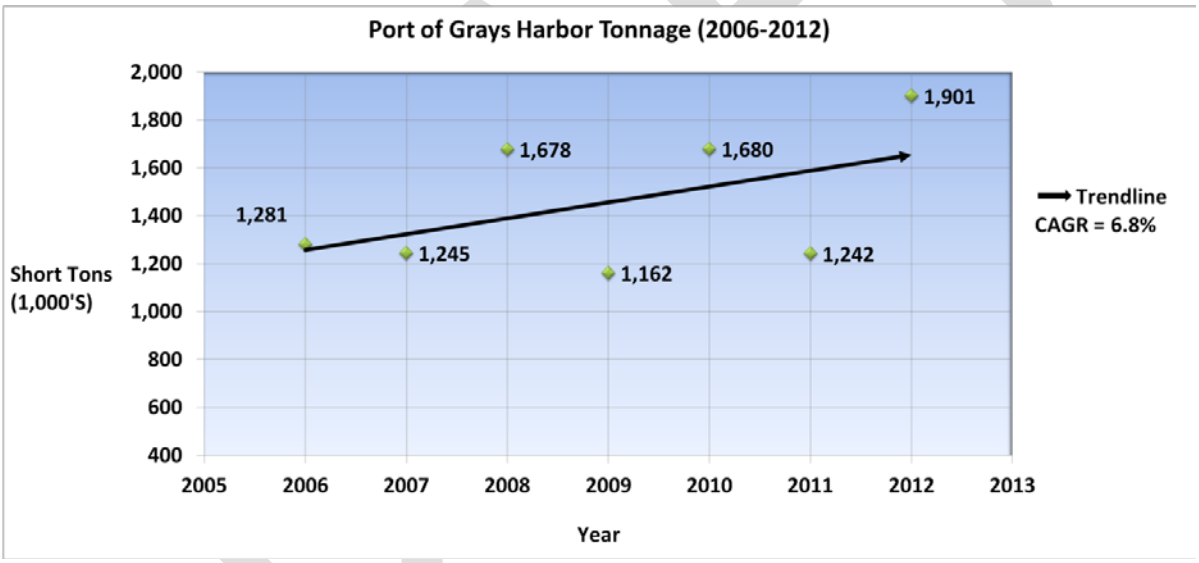

Figure 4: Port of Grays Harbor Historic Tonnage

As of 2012, approximately 1.9[11] million short tons were moved through Grays Harbor. Of the 1.9 million tons moved, approximately 96% is export based going to places such as China and the Philippines (Figure 5).

[10] All 2012 tonnage data provided by the Port of Grays Harbor Pilot Logs as the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Data Center information was not available at the time of this analysis.
[11] Note that the same type of summary values in the tables presented herein may not exactly match each other due to the rounding of values and/ or to values obtained from different sources. These differences are insignificant and as such do not affect the analysis.

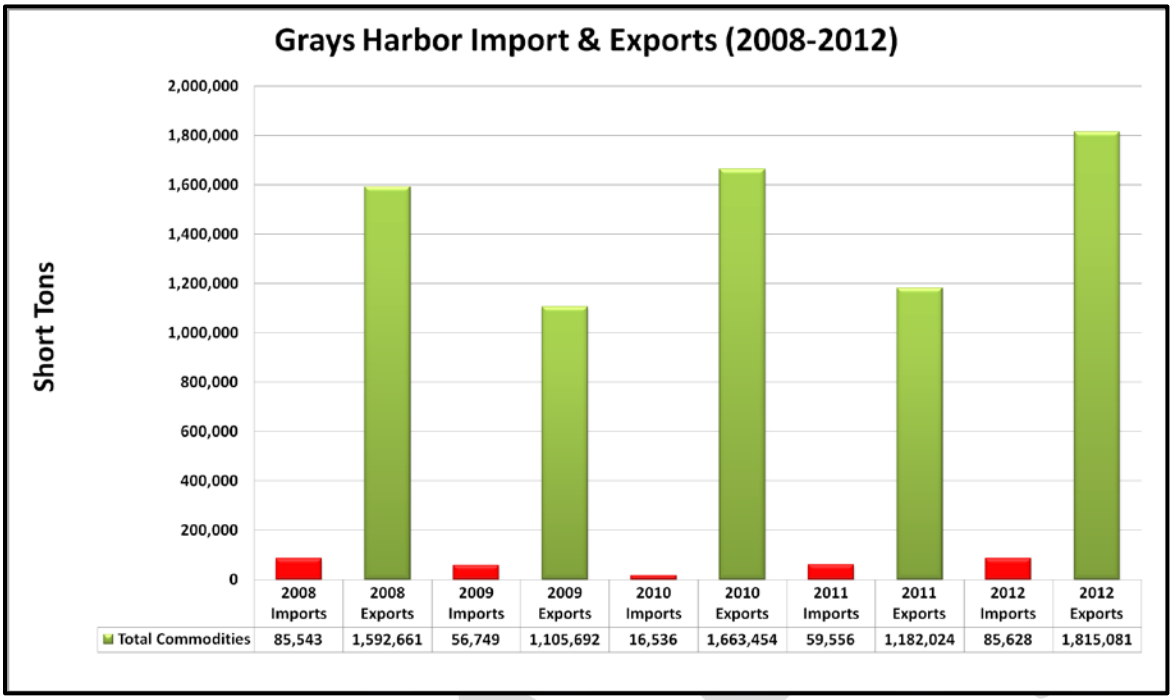

Figure 5: Historic Import and Export Tonnage by Year

3.1.5 Historic and Existing Commodity Movements

Historically, the Port relied heavily on forest products such as lumber and wood chips to support business activities. Figure 6 shows the 2012 commodity breakdown, which is more diverse, with the Port's new main line of businesses, based on pure tonnage moved, of food and farm products (74%, which includes soybean, soybean meal, distilled dried grains, and corn), followed by forest products (13%), manufactured equipment such as vehicles (8%), and chemicals (5%).

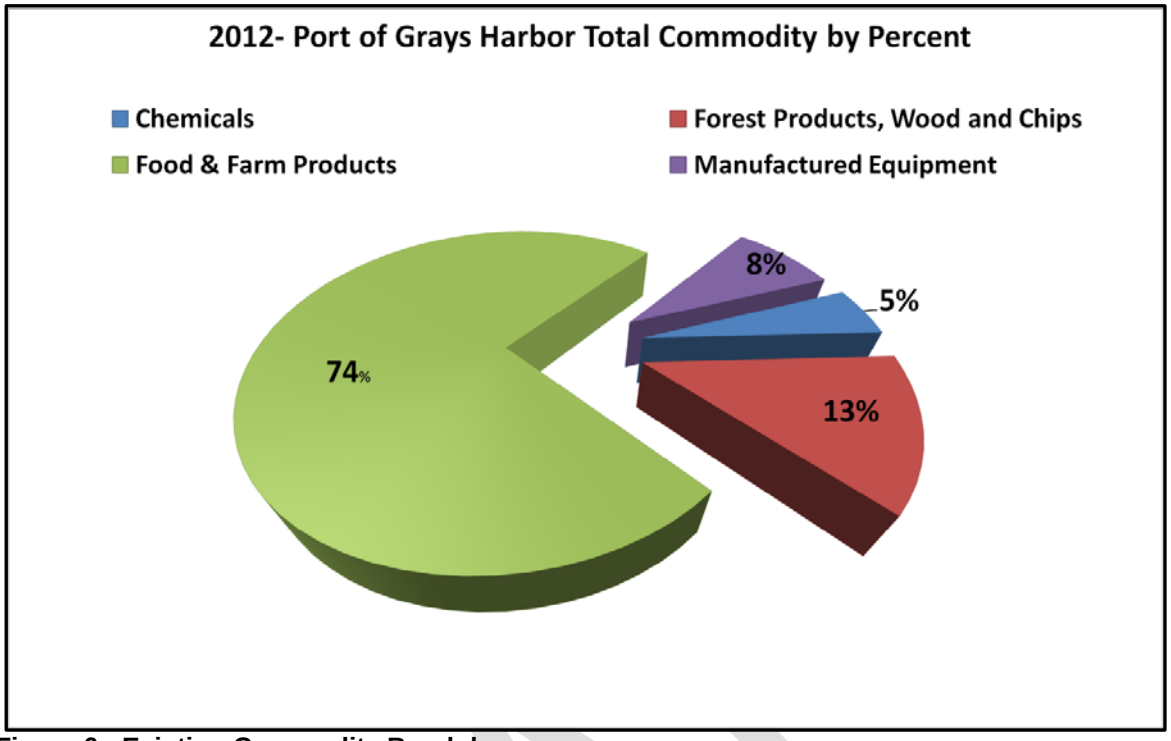

Figure 6: Existing Commodity Breakdown

Table 4 shows total annual commodity tonnages at the Port from 2006 - 2012, and associated annual growth rate for each year. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for this period is approximately 6.8%. This can mostly be attributed to strong demand for soybean and other agricultural products from China and the Philippines. The variance or fluctuations seen in the Port tonnage year over year can be attributed to multiple factors. The drop in tonnage in 2009 is directly related to the 2008 financial crisis when world demand of goods and services dropped. In addition, other year's fluctuations in the tonnage moved through the Port are due to environmental factors such as commodity (soybean prices), exchange rate fluctuations, and inventory availability.

Table 4: Grays Harbor Total Annual Cargo (in Tons)

Grays Harbor Total Annual Cargo Short Tons		
Year	Total Tons	Annual Growth Rate (year-to-year)
2006	1,280,578	
2007	1,244,705	-2.8%
2008	1,675,699	34.6%
2009	1,162,441	-30.6%
2010	1,679,991	44.5%
2011	1,241,580	-26.1%
2012	1,900,708	53.1%
Compound Annual Growth Rate (2005-2012)		6.8%

The volume of both manufactured equipment (vehicles) and food and farm products (soybean) that moved through the Port increased significantly from 2008 through 2012 (see Table 5.)

Table 5: Short Ton by Commodity[12]

Port of Grays Harbor Historic Short Ton by Commodity					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Chemicals	90,650	66,793	14,964	131,084	94,082
Forest Products, Wood and Chips	988,223	331,205	530,807	347,887	251,814
Food & Farm Products	595,672	756,825	1,094,985	677,797	1,396,313
Manufactured Equipment	1,154	7,618	32,413	84,811	158,499
Total Commodities	1,678,204	1,162,441	1,679,991	1,241,580	1,900,708

The 2013 cargo volume and vessel calls from January through July are approximately 1.2 million metric tons with 73 vessel calls. The 2013 Port projection is 2.3 million metric tons and 137 vessel calls. From a pure dollar perspective, the Port's most valuable export is manufactured equipment, which consists mostly of Jeep, Chrysler, and Dodge vehicles shipped via Ro-Ro vessels. The change from forest based products to more valuable market commodities, such as vehicles, has led to a drastic increase in the value of commodities moving through the Port, which has increased from approximately $255 million in 2006 to nearly $2 billion in 2012 (Resources, Institute for Water, 2013) representing a 665% increase in the value of the goods being shipped (see Figure 7 .)

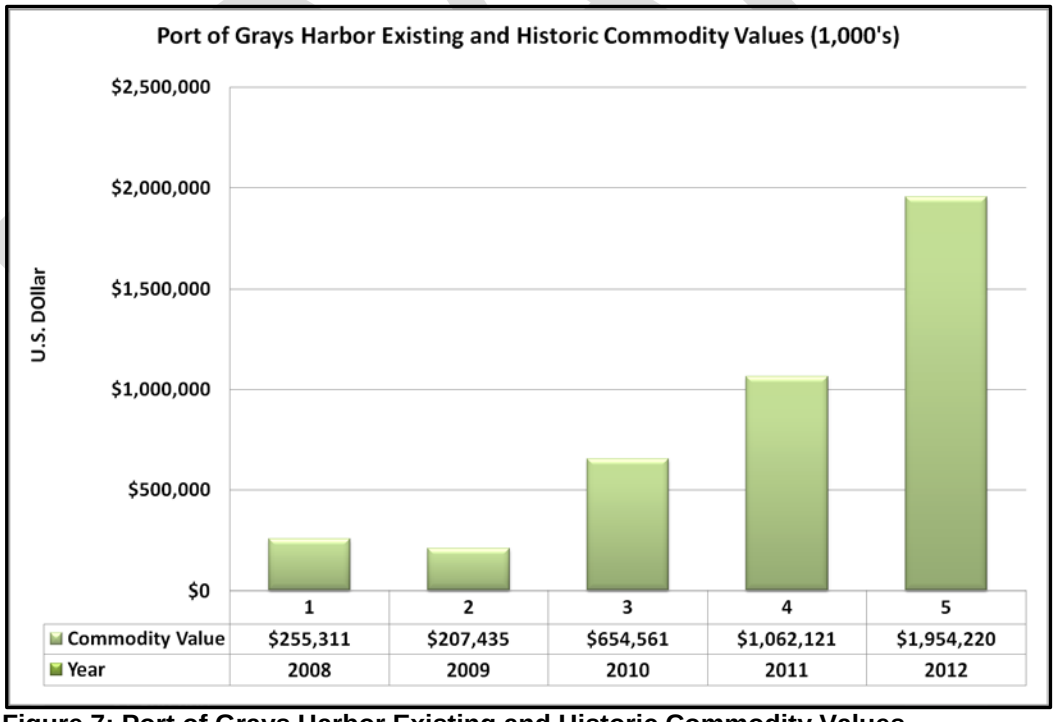

Figure 7: Port of Grays Harbor Existing and Historic Commodity Values

[12] Table 3 left out unknown commodities, primary manufactures and oil as they are historically not a substantial volume moved.

3.1.6 Origins and Destinations

Figure 8 shows commodity origins and destinations. The majority of cargo shipped through the Port in 2012 (59%), principally exports, went to Southeast Asian countries. The Philippines was the prevailing trade partner and is the furthest trade partner away from the Port, based on average nautical miles traveled by all vessels. China is the second largest trade partner, at approximately 21% of total trade volume by short ton. Agricultural and manufactured equipment is the predominant commodity with respect to Port exports to China.

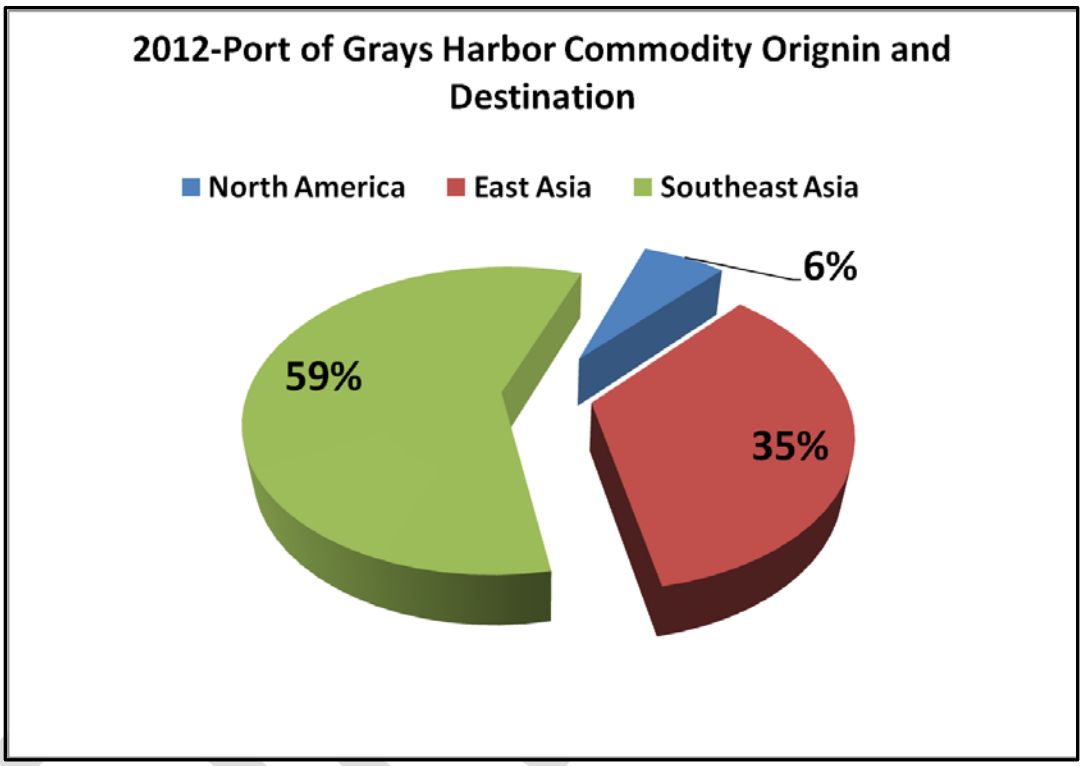

Figure 8: Commodity Origin and Destination

Each major trade partner was aggregated into 1 of 3 specific route groups for the simplicity of analysis. The Port of Calls were aggregated based on locations and distances with respect to one another. For example; the East Asia trade group includes countries such as China and Vietnam as they are relatively close to each other and the distances from the Port of Grays Harbor are similar (see Table 6.)

Table 6: Grays Harbor Port of Call Characteristics[13]

Grays Harbor Port of Calls				
North America				
Port Name	**Average Nautical Miles**	**Route Group**	**2012 Short Tons**	**% of Sub-total**
United States	**44**	**RtGrp1**	**70,559**	**4%**
Vancouver Canada	**23**	**RtGrp1**	**47,238**	**2%**
Lazaro Cardenas, Mex	**2,129**	**RtGrp1**	**4,423**	**0%**
East Asia				
Port Name	**Average Nautical Miles**	**Route Group**	**2012 Short Tons**	**% of Sub-total**
S. Korea	**4,573**	**RtGrp2**	**70,066**	**4%**
China	**5,030**	**RtGrp2**	**392,720**	**21%**
Japan	**3,976**	**RtGrp2**	**83,425**	**4%**
Vietnam	**6,542**	**RtGrp2**	**42,825**	**2%**
Russia	**4,208**	**RtGrp2**	**79,169**	**4%**
Southeast Asia				
Port Name	**Average Nautical Miles**	**Route Group**	**2012 Short Tons**	**% of Sub-total**
Philippines	**5,889**	**RtGrp3**	**1,037,923**	**54%**
Indonesia	**7,353**	**RtGrp3**	**35,666**	**2%**
Newcastle, AU	**6,617**	**RtGrp3**	**44,847**	**2%**
TOTAL			**1,908,861**	**100%**

3.1.7 Existing Vessel Fleet

Vessels calling at the Port were broken down into three main categories: Tanker, Bulker, and Roll On Roll Off (Ro-Ro) because these three vessel types account for most - if not all - of the vessel types calling the Port that would benefit from the proposed channel deepening project. In addition, the three categories were chosen to help narrow down the time and cost associated with analyzing every type of vessel that has, or potentially could, call on the Port. These three categories were further broken down in the HarborSym program (a Monte Carlo simulation model for deep draft navigation economics) to account for the different sizes of each vessel type. For example, Tankers were broken down into Small Tanker, Medium Tanker, and Large Tanker. This allows the simulation program the ability to sort the different Tanker vessels calling the ports into different sizes. The types of vessels and the major route group associated with each vessel type are broken down by percentage in Table 7 below.

[13] The distances from and to the Port of Grays Harbor from and to the port of call was determined through the use of seadistances.com (SEA DISTANCE - VOYAGE CALCULATOR, 2013).

Table 7: Vessel Class by Route Group

Vessel Class Route Group			
Class Name	**North America**	**East Asia**	**Southeast Asia**
Tanker	**0%**	**4.0%**	**2.3%**
Bulker	**95.9%**	**73.0%**	**97.7%**
Ro-Ro	**4.10%**	**22.0%**	**0%**

Tankers: Tankers currently do not play a major role in commodity movements within the Port. This is expected to change in the near (1 year) to intermediate (5 year) future (see Section 4) and, as such, will be part of the analysis.[14] The projected increase is independent of project implementation. Tankers used in 2012 visited from South Korea and the Philippines and accounted for 4% (Grays Harbor Pilot Logs, 2013) of East Asia and 2.3% of Southeast Asia's Vessel Class Route Group (Table 7.) The commodity associated with these movements is methanol, a liquid bulk item. Table 8 lists average tanker vessel characteristics.

Table 8: Tanker Characteristics

Tanker Vessel Characteristics (Average)						
Net Short Tons	**Gross Short Tons**	**DeadWt Short Tons**	**Length (ft)**	**Breadth (ft)**	**Depth (ft)**	**Design Draft (ft)**
7,769	**19,794**	**27,600**	**558**	**88**	**51**	**34**

Bulker: Bulker vessels make up the largest portion of all traffic entering the Port by pure tonnage. The overwhelming majority of commodities loaded on bulk vessels are bound for the Philippines and China. The largest bulker has a design draft of approximately 47 feet and is used as a bulk agricultural vessel for exports to China. In 2012 the Port experienced approximately 25 calls from bulker type vessels. Table 9 lists average dimensions for bulker type vessels used in 2012 at the Port.

Table 9: Bulker Characteristics

Bulker Vessel Characteristics (Average)						
Net Short Tons	**Gross Short Tons**	**DeadWt Short Tons**	**Length (ft)**	**Breadth (ft)**	**Depth (ft)**	**Design Draft (ft)**
17697	**32549**	**53328**	**624**	**101**	**67**	**39**

Roll-On-Roll-Off (Ro-Ro): In 2012 the Port experienced approximately 20 Ro-Ro vessel callings. These vessels were used to move autos and other manufactured equipment. Most of

[14] The future tanker fleet that will be calling the Port of Grays Harbor will be moving domestic crude and, as such, will be required to use Jones Act Vessels. These vessels must be built, owned and operated by Americans. These vessels are expected to be of different average characteristics than those displayed in Figure 5 above.

the export vehicles were shipped to East Asian countries such as China, Japan and Russia. Table 10 lists average Ro-Ro vessel characteristics.

Table 10: Ro-Ro Characteristics

Ro-Ro Vessel Characteristics (Average)						
Net Short Tons	Gross Short Tons	Dead Wt Short Tons	Length (ft)	Breadth (ft)	Depth (ft)	Design Draft (ft)
14,464	**47,672**	**15,024**	**594**	**101**	**101**	**29**

3.2 Environmental Existing Conditions (Affected Environment)

Existing conditions (affected environment) pertinent to each resource area are described to inform the consideration of environmental consequences and the potential significance of the recommended plan on these resources. Table 11 summarizes the affected environment for each resource area. The SEIS describes each resource area in detail (Appendix C of this LRR).

Table 11: Summary of Existing Conditions (Affected Environment)

Resource	Characteristics of the Affected Environment
Marine Transportation	A variety of commercial, recreational, and Tribal vessels use the navigation channel to transit through the area, including the use of four terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor adjacent to the Hoquiam and Cow Point reaches.
Geomorphology	The morphology of the harbor is determined by differences in the capacity of harbor inflows (flood currents) and waves to transport sediment into the harbor and outflows (ebb currents) to transport sediment out of the harbor. Grays Harbor is generally dominated by tidal currents, but high flows on the Chehalis River can influence currents in the upper estuary, and the locations of shoals continually shift. Sediment transport is influenced by the complex dynamics of fluvial sediment and water inputs from tributaries entering the harbor and mixing with marine sediment and water inputs from the Pacific Ocean. Historic changes to the estuary, as a result of factors including the presence of the navigation channel, jetties, and the Point Chehalis Revetment have altered the natural geomorphology of Grays Harbor.
Aquatic and Terrestrial Vegetation	With the exception of the inner harbor shoreline near the Port terminals, Grays Harbor is relatively undeveloped and contains many intertidal mudflats, eelgrass meadows, large areas of intertidal salt marsh, and sand dunes stabilized by dunegrass. However, the water depths, currents, and shifting sediments within the navigation channel and placement sites do not support these types of habitats.

Resource	Characteristics of the Affected Environment
Invertebrates, Fish, and Wildlife	Numerous economically, culturally, and ecologically important invertebrate, fish, and wildlife species rear, migrate, and/or reproduce in Grays Harbor and adjacent nearshore marine areas. Dungeness crab, numerous clam species, oysters, and a diverse epibenthic community provide forage for the fish, birds, and other wildlife. A variety of groundfish, forage fish, and other fish species can be found there, including six species of salmon, green sturgeon, and white sturgeon. The Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and the expansive mud and sand tidal flats of Grays Harbor provide habitat to as many as 278 species of birds, while the Harbor waters are known to support a variety of marine mammals, such as harbor porpoises and harbor seals. Larger marine mammals such as killer whales and several species of sea turtle are known to occur in Washington waters outside of the harbor.
Threatened and Endangered Species	Twenty-two species of federally listed threatened and endangered species may potentially occur in the vicinity of Grays Harbor and its surrounding shoreline and nearshore area. These species include 4 birds, 6 fish, 6 marine mammals, 4 sea turtles, and one terrestrial butterfly. Most of these species are not known to occur in the navigation channel or near the dredged material placement sites. The species most likely to occur within the vicinity of the proposed action are the Pacific salmon species (Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and Columbia River chum salmon), bull trout, eulachon, green sturgeon, marbled murrelet, western snowy plover, and killer whale.
Historic and Cultural Resources	There are no cultural or historic resources in the area of potential effect of the proposed action. There are two known cultural resources sites located in Grays Harbor, neither of which is located in the navigation channel. Six archaeological sites have been identified either within 1 mile of the area of potential effect or during previous Corps cultural investigations for other elements of the Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Navigation Project, but none are within the navigation channel or dredged material placement sites.
Water Quality and Sediment Characterization	The history of industrial uses in and around Grays Harbor, its shoreline, and nearshore environment have led to significant past water quality problems for the Chehalis River and inner harbor near Hoquiam and Aberdeen and create the potential for contaminated sediments in the navigation channel. Sediment testing is conducted prior to dredging and the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies review dredging and placement of material to ensure appropriate methods of sediment removal and placement (or disposal if warranted) are followed based on the composition of the sediments and their potential for impacts on aquatic organisms. Three out of four of the South Reach dredged material management units (DMMU) did not meet the exclusionary criteria and required contaminant testing. None of the DMMUs exceeded the dioxin limits for disposal in Grays Harbor. Cow Point DMMU subunit 32a was found to be unsuitable for open-water disposal due to toxicity expressed in sediment larval bioassay. The waters of Grays Harbor generally meet state water quality standards with the exception of one testing site near the harbor entrance that has in the past (2008) been identified as having intermittently low dissolved oxygen levels. Past issues (1999) with fecal coliform bacteria pollution in the inner and outer harbor have been resolved and fecal coliform bacteria pollution is no longer a problem.

Resource	Characteristics of the Affected Environment
Air Quality, Noise, and Artificial Lighting	The ambient air quality in Grays Harbor is generally good; potential sources of particulates include local automobiles, local fishing vessels, a local pulp mill, and ocean-going commercial cargo vessels. Noise and sources of artificial lighting in Grays Harbor are minimal and are primarily associated with the populated cities of Westport, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. Sources of noise on the water include vessel traffic, and small private and port-related operations on the shoreline in the eastern portion of Grays Harbor. Sources of artificial lighting in the vicinity of the navigation channel and the placement sites include vessel traffic in the navigation channel, private homes, small private marinas and docks along the shoreline (particularly along Point Chehalis) and port-related operations along the eastern shoreline of the Cow Point and Hoquiam reaches of the navigation channel.
Land Use and Aesthetics	Development including commercial, residential, transportation, and communications/utilities land uses are more concentrated on the eastern and western sides of the harbor in the cities of Westport, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. Undeveloped land and resource production land uses are prevalent along the northern and southern margins. Grays Harbor also encompasses many recreational areas, including several state and local parks and designated wildlife areas. The viewshed for Grays Harbor is quite large, extending more than 10 miles from east to west. The harbor is a wide, long estuary with low, forested hills around the bay on the north, east, and south sides. Views around this area are panoramic, extending across the estuary to the horizon. Only distant landforms and color contrasts are visible across the long distances of the Grays Harbor viewshed.
Recreation	Grays Harbor hosts a large array of recreational opportunities including fishing, clamming, crabbing, birding, wildlife viewing, surfing, hunting, hiking, picnicking, and recreational boating.
Global Climate Change	Statewide emissions in 2008 were 101.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) (approximately 2% of nationwide emissions). The following changes are expected to occur along the Washington coast as a result of climate change: inundation, flooding, erosion and landslides, saltwater intrusion, and increased ocean surface temperature and acidity. Sea level rise and changes in sediment transport into Grays Harbor may alter the need for maintenance dredging in the future, but the complexities of sediment transport make the degree and nature of such changes unknown at this time.
Local Economy / Socioeconomics	The economies of the cities immediately surrounding Grays Harbor are linked to the import and export of goods through the Port of Grays Harbor and recreational, Tribal, and commercial use of the harbor's aquatic resources. The economy of the larger Grays Harbor County centers on natural resources, including the timber industry (particularly silviculture, logging and forest product manufacturing) and fisheries (commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish and fish processing). The recent recession impacted Grays Harbor County in terms of loss of employment and wage income. The unemployment rate in Grays Harbor County remains significantly higher than the statewide average.

Resource	Characteristics of the Affected Environment
Environmental Justice Communities	Grays Harbor County had a population of 76,797 (2010 census data). The populations of surrounding towns (Westport, Cosmopolis, Hoquiam, and Aberdeen) range from a high of 16,986 in Aberdeen to 1,649 in Cosmopolis. The county (88.3%) and the communities near the proposed action are predominantly white (80% of residents). The largest numbers of residents identifying themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native or Hispanic or Latino reside in Hoquiam and Aberdeen. Unemployment is considered high in Grays Harbor County (11.6%), as well as in the surrounding towns of Westport (14%), Hoquiam (12.3%), Cosmopolis (4.1%) and Aberdeen (10.1%). Unemployment rates also vary between ethnicities in each town, with Hispanic or Latino residents of Hoquiam having the highest unemployment rate of 27.6%.
Indian Treaty Rights	Native American tribes that may be affected by the proposed action include the Quinault Indian Nation, the Chehalis Indian Tribe, and the Shoalwater Bay Indians. Only the Quinault Indian Nation has a reservation and federally adjudicated off-reservation hunting and gathering rights to locations within Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor is within the federally adjudicated usual and accustomed fishing area of the Quinault Indian Nation.
Placement Site Environment	Dredged material placement would occur only at the designated placement sites that have been regularly used for material placement during the annual maintenance dredging of the navigation channel, and at the shifted Point Chehalis site. Unsuitable material would be placed upland. The South Jetty placement site is a public, multi-user, unconfined, open-water dredged material placement site managed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the shifted Point Chehalis aquatic site will also be an unconfined, dispersive, open-water dredged material placement site. Material dredged from the sandy outer reaches of the navigation channel is periodically used for nearshore nourishment at Half Moon Bay and at South Beach, when those areas require material placement to offset erosion. The Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is maintained in accordance with the October 1998 Project Inter-Agency Mitigation Agreement.

4 Future without Project Conditions

The planning horizon for this project is 50 years, with a base year of 2017[15] and a conclusion of 2067. A majority of the commodity forecasts for future conditions were taken from a Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Marine Cargo Forecast (Associates, BST; IHS Global Insight; Mainline Management Inc., 2011). The remaining forecasts (petroleum) were taken from Feasibility Reports and other public and private sources.

The purpose of the forecast is to assess the expected flow of waterborne cargo through Washington's port system and to evaluate the distribution of cargo through the state's transportation network, including waterways, rail lines, roads, and pipelines. For this study, the forecasts were applied to existing conditions (2012) through 2037, at which point the forecasts were held constant from 2037 through 2067[16]. The reason the forecasts were held constant after 2037 is that forecasting tends to become less accurate when attempting to predict future conditions further out in time. The level of uncertainty increases as time elapses and it becomes more difficult to give an accurate estimate more than 20 years into the future. In addition, the marine cargo forecasts display a moderate-growth and high-growth forecast growth percentage. A moderate-growth percentage was applied to the commodity growth rates for the Port to ensure conservative projections were used throughout the economic analysis (See Appendix A, Economic Analysis, for details of this analysis.)

As with any forecast, growth forecasts have some associated uncertainty and are only used to help make an informed decision for planning purposes. The use of linear forecasts was applied but the true nature of economic markets is anything but linear. The general idea is that in the short run markets act erratic but in the long term the peaks and troughs are less sharp with respect to the extensive time horizon.

The growth estimates are conservative and are relatively accurate based on the idea that the WSDOT Cargo Forecasts have generally been accurate predictions of future growth. In addition, growth is expected to follow the forecast throughout the project life independent of implementation of a deepening project[17]. There is no indication that new products or additional cargo beyond what has been analyzed to date is expected to present itself even with a channel

[15] The base year 2017 is the first year that the project will be fully operational at the plan depths under the two action alternatives.

[16] The WSDOT Cargo Forecast forecasts to 2030, whereas the forecasts used for the economic analysis took the forecast out to 2037, and then assumed commodity growth levels off because of the difficulty accurately forecasting farther out. This is a small extension of the forecast as the commodity growth percentages ranged from .2% to 3.9% and was done for the ease of analysis with respect to the HarborSym modeling suite. This additional extension in forecast years is not expected to change the outcome of the NED selected plan.

[17] A major concern at the Corps is for a project to base its benefits on business that is not presently at the project location. This comes from the idea that if the channel is deepened, the business will come. The Port of Grays Harbor has enough current business to justify the project and additional business from outside the periphery of the project is not expected to present itself.

deepened for -38 feet MLLW, based on the information drawn from regional reports, the niche markets (non containerized cargo) the Port of Grays Harbor is now operating in, and Port feedback.

4.1 Future Commodity Movements

Economic growth in the Port's principal trade partners – China and the Philippines – is expected to result in increased demand for goods exported from Grays Harbor. Growth in the volume of commodities moving through the Port is also expected. Future Port commodity growth for the 50-year planning horizon from the base year of 2017 to 2067 is summarized in Table 9 and shown graphically in Figure 9. Note that all commodity projections used the moderate growth forecast derived from the WSDOT Marine Cargo Forecast (Associates, BST; IHS Global Insight; Mainline Management Inc., 2011).

Table 12: Port of Grays Harbor Commodity Growth Projections (2017-2037)

Port of Grays Harbor Commodity Growth Projections (2017-2067)							
Commodity	2017	2027	2037	2047	2057	2067	CAGR (2017-2037)
Petroleum Moderate	8,467,922	8,638,812	8,813,152	8,813,152	8,813,152	8,813,152	0.2%
Chemicals Moderate	130,726	252,392	487,290	487,290	487,290	487,290	6.8%
Forest Products Moderate	267,290	301,153	339,307	339,307	339,307	339,307	1.2%
Food & Farm Products Moderate	1,445,873	1,550,332	1,662,339	1,662,339	1,662,339	1,662,339	0.7%
Manufactured Equipment Moderate	191,913	281,358	412,492	412,492	412,492	412,492	3.9%
Total Commodities Moderate	10,503,723	11,024,048	11,714,580	11,714,580	11,714,580	11,714,580	0.55%

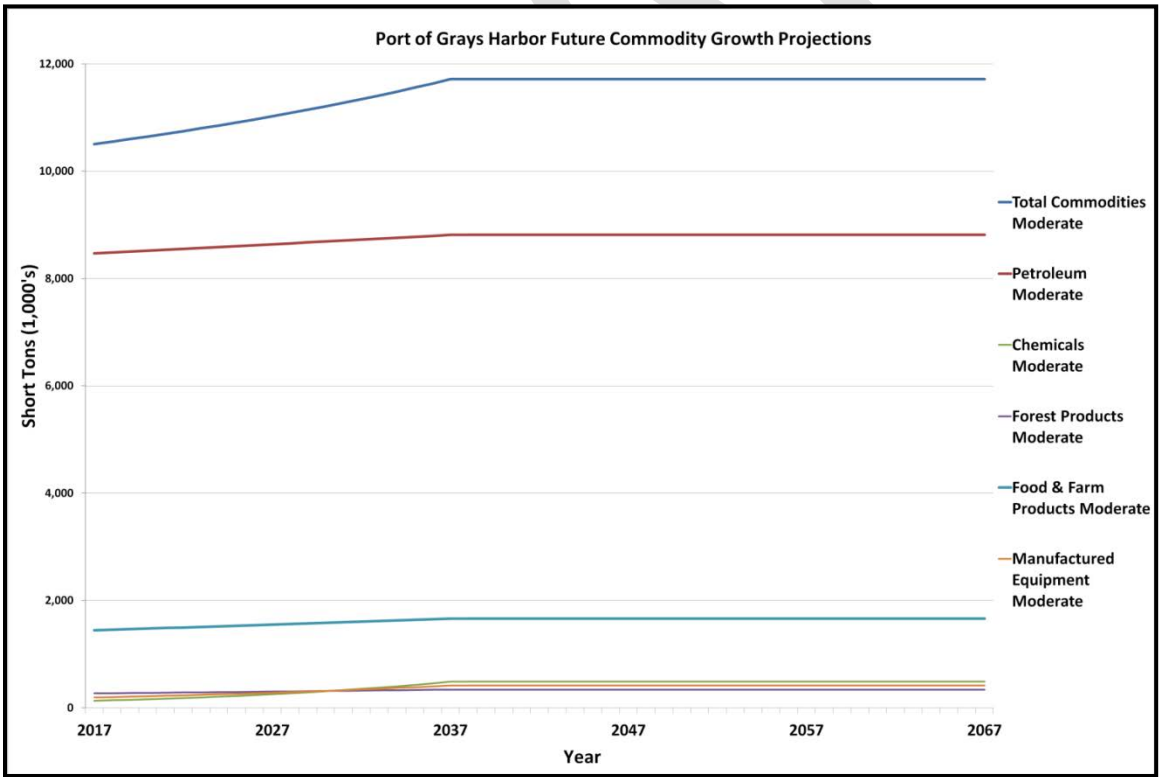

Figure 9: Port of Grays Harbor Commodity Growth Projections

Petroleum: The Port is expected to move crude oil by rail (CBR) in the near term (2-5 years), independent of project implementation. The crude oil would travel to the Port from a variety of locations in the U.S. and Canada; the most likely source would be the Bakken Shale in North Dakota and Montana in the U.S., and Alberta, Canada. CBR proposals at the Port are all assumed to move forward by 2014 with a brief ramp up period from 2015 through 2017. After 2017, the growth of petroleum exports at the Port is expected to follow the commodity projections from the WSDOT Marine Cargo Forecast of approximately 0.2% per year. After 2037 the growth projections are to be held constant (Figure 10).

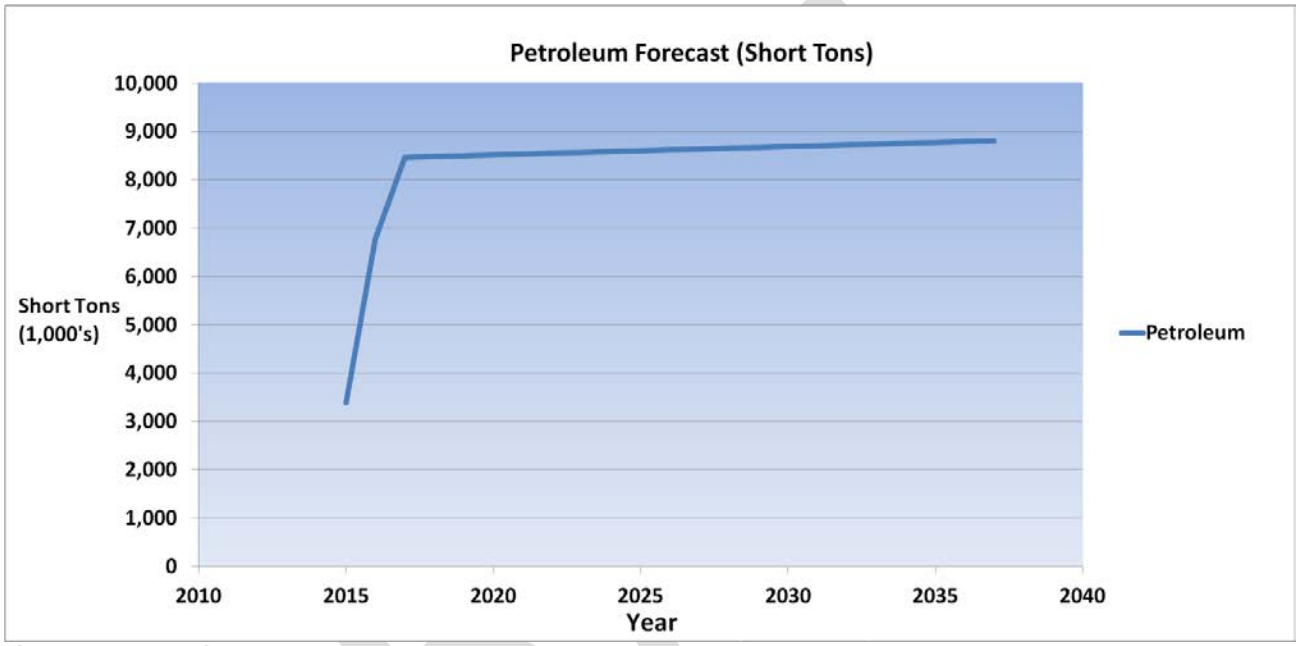

Figure 10: Petroleum Forecast

Soybean: In 2012, a record setting 1.69 million metric tons of soybean products were exported through the Port to China, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Australia. The category Food and Farm Products was used to consolidate grain, oilseed and soybean into one category. In the base year 2017 the category Food and Farm Products, under the moderate growth assumption, is expected to be approximately 1.4 million short tons and have a CAGR of 0.7%.

Forest Products: The Port historically relied heavily on lumber and forest products to sustain business. Demand shifted to less costly sources two decades ago. While forest products remain an important piece of the Grays Harbor cargo mix, the Port has substantially diversified the products shipped to include automobiles, biodiesel and other liquid and dry bulk products. Tonnage and demand are expected to increase due to the U.S. housing market recovery. The moderate growth forecast for Forest Products is expected to increase approximately 1.2% in the next 30 years.

Manufactured Equipment (Vehicles): The Port has become a major exporter of domestically produced Chrysler and Jeep vehicles. This began with the signing of a 20 year lease agreement

with Pasha Automotive Services in 2009, an automotive exporter based in California, and has since increased year after year. Pasha shipped approximately 71,000 Chrysler vehicles in 2012 and expects to export approximately 100,000 in 2013 (Wilhelm, 2013).

The vehicles, along with manufactured heavy equipment, are exported to Asia (China, Japan, and South Korea). The vehicles arrive by rail and are loaded on Roll-on Roll-off vessels at Terminal 4. According to the WSDOT Marine Cargo Forecast, fully assembled autos will exhibit rapid growth with a moderate CAGR of approximately 3.9% and a high CAGR of approximately 4.9%. The moderate CAGR of 3.9% was used for the economic analysis and was taken out 20 years (2017-2037) at which point the growth was assumed to remain at zero.

4.2 Future without Project Vessel Movements

The increased volume in commodities moved through the Port during the 50-year period of analysis described above is expected to be enabled by an increase in the number of vessels over the same period. This increase in vessel traffic anticipated over time would not be caused by the deepening action, because channel dimensions are not a present or expected limiting factor on cargo growth, and the vessel traffic increase is expected to occur independent of the deepening because of the growth in commodity volume.

In addition, the future without project vessel origin and destination are expected to be the same, and the overall size and type of vessels will remain relatively unchanged regardless of whether a deepening project is implemented.[18]

The independent commodity growth estimates were mostly derived from the Washington State Marine Cargo forecast (Associates, BST; IHS Global Insight; Mainline Management Inc., 2011). These commodity growth forecasts were applied to the Port of Grays Harbor's existing commodities to get an aggregate tonnage expected to move through the Port during the 50 year life of the project. The total tonnage and commodity types were used to put together a fleet forecast using the Bulk Loader Tool[19] to calculate the number of vessels needed to satisfy the commodity demand at the Port. The independent commodity growth estimates are expected to be adhered to during the project. That is to say that growth estimates above and beyond what is in the independent commodity estimates or from other sources are not expected to occur. In addition, the total vessels needed to move the specific cargo during the project life is expected to be at its highest under the without-project condition (i.e. Alternative 1), and see a decline in the number of vessels needed to move the same amount of cargo due to efficiencies attributed to the implementation of the project (i.e. Alternative 2 or Alternative 3).

[18] The without project condition is defined as without further deepening – i.e. currently implemented and maintained project of -36 feet MLLW.
[19] The Bulk Loader Tool is an integrated module within HarborSym designed to generate synthetic vessel call lists based upon user provided calling statistics. These statistics include information on tonnage, commodity type, and vessel characteristics.

5 Alternative Plans

As noted above, the scope of this feasibility study is limited to evaluating the following three alternatives. Each of the three alternatives also includes additional maintenance and allowable overdepth dredging[20].

5.1 Alternative 1: No Action (Continue Channel Maintenance to -36 Feet MLLW)

Section 1502.14 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (42 United States Code [USC] 4371, et seq.) requires that the environmental review sharply define the issues and provide a clear basis for choice among options by the decision makers and the public. To comply with this requirement, NEPA regulations require that the review include a no-action alternative to ensure that impacts associated with taking no action are compared to the effects associated with a reasonable range of alternative ways of accomplishing a project's purpose and need.

Where ongoing programs initiated under existing legislation and regulations would continue, 'no action' may be defined as no change from current management direction or level of management intensity (Council on Environmental Quality 1981). Therefore, the No Action Alternative may be thought of in terms of continuing with the current course of action until that action is changed. Accordingly, projected effects of the alternatives would be compared to those effects projected for current practices.

The No Action Alternative provides the baseline conditions for comparing the potential effects of the two action alternatives. Under Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, the Corps would continue the current practice of maintenance dredging of the navigation channel to a depth of −36 feet MLLW and placement of the dredged materials at a variety of open-water placement, beach nourishment, and upland beneficial use sites, as described below. It is important to note that under Alternative 1 the navigation channel would be maintained in its existing condition, and tidal delays and light loading of ships would continue. Alternative 1 does not meet the proposed action's purpose and need, but is carried forward in this analysis for the purpose of comparing the relative merits and disadvantages of the action alternatives.

The No Action Alternative in this analysis is continued Operations and Maintenance dredging to -36 feet MLLW for the reaches addressed in this SEIS (South Reach, Outer Cross-over, Inner Cross-over, North Channel, Hoquiam, Cow Point and Cow Point turning basin). The full analysis of the No Action Alternative is described as part of the Fiscal Years 2012 through 2018

[20] *Advance maintenance* is dredging to a specified depth and/or width beyond the authorized channel dimensions (Figure 2-1) in critical and fast-shoaling areas. Where justified, advance maintenance typically occurs during each periodic episode of maintenance dredging. Advance maintenance allows the Corps to avoid frequent re-dredging, and ensures the reliability and least overall cost of maintaining channels to authorized and implemented dimensions (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2006). To assure channel operational reliability and least overall cost, the Corps allows an additional 2 feet of depth in the applicable reaches of the Grays Harbor navigation channel prism.
Allowable overdepth is dredging to a permitted depth and/or width outside the required channel prism to allow for the inherent inaccuracies in the dredging process. During typical dredging activities, precision varies with physical conditions, dredged material characteristics, channel design, and type of dredging equipment used. Due to these variables and the resulting imprecision associated with the dredging, the Corps recognizes that dredging below the authorized dimensions occurs. To compensate for these inevitable inaccuracies, the Corps allows for a maximum overdepth tolerance of 2 feet beyond the advance maintenance depth (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1996)

Maintenance Dredging and Disposal, Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Navigation Project Environmental Assessment, dated September 2011 (Corps 2011) as supplemented in 2013 (Corps 2013;2013a). The 2011 maintenance dredging EA evaluated the impacts of dredging the maximum expected volume in any given year to meet the -36 ft MLLW depth (see table 13 for volume estimates) for the full channel (Entrance to Aberdeen reaches). However, the deepening reaches (South Reach to Cow Point) are the only pertinent areas for purposes of this SEIS. The actual volume dredged for any reach is dependent on sedimentation rates and available funding during that maintenance dredging year, and would likely be less than the volumes estimated in the 2011 maintenance dredging EA in most years. Since promulgation of the 2011 EA, the Corps has implemented a minor realignment of the navigation channel in discrete locations. This modification is intended to take advantage of greater scour from river and tidal currents, which is expected to reduce the volume of material accumulating in these portions of the navigation channel. This modification is also projected to significantly reduce future dredging in this portion of the navigation channel, which would, in turn, avoid and reduce impacts of dredging and disposal. This channel realignment was evaluated in a 2013 Supplemental Information Report to the 2011 maintenance dredging EA, and the Corps concluded that formal supplementation of the EA was not necessary in that context . The estimated dredge volumes presented here and environmental evaluation of potential effects of channel deepening in this SEIS take into account this implementation of the minor channel alignment modification, that is part of the continuing maintenance to -36 feet MLLW (Alternative 1).

5.1.1 Maintenance Dredging Process

The Grays Harbor navigation channel is divided into discrete reaches, which are based on physical characteristics and dredging requirements. These include five “inner harbor” reaches (Aberdeen, Cow Point, Hoquiam, North Channel, and Inner Crossover) (Figure 2 in Chapter 1) and five “outer harbor” reaches (Outer Crossover, South, Point Chehalis, Entrance Channel, and Bar Channel) (Figure 3 of Chapter 1). Under Alternative 1 the reaches evaluated in this study, those segments from South Reach to Cow Point would continue to be dredged in order to maintain a depth of −36 feet MLLW.

5.1.2 Dredging Schedule

The dredging schedule varies by reach (Table 13). Dredging occurs between July 16 and February 14 in the Cow Point turning basin, Cow Point, and Hoquiam Reaches, and from 1 August to 14 February in the North Channel and Inner Crossover Reaches. Dredging is scheduled to allow removal of shoals resulting from high river flows in the spring and to avoid salmonid migrations in the spring and early summer. Typically, this dredging operation lasts approximately 4.5 months but could be up to an allowed window of 6 months, depending largely on weather conditions. For the outer harbor reaches, dredging occurs between April 1 and June 30 in South Reach, and the Outer Crossover is dredged 1 April to 31 May if a hopper dredge is utilized or 1 August to 14 February if a clamshell dredge is used. The duration of maintenance dredging can vary year to year, but is typically about 1 month. Dredging is scheduled for this time to coincide with favorable weather/wave conditions and to reduce impacts on the

Dungeness crab fishery. Therefore, throughout the year dredging and placement of dredged materials are not occurring during two periods: February 15 through March 31 and July 1 through July 15.

5.1.3 Dredging Methods and Equipment

The Corps uses two methods to dredge the navigation channel. The first method is a mechanical or "clamshell" dredge, which is used to dredge the inner harbor reaches (including the entire Crossover reach, however, a hopper dredge may still be used in the Outer Crossover reach when necessary). Clamshell dredges include use of a tugboat and two barges, one to support the clamshell derrick and the other a bottom-dump barge for storage and transport of the dredged material to the placement site. Under baseline conditions (Alternative 1), one tugboat is used to position one clamshell dredge (on a barge) and one bottom-dump barge is used to transport material in order to complete the inner harbor dredging.

Use of a clamshell dredge has been well documented to greatly reduce both entrainment and mortality of crab and other aquatic species when compared to a hopper dredge (Armstrong et al 1987, Dumbauld et. al. 1988). Clamshell dredging is used exclusively in the Inner reaches (inner Cross-Over Reach and inward) to reduce entrainment of fish, shrimp, and crabs in the inner harbor reaches. For the outer half of the Cross-over Reach clamshell use is emphasized and preferred, however this reach can be dredged with either hopper dredge or clamshell. The clamshell bucket proceeds from the outer edges of the navigation channel, across the channel to the other bank and then back, dredging progressively until the desired depth is achieved. This method of dredging, along with the mild angle of the channel's side slopes (e.g., 1V:5H in South Reach, steepening to 1V:3H beginning at the North Channel), leaves the channel width substantially unchanged and minimizes the potential for sloughing/avalanching of sediment from the channel's side slopes after dredging is completed.

The other method uses a hydraulic hopper dredge for the reaches in the outer harbor. The hopper dredge is able to dredge material, store it onboard, transport it to a placement area, and deposit it. Two government hopper dredges "Essaysons" and "Yaquina" have annual assignments in Grays Harbor to perform outer harbor maintenance dredging. Hopper dredges are better suited for use in the more exposed outer harbor reaches, because clamshell dredges must be rafted together with a scow barge, which can be hazardous in choppy seas. Sediments removed from the outer harbor reaches are primarily sands of marine origin that are extracted using a hopper dredge. These heavy particles settle out of suspension rapidly and generally do not disperse to adjacent areas (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2011). Use of a hopper dredge also reduces suspension of these heavier sediments.

The hydraulic hopper dredge typically cuts from the toe of the sideslope outward, maximizing the bank height to achieve greater production rates. The mild angle of the channel's side slopes minimizes the potential for sloughing/avalanching of sediment from the side slopes after dredging is completed.

5.1.4 Annual Maximum Volume of Dredged Material

The 2011 maintenance dredging EA evaluated the impacts of dredging the maximum expected volume in any given year to meet the -36 ft MLLW depth. Currently, the Corps removes an annual maximum volume of approximately 2.09 million cubic yards in the six reaches targeted for deepening (South, Outer Cross-over, Inner Cross-over, North Channel, Hoquiam, and Cow Point Reaches, including the Cow Point Turning Basin) annually to maintain the channel depth

at -36 feet MLLW in these reaches. An annual maximum volume of approximately 1.66 million cubic yards is removed from the inner harbor reaches (Inner Cross-over, North Channel, Hoquiam, Cow Point Reaches and Cow Point turning basin) and an annual maximum volume of approximately 425,000 cubic yards is removed from the outer harbor reaches (South and Outer Cross-over Reaches).

Table 13 lists the annual maximum volume of material dredged from each reach of the navigation channel under baseline conditions (Alternative 1) to maintain the channel at a depth of −36 feet MLLW, the characteristics of the reaches, and the typically allowed timing of dredging activities for each reach. The volumes in Table 2-1 include one standard deviation and include both Advance Maintenance and Allowable Overdepth quantities (described above), and have been computed by the Corps based on 10 years of Grays Harbor dredging records from 2000 to 2010. The actual volume dredged in any one year varies from these averages based on volume deposited, location and extent of targeted shoals, and Congressional funding, which dictates the duration/amount of dredging that can be executed in a particular year.

Table 13 also includes the dredged material placement sites that are typically used for material from each reach. The actual placement site utilized during dredging is determined as described in Section 5.1.5. The dredged material is deposited at approved designated areas, including the Point Chehalis and South Jetty open-water placement sites. Dredged material is also deposited at nearshore locations—Half Moon Bay and South Beach—where the material provides a beneficial use (i.e., beach replenishment). Details regarding the dredged material placement sites are presented below in Section 5.1.5.1, *Dredged Material Placement Sites*.

Table 13: Reach Characteristics of the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel at -36 feet MLLW

Reach	Approximate Average Volume (cubic yards)[a]	Sediment Type	Dredge Type	Channel Dimension[b] (feet) (MLLW/ wide)	Placement Site	Work Closure	Work Schedule
Cow Point	750,000 annually	Sandy silt	Clamshell	−36/350–550	South Jetty or Point Chehalis[c]	Feb 15–July 15	July 16–Feb 14
Cow Point Turning Basin	215,000 annually	Sandy silt	Clamshell	−36/350–950	South Jetty or Point Chehalis[c]	Feb 15–July 15	July 16–Feb 14
Hoquiam	150,000 annually	Sandy silt	Clamshell	−36/350	South Jetty or Point Chehalis[c]	Feb 15–July 15	July 16–Feb 14
North Channel	175,000 annually	Silty sand	Clamshell	−36/350	Point Chehalis	Feb 15–July 31	August 1– Feb 14
Inner Crossover	375,000 annually	Silty sand	Clamshell	−36/350–450	Point Chehalis	Feb 15–July 31	August 1– Feb 14
Outer Crossover	235,000 annually	Silty sand	Hopper or Clamshell[d]	−36/350	Point Chehalis	June 1—March 31 Feb 15-July 31	April 1 –May 31 August 1-Feb 14
South Reach	190,000 annually	Sand	Hopper	−36/350–450	Point Chehalis or Half Moon Bay	July 1–March 31	April 1–June 30
Total	2,090,000 annually						

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2011.

[a] Volumes are averages, plus one standard deviation, computed based on the last 10 years of dredging records, from 2000 to 2010 and include both allowable overdepth and advance maintenance. Thus, the actual volumes dredged in the past may be more or less than those shown in the table. These volumes are more representative of funding received rather than the volume available for dredging in the channel.

[b] Depths shown are authorized depths and do not include the 2-foot advance maintenance or 2-foot allowable overdepth. Exceptions: Aberdeen Reach has 0-foot advance maintenance and 1-foot allowable overdepth. Elliott Slough Turning Basin has a 3-foot advance maintenance for half of the channel (inside bend). Widths shown are those of the channel bottom, and do not include extra width at channel bends.

[c] Adverse weather/wave relief site.

[d] The Outer half of the Cross-Over Reach may be dredged with either hopper with work closure of June 1 –March 31: and corresponding work schedule April 1- May 30 or clamshell with closure of February 15 –July 15: corresponding work schedule of August 1 – February 14.

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5.1.5 Dredged Material Placement

5.1.5.1 Dredged Material Placement Sites

Placement of the material dredged from the navigation channel occurs only at designated placement sites. Figure 11: Open-Water Dredged Material Placement Sites

illustrates the location of all dredged material placement sites. Two Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public, multi-user, unconfined open-water dredged material placement sites are located directly adjacent to the navigation channel: the South Jetty and the Point Chehalis placement sites. Both sites are located on state-owned aquatic lands and managed by Washington DNR. In addition, material dredged from the sandy outer harbor reaches of the channel is periodically used for both direct upland placement at the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site (when feasible) and nearshore nourishment at the Half Moon Bay beneficial use site and nearshore nourishment at the South Beach beneficial use site. Material placed above MHHW in the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is expected to subsequently erode through natural processes, with portions of the material entering the intertidal zone and thus the littoral system. The Point Chehalis site overlaps the navigation channel however, the dispersive nature of this site effectively transports material out of the site boundaries and has historically provided sufficient capacity for annual O&M dredged material. The Southwest (also known as 3.9 mile) site is not typically used.

The determination of which placement site is used during the course of maintenance dredging is based on a variety of factors. For both the inner and outer harbor reaches, placement is determined based on the source of the dredged material, the depth of each aquatic placement site, the amount of material already present at the placement sites, and weather/wave conditions at the time of placement. For the inner harbor reaches, material is typically deposited at the South Jetty site, unless there are adverse weather/wave conditions or the South Jetty site is full, in which case placement typically occurs at the Point Chehalis open water placement site. For the outer harbor reaches, some of the dredged materials may be deposited at three beneficial use sites: Half Moon Bay dredged material placement site (offshore of Half Moon Bay), Half Moon Bay upland direct beach nourishment site, and South Beach nearshore nourishment site. Remaining material is typically placed in the South Jetty or Point Chehalis sites. Factors that determine which placement sites are used for the outer harbor reaches include the presence of commercial crab pots in a placement site and/or access lane (for South Beach), the amount of material present (for Half Moon Bay), as surveyed annually, and results of pre-disposal Dungeness crab surveys (for both Half Moon Bay and South Beach).

The volumes of dredged material placed at each placement site over the last 12 years are summarized in Table 14.

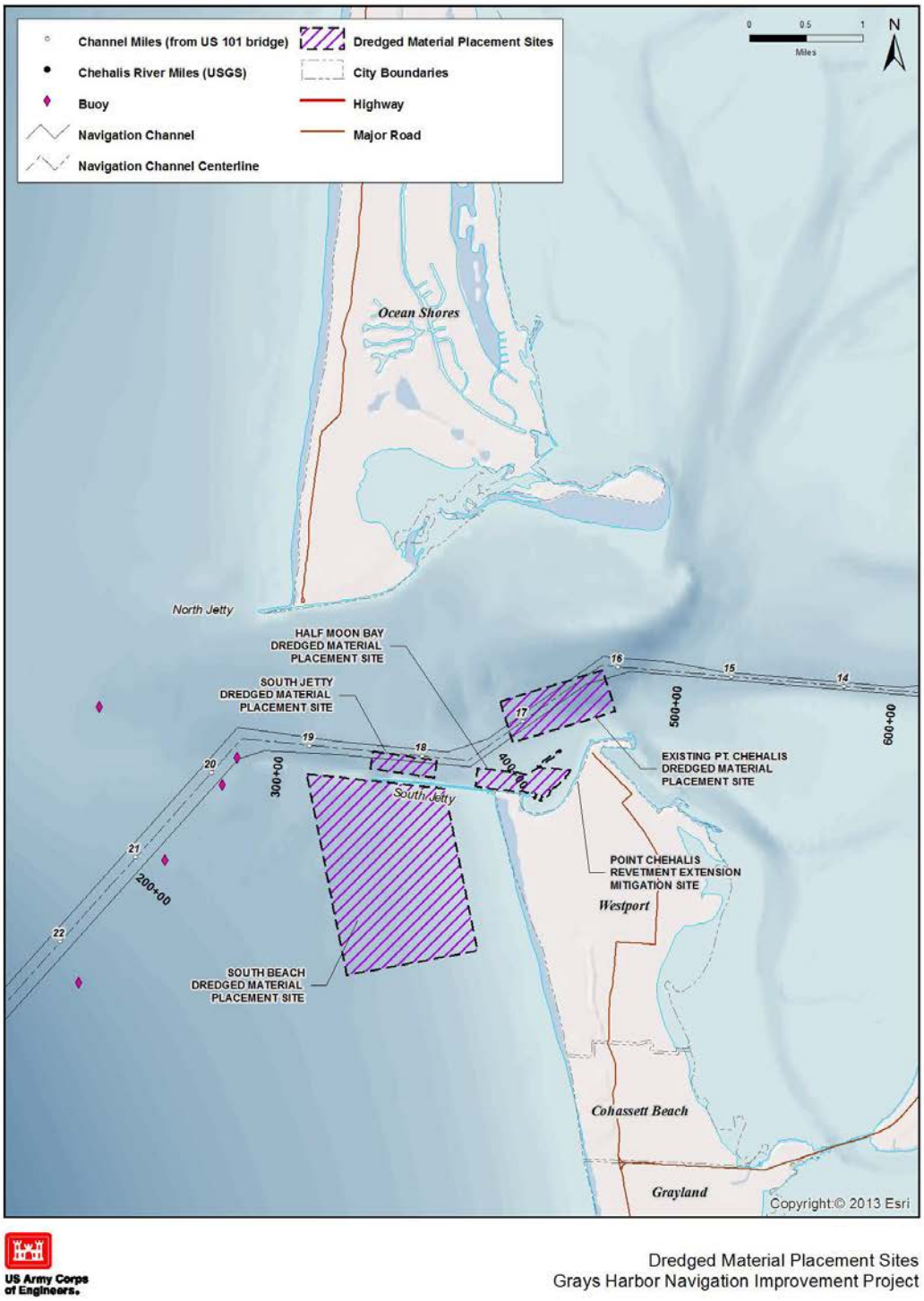

Figure 11: Open-Water Dredged Material Placement Sites

Table 14: Dredged Material Deposit Volumes (cubic yards) by Placement Site for Grays Harbor at -36 feet MLLW

Year	Point Chehalis (Open-Water)	South Jetty (Open-Water)	Half Moon Bay (Nearshore)	South Beach (Nearshore)	Half Moon Bay (Mitigation Stockpile)	Total
2000	956,700	1,200,248	0	0	0	2,156,948
2001	667,943	358,873	0	0	0	1,026,816
2002	942,310	475,199	378,441	75,219	135,705	2,006,874
2003	355,139	824,694	329,107	125,388	0	1,634,328
2004	957,186	1,166,089	289,652	262,176	0	2,675,103
2005	1,054,086	740,970	102,194	217,909	0	2,115,159
2006	1,277,837	196,833	126,892	55,170	0	1,656,732
2007	599,254	389,127	140,406	0	0	1,128,787
2008	1,288,726	707,080	171,352	0	0	2,167,158
2009	1,223,159	21,088	144,975	214,502	0	1,603,724
2010	977,282	91,720	91,720	118,182	0	1,278,904
2011	702,650	1,000,925	177,150	298,251	0	2,178,976
2012	1,481,714	320,985	111,205	142,313	0	2,056,217
Total Volume	12,483,986	7,493,831	2,063,094	1,509,110	135,705	23,685,726
Average Annual Volume (2000–2012)	960,307	576,449	158,700	116, 085	10,439	1,821,979
Source: Corps 2011 and updated for years 2011 and 2012						

5.1.5.2 Dredged Material Characterization and Suitability

The types of sediment in the outer and inner harbor reaches vary, and thus their suitability for deposit at certain placement sites also varies. Materials dredged from the outer harbor reaches consist primarily of course-grained marine sands deposited by tidal action and silty sand/sandy silt redistributed in the estuary by wind and wave action. For instance, dredged material from the Bar and Entrance Channels has been found to meet the exclusionary criteria specified in the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230.60), and thus does not require contaminant testing. This determination is based on the physical characteristics of the materials, location in a high-energy environment, and geographic separation from sources of contamination. Dredged material from these reaches is suitable for beneficial use at designated placement sites. Materials that accumulate in the inner harbor reaches originate from tributary streams and rivers. Compared to the materials in the outer harbor reaches, the inner harbor reaches contain larger fractions of fine-grained suspended/bedload sediment, and are closer to historical sources of contamination. Because of these factors, contamination testing is required prior to in-water or unconfined beneficial use placement, and subsequent testing occurs on a regular basis.

The suitability determination, prepared under the Dredged Material Management Program for maintenance dredging to –36 feet MLLW (i.e., Alternative 1), showed that all sediments are suitable for open-water placement. Further explanation of channel sediment suitability is provided in Sections 3.7 and 4.7, *Water Quality and Sediment Characterization*, as related to the affected environment and environmental consequences, respectively.

5.1.5.3 Dredged Material Placement Method and Equipment

Dredged material is transported to open water placement sites by either a bottom-dump hopper dredge (defined above) or by a tugboat and bottom-dump (or split-hull) barge. These vessels generally have the ability to transport between 800 and 6,000 cubic yards of material each trip. The number of barge discharges per day is typically three to five, but this number varies depending on the extent of the dredging activity occurring at the time. A tug tows the barge to the open water placement site and releases the dredged material near the updrift boundary of the open water site. This allows the material to be fully released within the site boundary as currents typically result in the drift of the barge during placement. Target zones are specified annually within each open water placement site and are dependent on site capacity at the start of the dredge year. Strategic placement of dredged materials is necessary to ensure long-term site capacity and to minimize the potential for sediments to re-enter the navigation channel. Pre and post placement monitoring surveys are performed before and after placement of maintenance dredged material from the outer and inner harbor navigation channel. Some outer harbor material is typically placed at three beneficial use sites, including the South Beach nourishment site, the Half Moon Bay nearshore nourishment site, and the upland Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site. The purpose of the latter two placement sites is to maintain a stable beach profile west of the Point Chehalis revetment and to ensure that the armor stone toe of the revetment is not exposed. Sandy material is placed as close to shore as possible (nearshore nourishment), in accordance with the 1998 Point Chehalis Revetment Extension Project Inter-Agency Mitigation Agreement. Half Moon Bay is a high energy environment, subject to erosion. The nearshore nourishment site is used for material placement as bathymetric conditions permit (i.e., when the bay is deep enough for the bottom dump barge or hopper dredge to navigate). Typically the Corps uses its shallowest draft hopper dredge (MV *Yaquina*) to place material at the Half Moon Bay site. Dredged material is placed so that material will be transported, via natural processes, to the nearshore and intertidal areas to assist in maintaining existing stable beach profile.

The upland Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site was filled in 2002 with sand from the navigation channel described in the 2011 EA (Corps 2011). A hydraulic pipeline is typically used when placing outer harbor materials at the upland Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site. A hopper dredge full of a sand and water slurry docks at the existing rock dock at Firecracker Point and pumps the slurry through a pipeline to the stockpile site. Firecracker Point is a jetty extension located on the southeastern side of the southeastern entrance to the Westport Marina. Booster pumps are required to pump the slurry 1.7 miles across-town. The temporary pipeline was installed in 1994, and is buried along the road that generally crosses the Westport peninsula from Firecracker Point to Half Moon Bay. The slurry of sand and water is discharged to the area in front of the buried revetment. A sand berm/perimeter dike separates the discharge area from Half Moon Bay. The slurry of water and sand temporarily ponds in the placement site, and water is conveyed via effluent pipe into Grays Harbor at the exposed rock revetment near Groin A. A water quality monitoring plan would be implemented in accordance with an approved Water Quality Certification issued by Ecology. The sandy dredged material would quickly dewater and a bulldozer would be used to grade the sand uniformly over the placement area (Photo 2-3). Material placed above MHHW in the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is expected to subsequently erode through natural processes, with portions of the material entering the intertidal zone and thus the littoral system.

5.2 Alternative 2: Deepen Channel to -37 Feet MLLW

Alternative 2 would implement the proposed action by deepening the navigation channel an additional one foot, compared to baseline conditions (Alternative 1), to a depth of −37 feet MLLW. Following deepening, the channel would thereafter be maintained at the new design depth of -37 feet MLLW for a period of 50 years, through annual maintenance dredging in a manner identical to Alternative 1 with the exception of a minor increase in dredged material volumes. Under this alternative the nature of the dredging would be similar to Alternative 1 with some minor modifications as further detailed in this section. Construction dredging of Alternative 2 would occur within the same dredge work window as under Alternative 1. Dredging duration would be approximately 6 months for the inner harbor reaches, or 1.5 months longer than under Alternative 1. The dredging of the outer harbor reaches would occur in the April to June work window for hopper dredging and 1 August to 14 February in Outer Cross Over Reach if a clamshell dredge is used, the same as under Alternative 1. In Cow Point Reach, dredging may require use of a barge mounted long reach excavator to rip hard substrate in the channel prior to dredging to achieve full channel depth. Previous subsurface explorations have determined sandstone exists near the upstream portion of the channel reach adjacent to Port Terminal 4. This methodology has been shown to be successful for dredging sandstone in New York Harbor. Dredged materials would be deposited at the placement sites used during maintenance dredging under baseline conditions (Half Moon Bay, South Jetty, and South Beach), and would include a shift to the Point Chehalis site and upland placement of unsuitable material.

The Corps recently completed a dredged material placement site capacity analysis for the Point Chehalis placement site to estimate short-term and long-term fate of channel deepening sediments and subsequent annual maintenance sediments that could be deposited at this site (Hayter et al. 2012). Based on sediment transport modeling and Sedflume analysis conducted (Demirbilek et al. 2010; Hayter et al. 2012) it was determined placing all dredged material within

the current PCS boundaries may pose an adverse risk to navigation and O&M dredging costs. The unique grain size and other characteristics of dredged material derived from channel deepening make those sediments likely to accumulate within the placement sites at a faster rate than recently accrued material derived from maintenance dredging, based on historical trends of O&M material (Hayter et al. 2012). The Federal navigation channel passes through the site and mounding of material can result in loss of channel depth and width without proper site management. The site capacity analysis recommended a 1,000-foot north-northwestern shift in the placement site and placement of dredged materials over the entire placement site (Figure 12). This shift produces less sedimentation in the navigation channel and less accumulation above authorized channel depths over the course of dredged material placement (Hayter et al. 2012). As a result of the site capacity analysis, the Corps would place dredged material at the Point Chehalis placement site under Alternative 2 as per this recommended shift (as described in Appendix H). This placement site shift would not increase the size of the Point Chehalis Site and would be a temporary one time shift to accommodate the volumes of material to be placed during the construction year by taking advantage of deeper water and more dispersive hydrodynamics. The site would be shifted back after the construction year's activities of deepening is completed.

The upland Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site would be recharged when feasible with dredged material from a hopper dredge with hydraulic pump-ashore capability. The hopper would dredge sand from the navigation channel and transit to a mooring dolphin within Half Moon Bay and hydraulically pump dredged material via a floating or submerged pipeline into the mitigation site. Water discharged from the dredge slurry will be contained by dikes around the perimeter of the mitigation site. The sandy dredged material would quickly dewater and a bulldozer would grade the sand uniformly over the placement area. The slurry of water and sand would temporarily pond in the placement site as the dredged sediments settle out of suspension, and decant water would be conveyed via effluent pipe into Grays Harbor at the exposed rock revetment near Groin A. A water quality monitoring plan would be implemented in accordance with an approved Water Quality Certification issued by Ecology. As with Alternative 1, material placed above MHHW in the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is expected to subsequently erode through natural processes, with portions of the material entering the intertidal zone and thus the littoral system.

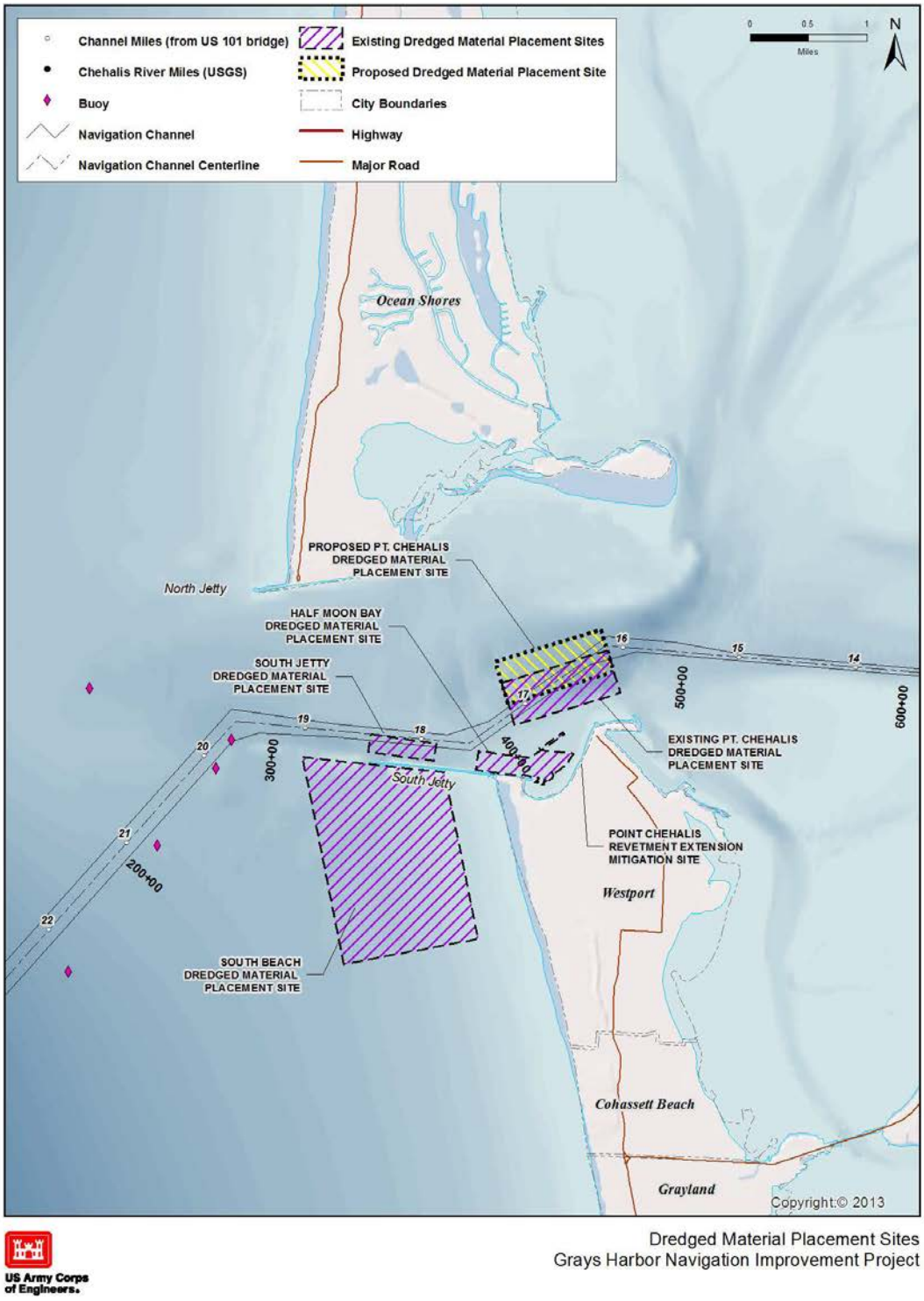

Figure 12: Point Chehalis Placement Site Shift

The latest suitability determination, prepared under the Dredged Material Management Program (Appendix A), showed that a vast majority (more than 98%) of the sediments from the inner harbor reaches are suitable for open-water placement. Approximately 13,500 cubic yards of sediment that would be dredged during construction of Alternative 2 from the Cow Point 32a subunit are unsuitable for open-water disposal because of toxicity expressed in the sediment larval bioassay. This material would require appropriate upland disposal. Further explanation of channel sediment suitability is provided in Sections 3.7 and 4.7, *Water Quality and Sediment Characterization*, as related to the affected environment and environmental consequences, respectively.

The approximately 13,500 cubic yards of material determined to be unsuitable for open water disposal underwent extensive testing, consisting of three rounds of chemical analysis and bioassays (Appendix A). In the first round of chemical testing, the material exceeded the DMMP screening level for benzyl alcohol, but in subsequent rounds this chemical was either below the screening level or undetected. Bioassay testing results were equivocal, with the same species of amphipod exhibiting toxicity in one test but not another; and with the larval bioassay results ranging from no toxicity to significant toxicity depending on the testing round and termination protocol used. The uncertainty surrounding bioassay results for this material and adjacent material was compounded by elevated levels of ammonia. The ammonia results were unequivocal for the final round of amphipod testing and the amphipod results were rejected as a result. However, an analysis of the sediment larval data relative to ammonia did not provide unequivocal evidence that ammonia was responsible for the toxicity exhibited in the larval test. Therefore, the DMMP agencies made an environmentally conservative call and found the material in subunit CP32a unsuitable for open-water disposal. However, the material is not a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulated material (not a hazardous waste) and does not pose a human health risk. Risk to human health and higher-order ecological receptors is assessed by exceedances of the DMMP bioaccumulation triggers (and bioaccumulation testing in the event that bioaccumulation triggers are exceeded). Benzyl alcohol is not a bioaccumulative chemical of concern and, therefore, does not have a bioaccumulation trigger. There were no bioaccumulation trigger exceedances for any of the chemicals of concern tested for this project.

The unsuitable material will be clamshell dredged. Implementation of best management practices – such as control of the speed of the dredging bucket during descent and ascent – and compliance with the water quality monitoring plan will ensure that turbidity is reduced to the maximum extent possible during dredging. Dredged material will be placed in a fully fenced haul barge where it will be dewatered through filtered scuppers to control turbidity in water returning to Grays Harbor. Contaminants are generally associated with the sediment itself and with suspended sediment particles in the water column. By minimizing the loss of suspended particles during dewatering, loss of any chemical contaminants associated with the sediment will also be minimized. The dredged material would be dewatered and taken by barge to be offloaded at nearby Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 3 (a distance of less than 4 miles) and trucked the short distance to the former Hoquiam city wastewater treatment lagoon for offload (less than half-a-mile), and dumped from the transport trucks directly into the offload site. The dewatered dredged material would be mechanically transferred from the barge to trucks using an excavator or front load excavator. The lagoon is a former wastewater treatment pond formerly utilized by the city of Hoquiam for treatment of municipal sewage. Approval for usage will require acquisition of real estate interests and any applicable State permits which will be obtained by the Port of Grays Harbor. The site is bermed with containment dikes so minimal earthwork would be required to contain the dredged material (Figure 13). Spill plates or a similar best management practice would be used during offloading to minimize spillage of

sediment back into the harbor or onto the ground at the offloading facility. Any spillage that occurs would be cleaned up daily. Any dewatering discharge would be filtered prior to its reentry into Grays Harbor. The Corps expects the Port of Grays Harbor to acquire and thereafter own the parcel on which the former wastewater treatment lagoon is located. The Port is expected to further develop the property following placement of dredged material under Alternative 2, and thus will assume responsibility for any monitoring, maintenance, and adaptive management of that material following placement.

There is a possibility that an alternative upland site would be used for disposal of the 13.500 cy of unsuitable dredged material during the construction year, if the necessary real estate interests in the former wastewater treatment plant cannot be acquired. Alternative sites presently under consideration include Terminal 3 Uplands, Industrial Development District #1, and Slip One. The effects of disposal at any of these alternative sites are anticipated to be closely similar to the effects of placement at the former Hoquiam wastewater treatment plant.

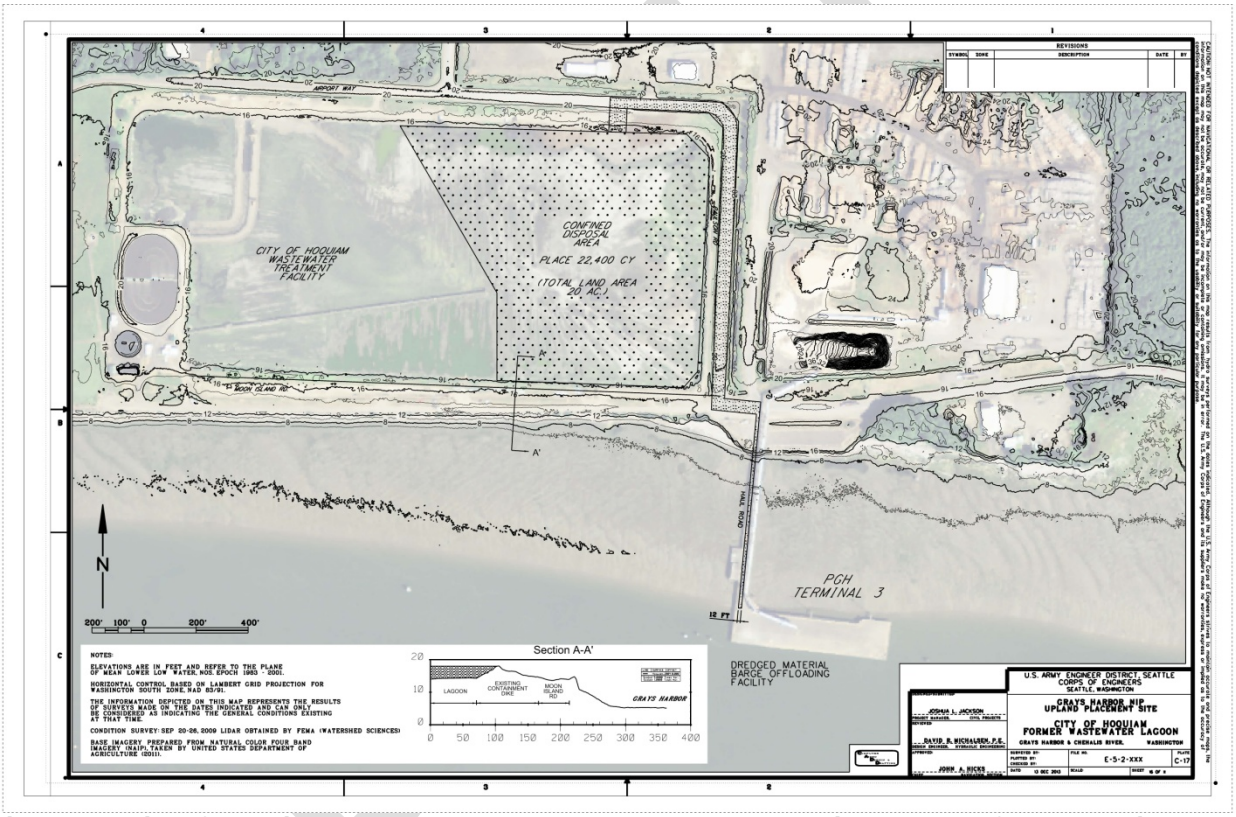

Figure 13: City of Hoquiam Wastewater Treatment Lagoon, Located Near Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 3

The volumes estimated to dredge to -36 feet MLLW prior to any deepening (Table 15) are from the 2011 EA (Corps 2011) and are based on the average amount dredged from 2000 to 2010 plus one standard deviation. Actual volumes in the deepening construction year would be determined based on bathymetric surveys of the channel just prior to deepening.

Annual maintenance dredging to -36 feet MLLW would be required to be performed in the same year as the deepening construction dredging. The estimated volume of material to be removed during dredging from the maintained depth of -36 feet MLLW to the deepened depth of -37 feet MLLW and the anticipated volume removed annually during maintenance dredging attributable

to the deepening are shown in Table 2-3. The volumes listed include 2 feet of advance maintenance and 2 feet of allowable overdepth. Maintenance dredging to reach -36 feet MLLW in the deepening reaches is estimated at 2,090,000 cubic yards. Thus total volumes dredged for both maintenance to -36 feet and deepening from -36 feet to -37 feet MLLW in the construction year requires an estimated 2,901,000 cubic yards (Table 15). However, the environmental impacts analysis for this document is focused on the deepening volumes (above 2.09 mcy) and subsequent increased maintenance attributable to that deepening (50,000 cubic yards annually).

Initial deepening of the channel by 1 foot would require excavation (and placement) of an additional 1,031,000 cubic yards of sediment. Subsequent annual maintenance volumes for project operation are estimated to increase by approximately 50,000 cubic yards annually over the 50 year project span. This represents an increase in annual maintenance dredging of 2% to maintain the channel at -37 feet MLLW.

All volume estimates take into account the reduced amounts attributable to the minor channel re-alignment that has previously been evaluated and will have been undertaken prior to the execution of this proposed action. The estimated dredge volumes presented here and environmental evaluation of potential effects of channel deepening in this report are assessed in light of prior implementation of the minor channel alignment modification.

As noted in the table, the economic analysis assumed deepening would start at -36 ft MLLW, and used the deepening increments below -36 ft MLLW for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. The supporting environmental analysis documented in the attached SEIS (Appendix C) evaluated effects of deepening below the annual maximum volume of dredged material of 2.09 mcy. As a result, the SEIS includes larger deepening volumes for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3.

Table 15: Estimated Dredged Material Volumes (cubic yards) by Reach to Deepen Navigation Channel to -37 feet MLLW under Alternative 2

Navigation Channel Reach	Construction Increment to Deepen Channel to –37 feet MLLW	Total Dredged in Construction Year (Maintenance to -36 feet MLLW plus Construction Deepening to -37 feet MLLW	Annual Increase in Maintenance Dredging Attributable to Deepening to -37 feet MLLW[c]
Inner Harbor Reaches			
Cow Point[b]	171,000	1,136,000	610,000
Hoquiam	172,000	322,000	11,000
North Channel	126,000	301,000	8,000
Inner Crossover	129,000	504,000	8,000
Outer Harbor Reaches			
Outer Crossover	121,000	356,000	7,000
South	92,000	282,000	6,000
Total	**811,000**	**2,901,000**	**50,000**

[a] Assumes deepening would begin from –36 feet MLLW and includes advanced maintenance and overdepth dredging volumes, as well as 15% contingency to account for potential variability in sedimentation rates from year to year. Initial channel deepening volumes obtained from the September 2012 condition survey by the Corps vessel *Shoalhunter*.

[b] Volumes include the Cow Point Turning Basin.

[c] Increased annual maintenance attributable to the one foot deepening increment from -36 ft to -37 ft MLLW (Rosati 2004).

5.3 Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 Feet MLLW

Alternative 3 would implement the purpose and need by deepening the navigation channel an additional two feet, compared to baseline conditions (Alternative 1), to a depth of −38 feet MLLW. Following deepening, the channel would thereafter be maintained at the new design depth of -38 feet MLLW for a period of 50 years, through annual maintenance dredging in a manner identical to Alternative 1 with the exception of a minor increase in dredged material volumes. Under this alternative, project construction (i.e., initial dredging), including scheduled work periods, types of equipment, and methods for dredged material placement, would be implemented as described for construction dredging under Alternative 2. Construction dredging of Alternative 3 would occur over approximately six months for the inner harbor reaches (the same as Alternative 2), and would occur within the same seven month dredge window as under Alternatives 1 and 2. The duration of dredging for the outer harbor reaches would be approximately 1 month, the same as under Alternatives 1 and 2. Dredged materials would be deposited at the placement sites as identified in Alternative 2, using the same prioritization methodology. An additional clamshell dredge and barge would be needed under this alternative.

Approximately 22,400 cubic yards of sediment that would be dredged during construction of Alternative 3 from the Cow Point 32a subunit are unsuitable for open-water disposal because of

toxicity expressed in the sediment larval bioassay. This material would be handled and placed as described in Section 2.3 for Alternative 2.

Initial deepening of the channel by 2 feet would require excavation (and placement) of an additional 1.972 million cubic yards of sediment beyond that volume of dredging estimated in the 2011 EA (Corps 2011) to a depth of -36 feet MLLW. Subsequent annual maintenance volumes are estimated to increase by 107,000 cubic yards. This represents an increase in annual maintenance dredging of 5% to maintain the channel at -38 feet MLLW.

The estimated volume of material to be dredged during project construction and the anticipated volume removed annually during maintenance dredging are shown in Table 16. As is the case with Alternative 2, annual maintenance dredging to -36 feet MLLW would be required to be performed in the same year as the deepening construction dredging. Maintenance dredging to reach -36 feet MLLW in the deepening reaches is estimated at 2,090,000 cubic yards. Thus total volumes dredged for both maintenance to -36 feet and deepening from -36 feet to -38 feet MLLW in the same year requires an estimated 3,842,000 cubic yards (Table 16). However, the environmental impacts analysis for this document is focused on the deepening volumes (above 2.09 mcy) and subsequent increased maintenance attributable to that deepening (107,000 cubic yards annually). The volumes listed include 2 feet of advance maintenance and 2 feet of allowable overdepth.

As noted in the table, the economic analysis assumed deepening would start at -36 ft MLLW, and used the deepening increments below -36 ft MLLW for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. The supporting environmental analysis documented in the attached SEIS (Appendix C) evaluated effects of deepening below the annual maximum volume of dredged material of 2.09 mcy. As a result, the SEIS includes larger deepening volumes for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3.

Table 16: Estimated Dredged material Volumes (cubic yards) by Reach to Deepen Navigation Channel from -36 ft MLLW to -38 ft MLLW under Alternative 3

Navigation Channel Reach	Construction Increment to Deepen Channel to –38 feet MLLW	Total Dredged in Construction Year (Maintenance to -36 feet MLLW plus Construction Deepening to -38 feet MLLW	Annual Increase in Maintenance Dredging Attributable to Deepening to -38 feet MLLW[c]
Inner Harbor Reaches			
Cow Point[b]	348,000	1,313,000	21,000
Hoquiam	359,000	509,000	22,000
North Channel	274,000	449,000	17,000
Inner Crossover	264,000	639,000	16,000
Outer Harbor Reaches			
Outer Crossover	257,000	492,000	16,000
South	250,00	440,000	15,000
Total	**1,752,000**	**3,842,000**	**107,000**

[a] Assumes deepening would begin from –36 feet MLLW and includes advanced maintenance and overdepth dredging volumes. Initial channel deepening volumes obtained from the September 2012 condition survey by the Corps vessel *Shoalhunter*.

[b] Volumes include the Cow Point Turning Basin.

[c] Increased annual maintenance attributable to the two foot deepening increment from -36 ft to -38 ft MLLW (Rosati 2004)

6 Future with Project Alternatives Evaluation, Comparison and Selection of Recommended Plan

6.1 Future with Project Vessel Movements

The increased volume in commodities moved through the Port during the 50-year period of analysis described above is expected to be enabled by an increase in the number of vessels over the same period. This increase in vessel traffic anticipated over time in any of the three alternatives would not be caused by the deepening action, because channel dimensions are not a present or expected limiting factor on cargo growth, and the vessel traffic increase is expected to occur independent of the deepening because of the growth in commodity volume.

In addition, the future with and without project vessel origin and destination are expected to be the same, and the overall size and type of vessels will remain relatively unchanged[21] regardless of whether a deepening project is implemented.[22]

While the estimated volume of commodities is expected to increase over time, the estimated volume of commodities would be approximately the same in any given year of the 50-year period of analysis between Alternative 1, Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 and is thus independent of project implementation. The economic analysis shows that the number of vessels decreases from Alternative 1 to Alternative 2, and from Alternative 2 to Alternative 3 in any given year in the 50-year period of analysis because the additional depth provided under either Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 would allow vessels to carry more goods. Fewer vessels moving the same amount of goods is a transportation cost savings, which is counted as an economic benefit for this analysis. In addition, vessels that are expected to traverse the channel would gain efficiencies by experiencing a reduction in delays associated with tide.

Table 17, Table 18 and Table 19 below summarize estimated vessel traffic when comparing the without project condition and the with-project conditions under the two action alternatives.

Table 17: Without Project Condition Vessel Calls

Without Project Condition					
		Calls by Project Year			
Vessel Type	**Vessel Type**	**2017**	**2027**	**2037**	**2067**
Tanker	Tanker Medium	217	328	345	345
Bulker	Bulker Small	14	26	26	26
Bulker	Bulker Medium	16	19	19	19

[21] The vessel fleet was held reasonably constant for multiple reasons; based on information provided by the Port, all reports to date, and commodity tonnage forecast, a need for changes to the existing fleet beyond the increase in vessel port call numbers projected to occur independently of implementation of either Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 would be unnecessary to handle the commodities expected to transit Grays Harbor.

[22] The without project condition is defined as without further deepening – i.e. currently implemented and maintained project of -36 feet MLLW.

Bulker	Bulker Large	30	16	19	19
RO-RO	RO-RO	41	42	68	68
Total		**318**	**431**	**477**	**477**

Table 18: Vessel Calls - With Project Condition – Alternative 2 (-37 feet MLLW)

With Project Condition -37 MLLW					
		Calls by Project Year			
Vessel Type	**Vessel Type**	**2017**	**2027**	**2037**	**2067**
Tanker	Tanker Medium	196	328	343	343
Bulker	Bulker Small	15	23	26	26
Bulker	Bulker Medium	14	19	19	19
Bulker	Bulker Large	32	16	18	18
RO-RO	RO-RO	40	42	68	68
Total		**297**	**428**	**474**	**474**

Table 19: Vessel Calls - With Project Condition – Alternative 3 (-38 feet MLLW)

With Project Condition -38 MLLW					
		Calls by Project Year			
Vessel Type	**Vessel Type**	**2017**	**2027**	**2037**	**2067**
Tanker	Tanker Medium	178	328	343	343
Bulker	Bulker Small	15	23	26	26
Bulker	Bulker Medium	14	19	19	19
Bulker	Bulker Large	32	14	15	15
RO-RO	RO-RO	40	41	68	68
Total		**279**	**425**	**471**	**471**

6.2 Economic Analysis of Alternatives

The base economic benefit of a navigation project is reduction in the value of resources required to transport commodities. National Economic Development (NED) deep-draft navigation benefits generally fall into three major groups but with respect to this study the most prominent are the reduction in the cost of transport. The benefits attributed to transportation cost savings are due to the elimination or reduction in transit times, the use of larger and more efficient vessel loadings, the use of alternative mode (land versus water), and/or the anticipated net reductions in vessel accident rates between the without and with project conditions.

The economic feasibility and justification of the recommended plan for this study were determined by comparing average annual costs and average annual benefits for the two deepening alternatives (Alternative 2 and Alternative 3) during the 50-year period of analysis. The plan that maximizes net benefits (average annual benefits less average annual cost) is the plan that maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED). This plan is the federal recommended plan. The plan that maximizes net benefits and meets the study objective to reduce navigation transportation costs for the existing and projected future traffic of deep-draft vessels, and improve efficiency and reliability of navigation to and from Grays Harbor over the next 50 years as feasible and economically justified, based on this limited economic analysis, is Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 MLLW. The following sections summarize the analysis. Details of the modeling and results are in Appendix A.

Transportation cost savings were calculated using the HarborSym model, a planning-level simulation designed to assist in the economic analysis of coastal harbors using data such as port layout, vessel calls and transit rules to calculate vessel interactions within the harbor (see Appendix A for detailed description of model setup and inputs.)

6.3 NED Benefits

NED benefits are increases in the economic value of goods and services that result directly from a project. NED benefits are increases in national wealth, regardless of where in the U.S. they occur (IWR, 1991). With respect to navigation, NED benefits are the reduced transportation costs. Benefits attributed to the Grays Harbor NIP are mainly transportation cost savings due to the elimination of vessel calls or reduction in transit times as a result of more efficient vessel loadings.

Benefits are the difference between the without project transportation cost (Alternative 1) and the estimated transportation cost with deepening (Alternative 2 and Alternative 3.) All costs were adjusted to the base year of the project (2017) and were then converted to Average Annual Equivalent (AAEQ) values using the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 federal discount rate of 3.5 percent, assuming a 50-year study period. All costs are at August 2013 price levels. The benefits calculation does not project, and does not rely upon, an expectation of growth in numbers of vessel calls or an increase in cargo throughput attributable directly and exclusively to implementation of the recommended alternative.[23]

[23] In the absence of modeling evidence clearly demonstrating that implementation of the recommended plan will directly or indirectly induce economic growth in the form of an increase in number of vessel calls and/or increase in cargo tonnage passing through the Port of Grays Harbor, this benefits calculation is founded on the conservative premise that the project will not generate those economic growth gains. The SEIS, found at Appendix C, adopts a premise in light of the uncertainty over the prospect of induced economic gains that is conservative from the perspective of environmental impact evaluation: the SEIS assumes a reasonable projection of economic growth in the form of increase in number of vessel calls and increase in cargo tonnage, and assesses the corresponding anticipated environmental impacts.

6.4 NED Costs

NED costs are defined as opportunity cost and as such may or may not come in many different forms. There are economic costs (explicit) and financial costs (implicit) that may overlap. Financial costs are synonymous with accounting costs or actual expenses. Economic costs can be an exercise in theory on how resources such as land or other national resources could better be used or the value of that which is foregone (opportunity cost).

The relevant costs for project evaluation have been determined by policy to be NED costs. The Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100) states that NED costs are used for the economic analysis of alternative projects and reflect the opportunity cost of direct or indirect resources consumed by project implementation.

The financial costs were provided by the Seattle District Cost Engineering Department and were developed through the Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System (MCACES) 2nd generation (See Attached: Port of Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project MII Report).

The cost of current annual maintenance dredging at Grays Harbor is approximately $8-10 million for -36 feet MLLW. This dollar amount is expected to change under the two deepening alternatives because the volume of material to be dredged would increase incrementally. To derive the benefits, the economic analysis compared the change in operational cost savings from Alternative 1 (-36 feet MLLW) to Alternative 2 (-37 feet MLLW) and Alternative 3 (-38 feet MLLW). The O&M for the economic analysis for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 is expected to see an incremental change. The incremental cost increase from the current operations (without project) to the -with project (-37, and -38 MLLW) were added to the total project cost. The incremental increase of Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 are found in Table 20 below.

Table 20: Grays Harbor Operation and Maintenance Volumes and Costs under Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

Grays Harbor Incremental Operation and Maintenance		
Alternative	**Volume (Cubic Yards)**	**Total Cost**
Alternative 2 (-37 MLLW)	50,000	$ 218,000
Alternative 3 (-38 MLLW)	107,000	$ 483,000

Additional costs were added to account for the interest during construction (IDC) that would accrue. That is the opportunity cost of not using the funds tied up in the project for other purposes. The FY14 federal interest rate of 3.5% along with a construction period of approximately 8 months was used to derive the IDC. The NED costs for alternative 2 and 3 are found in the tables below.

Table 21: NED Costs Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to -37 MLLW)

NED COSTS -37 FT MLLW	
Estimated Total project Costs	$12,719,000
Interest During Construction	$129,000
Operation and Maintenance	$218,000
Total	$13,066,000

Table 22: NED Costs Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to -38 MLLW)

NED COSTS -38 FT MLLW	
Estimated Total project Costs	$19,073,000
Interest During Construction	$199,000
Operation and Maintenance	$483,000
Total	$20,385,000

For comparison, to derive the benefits, the economic analysis looked at the change in operational costs savings from -36 MLLW to -37 feet MLLW and to -38 feet MLLW. The incremental cost increase from the current operations (without project) to the with-project were included in the total project cost.

6.5 Annual Cost Savings

Figure 14 displays expected cost savings associated with operation each year from 2017 to 2067 for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3.

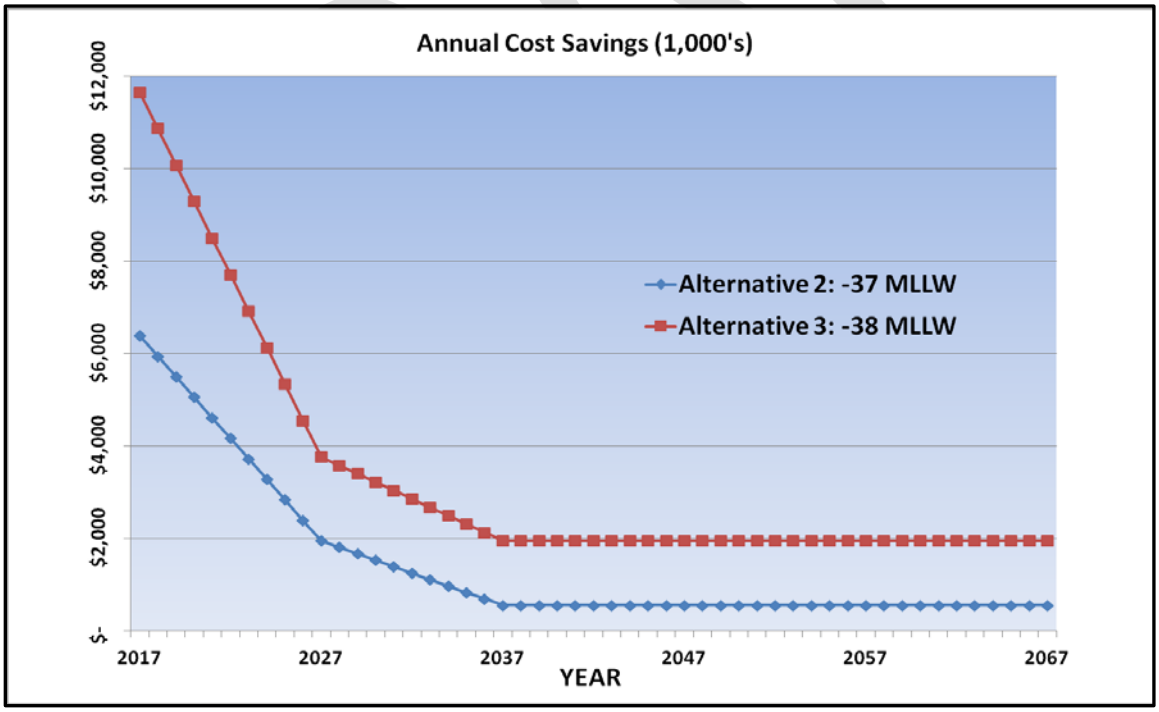

Figure 14: Annual Cost Savings for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

These cost savings were annualized and taken as a benefit for implementing a project (see Table 23.)

Table 23: NED Analysis for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to -37 feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW)
Average Annual Benefits	$2,154,000	$4,470,000
Average Annual Cost	$766,000	$1,331,000
Net Benefits	$1,388,000	$3,139,000
Benefit to Cost Ratio	2.81	3.36

6.6 Risk and Uncertainty

The economic analysis conducted for this study included a risk-informed decision making process, which involved identifying assumptions, predicted variables, estimated values, and parameter values critical to the report recommendation and the value of each critical factor where the recommendations would change or feasibility would be questioned. The economic analysis used HarborSym, a planning tool developed to analyze deep draft navigation projects by evaluating the impact of various harbor improvements. The specific analyses address assumptions as to traffic projections, rates, vessel operating costs, vessel fleet composition or vessel fleet characteristics. See Appendix A, Economic Appendix, for a detailed discussion of assumptions and model limitations identified for this study.

6.6.1 Key Assumptions

The economic analysis included the following assumptions to facilitate the decision making process:

- The vessel types (Tanker, Bulker, and Ro-Ro) do a reasonable job of capturing the size and type of vessel utilizing the Port of Grays Harbor.
- Vessel sizes were held reasonably constant for multiple reasons; based on information provided by the Port, all reports to date, and commodity tonnage forecast, a need for changes to the existing fleet beyond the increase in vessel port call numbers projected to occur independently of implementation of either Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 would be unnecessary to handle the commodities expected to transit Grays Harbor. . This is not expected to change the outcome of the recommended alternative due to the fact that generally as vessel sizes increase so too do the economies of scale. It is reasonable to assume that with larger vessels the analysis would lead to a better case and higher justification for a deeper channel.
- The vessel types and the commodities they move are good approximations for the reality of what commodities each vessel type moves.
- Vessels of similar type and cargo are expected to have similar dock, undock, load, and unload rates.
- Vessels operating in the system do not have mechanical or human failure.
- The vessel route group (East Asia, Asia, and North America) captures most of the traffic utilizing the Port of Grays Harbor.
- Commodities would remain relatively the same throughout the 50-year period of analysis.
- Demand for commodities is expected to grow slightly over the 50-year period of analysis.

- There is not expected to be a shift in destination, mode, or any induced movement of new cargo during the 50-year period of analysis.
- The tonnage transported through Grays Harbor is expected to be similar for future years under either with- or without-project conditions.
- Crude by Rail (CBR) enters the commodity mix around 2015, independent of project implementation, and the demand for fossil fuels continues to grow.
- The CBR is expected to transit via the Port of Grays Harbor –with or without the project.
- The interest rate of 3.5% used to do the economic analysis would remain the same over the 50-year period of analysis.
- The under-keel clearance is 3.5 feet for all vessels utilizing the harbor and is based on expert elicitation.
- The benefits from the project are assumed to not have an economic multiplier effect.
- Modeling in 10 year increments, as opposed to annually, over the 50-year period of analysis and interpolating does a good job of capturing the cost associated with the years in between the modeled years.
- Vessels will wait approximately 1 hour before retrying to enter the harbor or exiting a node to ensure as many vessels as possible can get through and accounted for in the system.
- The maximum time a vessel can wait in the system is approximate 8 hours before being deleted from the system.
- Once a vessel is moving within a leg it has priority over all other vessels that subsequently enter the leg.

6.6.2 Model Limitations

HarborSym is a planning tool developed to analyze deep draft navigation projects by evaluating the impact of various harbor improvements. However, like all planning models, there are limitations. Some key model limitations are:

- HarborSym requires detailed user-provided data and assumptions and relies heavily on the quality of the data available to complete the analysis.
- Cost that are accumulated outside of the actual vessels entering or exiting the harbor such as fixed cost, tug assistance cost, pilot cost, terminal fees, and externalities are not captured by the model.
- Hinterland transportation costs are not included in the model.
- External factors such as weather, emergencies, laws, or policies are not captured in the model.

6.7 Multi-Port Analysis

The purpose of a multiport analysis is to identify relevant competing port trade flows based on analysis of trade routes, commodities and port facilities. Commodity movements to or from competitive inland hinterlands to or from the same world trade areas are candidates for detailed analysis. Where the commodities are not identical (such as wheat and corn), or the trade routes are distinct (such as exports to different world areas), the opportunities for commodity transfers

are likely to be low, as is the case for the Port of Grays Harbor. A multi-port analysis was not conducted for this study, based on the following reasons:

- The Port of Grays Harbor's most likely competing ports are Tacoma and Seattle, both of which have leading export/import via containerized cargo. The leading import/export at Grays Harbor is break-bulk, liquid bulk and vehicles.
- The Port of Grays Harbor is predominantly export based; the overwhelming majority of trade at the Port of Tacoma and the Port of Seattle is imports.

Based on these reasons, commodity transfers or change of mode between competing ports are not expected to happen. Thus, any movement of goods and services from competing ports is expected to be minimal at best and, as such, a multi-port analysis is unwarranted for this project.

6.8 Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis was conducted for this study to help ensure that a risk-informed decision was made by determining how changing an independent variable, such as growth rates, could impact a particular dependent variable (vessel operating cost) under a given set of assumptions. For this exercise, no growth after the base year of 2017 was modeled, followed by changing the FY14 discount rate to 7% on the existing analysis to see what, if any, changes in recommended plan selection might occur. In addition, the scenario in which the CBR commodity does not use Grays Harbor was modeled to ensure the project would be economically justified regardless of predicted commodity arrivals/flows. Modeling of the aforementioned analyses showed the recommended plan of Alternative 3 did not change. That is to say, after adjusting for the discount rate, elimination of CBR, and elimination of growth, the overall selection and recommendation of the initial analysis does not change.[24]

6.9 Environmental Consequences and Impact Determination

The SEIS (Appendix C of this LRR) provides a detailed description of the potential environmental consequences of each of the three alternatives evaluated during this study. Table 24 below summarizes the environmental consequences and impact determinations for the alternatives.

Although Alternative 3 would have a greater effect on the natural environment compared to Alternatives 1 and 2 due to a higher volume of material to be dredged and placed during the initial deepening, Alternative 3 is identified as the preferred alternative. Alternative 3 would best meet the project purpose and need and the planning study objective to reduce navigation transportation costs, and improve efficiency and reliability of navigation to and from Grays Harbor over the next 50 years as feasible and economically justified. Additionally, although Alternative 3 would have a greater effect on the environment, the environmental consequences

[24] All sensitivity analysis was modeled separately from one another.

analysis conducted for this study (and documented in the attached SEIS) determined that these effects would be minor.

Table 24: Environmental Consequences and Significance Determinations for Alternatives

Resource	Alternative 1 (No Action): Continue Channel Maintenance of -36 Feet MLLW	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to −37 Feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to −38 Feet MLLW)
Marine Transportation	Navigation channel would be maintained in its existing condition; tidal delays for vessels exceeding 36 feet of draft and light loading of such vessels would continue due to channel depth. No change in marine transportation conditions; vessel operation constraints would continue.	Under keel vessel clearance would increase and thus lengthen tidal windows for loaded vessels to utilize the navigation channel. Additional 1 foot of depth would improve window of availability for vessel transits to a greater proportion of the tidal cycle compared to Alternative 1. A beneficial effect on marine transportation; vessel operations would be improved, allowing fuller loads per vessel and reducing ocean transportation costs.	Underkeel vessel clearance would further increase and thus further lengthen tidal windows for loaded vessels to utilize navigation channel. Additional 2 feet of depth would improve the window of availability for vessel transits to a greater proportion of the tidal cycle than deepening by 1 foot under Alternative 2. Beneficial effect on marine transportation anticipated, with a channel depth that best meets project's purpose and need; vessel operations would be improved, allowing fuller loads per vessel and reducing ocean transportation costs.
Geomorphology	Geomorphic attributes of navigation channel and estuary would be maintained in existing condition. Sediment transport dynamics, including the dynamics of the flood and ebb currents, and patterns of shoaling and erosion, would be expected to continue as currently occur. Placement of approximately 2 million cubic yards of dredged material at existing placement sites would continue.	Navigation channel depth would increase by 2.5%, with limited influence on the estuary's larger morphological processes. Slight increase in salinity concentration in deeper channel, but with negligible effect on the pressure gradients controlling saltwater intrusion. One-time placement of an additional 1,031,000 cubic yards of material, and the additional 50,000 cubic yards of annual maintenance is not expected to alter sediment transport dynamics. Potential for alterations in salt wedge dynamics, ship-wake erosion, erosion of navigation channel side slopes, Whitcomb Flats morphology, and sediment transport dynamics are expected to be minor.	Navigation channel depth would increase by 5%, with limited influence on the estuary's larger morphological processes. Slight increase in salinity concentration in deeper channel, but with negligible effect on the pressure gradients controlling saltwater intrusion. One-time placement of an additional 1,972,000 cubic yards of material, and the additional 107,000 cubic yards of maintenance dredging are not expected to alter sediment transport dynamics. Potential for alterations in salt wedge dynamics, ship-wake erosion, erosion of navigation channel side slopes, Whitcomb Flats morphology, and sediment transport dynamics are expected to be minor.
Aquatic and Terrestrial Vegetation	No direct impacts on eelgrass beds would occur. Eelgrass is not found in the navigation channel or at the placement sites because of low light levels/water depth, shifting substrate, and high tidal current. Short-term increases in turbidity during dredging and material placement could result in settlement of suspended sediments on eelgrass near the navigation channel, but effect expected to be rare and of short duration, with waves and tidal action quickly washing sediment from eelgrass fronds within 1 to 2 days.	The potential for alterations to eelgrass, macroalgae, saltmarsh, dunegrass, or sweet grass by deepening the channel 1 foot is expected to be negligible for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 1.	The potential for alterations to eelgrass, macroalgae, saltmarsh, dunegrass, or sweet grass by deepening the channel 2 feet is expected to be negligible for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 1.
Invertebrates, Fish, and Wildlife	Entrainment of aquatic invertebrates such as crabs, and a variety of epibenthic-associated fish such as flatfish, lingcod, and forage fish would occur at rates commensurate with the volume of material dredged via clamshell and hydraulic dredge to maintain the channel at -36 MLLW. Impacts are limited due to limited habitat in navigation channel (lingcod); high numbers of flatfish and forage fish in Grays Harbor, large spatial extent of foraging habitat (sturgeon), and per Dredge Impact Model (DIM) results for entrainment of Dungeness crab. Temporary displacement of seabirds, waterfowl and marine mammals may occur, but effect would be limited due to slow movement of dredges and confined footprint of noise and disturbance. Abundance of salmon, forage fish, groundfish, and benthic invertebrates are not measurably affected by maintenance dredging.	Deepening the inner harbor reaches would require an additional 45 days relative to Alternative 1, but would occur within the same in-water work window and at discrete locations in the channel at any one time. Hydraulic dredging to deepen the outer harbor reaches to -37 feet MLLW would entrain an additional estimated 77 to 2,156 flatfish, 77 to 154 lingcod, and 77 to 1,386 forage fish over Alternative 1 conditions if both south and outer crossover reaches are hopper dredged. Subsequent maintenance dredging would represent an approximate entrainment increase of 2.5% over Alternative 1. DIM results indicate that predicted Dungeness crab losses as a result of Alternative 2 are minimal and show little impact to harvestable size crabs (age 2+). The effects of Alternative 2 on invertebrates, fish, and wildlife are thus anticipated to be minor, and similar in nature and magnitude to those identified for Alternative 1.	One additional clamshell dredge, tug, and bottom dump barge would be employed during dredging of the inner harbor reaches compared to Alternatives 1 and 2. Deepening the inner harbor reaches would require an additional 45 days relative to Alternative 1, but would occur within the same in-water work window and at discrete locations in the channel at any one time. Hydraulic dredging to deepen the outer harbor reaches (both South Reach and potentially Outer Crossover Reach) to −38 feet MLLW would entrain an additional estimated 371 to 10,388 flatfish, 371 to 742 lingcod, and 371 to 6,678 forage fish, and subsequent maintenance dredging would represent an increase of 5% over Alternative 1 conditions. DIM results indicate that predicted Dungeness crab losses as a result of Alternative 3 are minimal and show little impact to harvestable size crabs (age 2+). The effects of Alternative 3 on invertebrates, fish, and wildlife are thus anticipated to be minor and similar in nature and magnitude to those identified for Alternative 1.

Resource	Alternative 1 (No Action): Continue Channel Maintenance of -36 Feet MLLW	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to −37 Feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to −38 Feet MLLW)
Threatened and Endangered Species	Alternative 1 would not adversely affect threatened or endangered species. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred in 2011 that continuation of the maintenance dredging from 2012 through 2026 would not result in likely adverse effects on any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.	Dredging would require an additional 45 days for the inner harbor reaches, compared to Alternative 1, but the effect mechanisms of Alternative 1 would largely be the same. Alternative 2 would employ the same schedule, and would be conducted with the same number of dredging vessels and work hours per day as under Alternative 1, with the following exceptions: dredged material for nearshore nourishment would be pumped ashore via submerged/floating hydraulic pipeline moored in Half Moon Bay, a long-reach excavator would be used to remove some material from the Cow Point Reach, material determined to be unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal would be transferred and disposed upland, and dredged material would be placed in a shifted Point Chehalis aquatic site during construction of the deepened channel. Placement sites would include South Jetty, Half Moon Bay, South Beach and the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site as in Alternative 1, and would add the shifted Point Chehalis site and the upland placement of unsuitable material. Listed species, including juveniles, are not likely to experience water quality or disturbance effects in the navigation channel or burial effects at the dredged material placement sites, because they are unlikely to use the affected habitats, and/or their vulnerable life-history stages are not likely to be present at these sites during the timing of dredging and material placement. The effects of Alternative 2 on threatened and endangered species are thus anticipated to be minor and similar in nature and magnitude to those identified for Alternative 1.	One additional clamshell dredge, tug, and bottom dump barge would be employed during dredging of the inner harbor reaches compared to Alternative 2. Deepening the inner harbor reaches would require an additional 45 days relative to Alternative 1, but would occur within the same in-water work window and at discrete locations in the channel at any one time. Both dredges do not typically work in the same portion of the channel at the same time. The duration and area of disturbance associated with dredging activities under Alternative 3 would not differ significantly from levels that occur under Alternatives 1 and 2. Listed species are not likely to experience water quality or disturbance effects in the navigation channel or burial effects at the dredged material placement sites for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 2. The effects of Alternative 3 on threatened and endangered species are thus anticipated to be minor and similar in nature and magnitude to those identified for Alternatives 1 and 2.
Historic and Cultural Resources	No historic or cultural resources are known to occur in the navigation channel or at the dredged material placement sites.	Negligible effects are expected because no historic or cultural resources are known to occur in the navigation channel or at the dredged material placement sites.	Negligible effects are expected because no historic or cultural resources are known to occur in the navigation channel or at the dredged material placement sites.
Water Quality and Sediment Characterization	Based on the results of the February 2012 determination, all of the sediment that would be maintenance dredged under Alternative 1 is suitable for open-water placement. Dredging and placement of dredge materials have only short-duration, localized impacts on water quality. The turbidity and low-DO plume associated with the dredging and placement of dredged materials typically dissipates quickly due to the strong tidal currents and wave exposure, particularly at the open-water placement sites.	All sediment that would be dredged under Alternative 2 is suitable for open-water placement, with the exception of 13,500 cubic yards of material from the Cow Point 32a subunit. This material would be dredged and then removed to an appropriate upland placement site. Prior to subsequent maintenance dredging cycles, the Corps would contact the DMMP agencies to determine whether additional sediment testing in Cow Point Reach DMMU subunit 32a is required. The duration of dredging activities under Alternative 2 would be extended by 45 days compared to Alternative 1. Best management practices (BMPs) would ensure that water quality impacts remain localized and overall impacts remain negligible. The Corps will seek a CWA Section 401 water quality certification from Ecology and would abide by any requirements included therein for the protection of water quality, associated with the discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States. Minor effects are, therefore, expected.	All sediment that would be dredged under Alternative 3 is suitable for open-water placement, with the exception of 22,400 cubic yards of material from the Cow Point 32a subunit. This material would be dredged and then removed to an appropriate upland placement site (former Hoquiam waste water treatment lagoon). Prior to subsequent maintenance dredging cycles, the Corps would contact the DMMP agencies to determine whether additional sediment testing in Cow Point Reach DMMU subunit 32a is required. The duration of dredging activities under Alternative 3 would be extended by 45 days compared to Alternative 1. BMPs would ensure that water quality impacts remain localized and overall impacts remain negligible. The Corps will seek a CWA Section 401 water quality certification from Ecology and would abide by any requirements included therein for the protection of water quality, associated with the discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States. Minor effects are, therefore, expected.

Resource	Alternative 1 (No Action): Continue Channel Maintenance of -36 Feet MLLW	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to −37 Feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to −38 Feet MLLW)
Air Quality, Noise, and Artificial Lighting	Alternative 1 constitutes a routine facility repair activity generating an increase in emissions that is clearly *de minimis* under 40 CFR 93.153(c)(1)(ix), and represents no changes in emission or air quality effects from the baseline conditions. The volume of emissions and related air quality and lighting effects that occur during maintenance dredging would continue.	Emissions of nitrogen oxides associated with deepening of the navigation channel under Alternative 2 (76 tons) in the construction year are below the General Conformity thresholds for non-attainment or maintenance areas (Grays Harbor is neither a non-attainment area nor a maintenance area).Air quality impacts are considered minor because of their relatively short duration (i.e., 6 months of inner harbor activity and 1 month for the outer harbor) and the low potential for pollutant concentrations to reach sensitive receptor locations.	Deepening of the inner harbor reaches would use more dredging machinery than under Alternative 2, resulting in greater air pollutant emissions. Emissions of nitrogen oxides associated with deepening of the navigation channel under Alternative 3 (84 tons) in the construction year are below the General Conformity thresholds for non-attainment or maintenance areas (Grays Harbor is neither). Total emissions for Alternative 3 are greater than those of Alternatives 1 and 2, but still relatively minor. As is the case with Alternative 2 dredging activities associated with deepening the navigation channel under Alternative 3 would have a relatively short duration (i.e., 6 months for the inner harbor reaches and 1 month for the outer harbor reaches), and low potential for pollutant concentrations to reach sensitive receptor locations.
Land Use and Aesthetics	Maintenance dredging activities do not conflict with current uses in Grays Harbor (e.g., shipping, recreational boating, fishing) or involve any elements that conflict with local plans or development regulations. The Grays Harbor viewshed includes the annual occurrence of dredge equipment, visible to observers from the shore and from the water. The visual appearance of these features is compatible with the existing large ships and commercial and recreational vessel traffic throughout Grays Harbor and particularly within the navigation channel.	No new features or elements would be introduced that would potentially conflict with or affect current land uses, land use planning, or aesthetic resources. Minor effects are anticipated because the dredging process, work periods, equipment, and the material placement methods and locations are the same as occur under Alternative 1 conditions, with the exception of the Point Chehalis placement site, possible use of a long reach excavator, pump ashore for upland placement at the Point Chehalis upland site, and the upland disposal of unsuitable material.	Negligible effects are anticipated for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 2.
Recreation	Recreational boaters (as well as commercial and tribal fishing vessels) are required to avoid the immediate area of dredging and placement for safety. The U.S. Coast Guard issues a *Notice to Mariners* announcing the locations and duration of dredging. The extent of dredging and placement of material is small and highly localized at any one time and can be easily be avoided. Dredging and dredge material placement does not conflict with recreational use of parks or wildlife viewing areas; placement of dredged materials helps slow erosion and maintain recreational activities along the South Jetty and Half Moon Bay area.	The dredging process, work periods, equipment, and the material placement methods and locations are the same as occur under Alternative 1 conditions, with the exception of the Point Chehalis site shift, possible use of a long reach excavator, pump ashore for upland placement at the Point Chehalis upland site Placement of dredged material from the channel deepening under Alternative 2 at the Half Moon Bay and South Jetty sites would moderate erosion and help maintain these areas for recreational uses, potentially resulting in a beneficial effect on recreational resources.	Minor effects anticipated for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 2.
Global Climate Change	Maintenance dredging emissions would continue to contribute to the total greenhouse gas (GHG) atmospheric burden, but the quantity of emissions is a tiny fraction of all anthropogenic sources of GHGs. However, because global climate change is recognized to be an evolving cumulative effect, this relatively small amount of GHG emitted from maintenance dredging activities is acknowledged to be a contributor (albeit minor) to cumulative global emissions of GHGs.	Approximately 821 metric tons CO_2e would be emitted over Alternative 1 conditions due to the additional 45 days of dredging of the inner harbor reaches. Because emissions would be below the NEPA guidance recommended threshold of 25,000 metric tons for conducting a quantitative effects assessment, the effects are considered to be minor.	Approximately 1,375 metric tons CO_2e would be emitted over Alternative 1 conditions due to the additional clamshell dredge and tugboat and the additional 45 days of dredging needed to deepen the inner harbor reaches. Because emissions would be below the NEPA guidance recommended threshold of 25,000 metric tons for conducting a quantitative effects assessment, the effects are considered to be minor.

Resource	Alternative 1 (No Action): Continue Channel Maintenance of -36 Feet MLLW	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to −37 Feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to −38 Feet MLLW)
Local Economy/ Socioeconomics	The -36 feet MLLW depth of the navigation channel constrains the operations of the existing fleet of vessels utilizing the harbor for water-oriented business, resulting in delays to arrivals and departures as well as light loading.	The additional 1 foot of channel depth would improve the window of availability for vessel transits, which would provide increased socioeconomic support to the region. While entrainment of fish and crabs would occur during the deepening, such impacts are expected to be minor. Alternative 2 would have a beneficial effect on the local economy and socioeconomics of the area because vessel operations would be improved, allowing fuller loads per vessel and reducing ocean transportation costs.	The additional 2 feet of channel depth would further improve the window of availability for vessel transits, which would provide more increased socioeconomic support to the region. While more entrainment of fish and crabs would occur during the deepening, such impacts are expected to be minor. Alternative 3 would have a beneficial effect on the local economy and socioeconomics of the area because vessel operations would be more fully improved, allowing fuller loads per vessel and reducing ocean transportation costs. These beneficial effects would be higher than those under Alternative 2 because of the increased clearance and longer window of availability for vessel transits into and out of the Port.
Environmental Justice Communities	Maintenance dredging of the navigation channel and placement of dredged materials provides economic support to the area by maintaining a navigable channel to the Port of Grays Harbor and related manufacturing facilities. This supports the low-income communities located along the shoreline of Grays Harbor. However, the extent of that support would continue to be limited due to the shoaling, tidal delays, and related constraints on vessels use of the navigation channel when maintained at −36 feet MLLW.	Alternative 2 would not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income communities, because the channel deepening would not result in any direct impacts on such communities. By deepening the channel 1 foot, Alternative 2 would better support jobs related to the Port facilities, manufacturing and commercial businesses, and recreation that depend on reliable navigation through the harbor.	Alternative 3 would not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income communities, because the channel deepening would not result in any direct impacts on such communities. By deepening the channel 2 feet, Alternative 3 would better support jobs related to the Port facilities, manufacturing and commercial businesses, and recreation that depend on reliable navigation through the harbor. These beneficial effects would be higher than those under Alternative 2 because of the increased clearance and longer window of availability for vessel transits into and out of the Port.
Indian Treaty Rights	Maintenance dredging overlaps with the latter portion of the tribal gillnetting season (late January to mid-April). Gillnetters may be displaced by the location of the dredging barge in the navigation channel, but would be able to deploy their nets upstream or downstream of the barge and continue fishing. Because gillnets can be deployed to avoid the dredging barge, and the dredging operations are pre-coordinated with the fishers only very minor reductions in fishing efficiency would be experienced under Alternative 1. Vessel traffic during dredging and placement of dredged materials, particularly at open-water sites, has the potential to temporarily affect the activities of Quinault Indian Nation Dungeness crab fishers. Under Alternative 1, the degree and nature of such temporary effects would continue per baseline conditions.	Dredging would require an additional 45 days for the inner harbor reaches, compared to Alternative 1, but the effect mechanisms of Alternative 1 would be the same. Alternative 2 would employ the same methods, dredging equipment, placement sites (with the following exceptions: dredged material for nearshore nourishment would be pumped ashore via submerged/floating hydraulic pipeline moored in Half Moon Bay, a long-reach excavator would be used to remove some material from the Cow Point Reach, material determined to be unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal would be transferred and disposed upland, and dredged material would be placed in a shifted Point Chehalis aquatic site during construction of the deepened channel), and schedule, and would be conducted with the same number of dredging vessels and work hours per day as under Alternative 1. Although the duration of disruption to the Quinault Indian Nation fisheries crab fisheries would increase under this alternative and there would be more trips to the placement sites by the barges, the nature of the disruption would not change and the disruptions would remain temporary. Therefore, the potential for impacts on Indian Treaty Rights for these fisheries is expected to be minor.	Dredging would require two clamshell dredges under this alternative however the potential for impacts on Indian Treaty Rights for gillnet and Dungeness crab fisheries is expected to be minor for the same reasons as noted for Alternative 2.

Resource	Alternative 1 (No Action): Continue Channel Maintenance of -36 Feet MLLW	Alternative 2 (Deepen Channel to −37 Feet MLLW)	Alternative 3 (Deepen Channel to −38 Feet MLLW)
Placement Site Environment	The Corps selects among the designated placement sites for any particular volume of sediment based on the source of the dredged material, the depth and capacity of each placement site, the amount of material already present at the placement sites, the capabilities of the contractor's equipment, and weather/wave conditions at the time of placement. Typically, material from the inner harbor reaches is deposited at the South Jetty site, unless there are adverse weather/wave conditions or the South Jetty site is full, in which case placement occurs at the Point Chehalis site. For the outer harbor reaches, some sediment may be deposited at the Half Moon Bay beneficial use site, the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site, and the South Beach nearshore nourishment site, with the remainder of the sediment placed in the South Jetty or Point Chehalis sites. The presence of commercial crab pots in a placement site and/or access lane (South Beach), and the amount of material present (Half Moon Bay) are also factors considered for outer harbor reach sediments.	Approximately 1,031,000 cubic yards of additional material would be placed. The Half Moon Bay, South Jetty, Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation and South Beach placement sites would be expected to continue to receive material, as needed, to maintain beach nourishment activities, but could receive a larger volume of material if such a need were present during the implementation of Alternative 2. The shifted Point Chehalis site would receive material, and 13,500 cubic yards would be placed upland. The placement of the dredged material is not expected to alter sediment transport dynamics, including the dynamics of the flood and ebb currents and patterns of shoaling and erosion compared to placement under Alternative 1. Therefore, the effects of this alternative on the placement sites are expected to be minor.	Approximately 1.972 million cubic yards of material would be placed. The dredged material would be placed at the same placement sites as under Alternative 2, and 22,400 cy of unsuitable material would be placed upland. The placement of the dredged material is not expected to alter sediment transport dynamics, including the dynamics of the flood and ebb currents and patterns of shoaling and erosion compared to placement under Alternative 1. Therefore, the effects of this alternative on the placement sites are expected to be minor.

6.10 Evaluation of Alternatives with P&G Criteria

Table 25 summarizes evaluation of the three alternatives with the four criteria in *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*, referred to as the Principles and Guidelines (P&G)[25].

Table 25: Evaluation of Alternatives with P&G Criteria

	Alternative 1 – No Action	Alternative 2 – Deepen Channel to -37 ft MLLW	Alternative 3 – Deepen Channel to -38 ft MLLW
Completeness	No – The No Action alternative does not ensure realization of the planning objective of this limited reevaluation.	Yes – Alternative 2 would ensure realization of the planning objectives of this limited reevaluation, although not to the same extent as Alternative 3, based on the economic analysis summarized in Section 6 above.	Yes – Alternative 3 would ensure realization of the planning objectives of this limited reevaluation, based on the economic analysis summarized in Section 6 above.
Effectiveness	No – The No Action alternative continues current maintenance to -36 ft MLLW and, therefore, does not meet the objective to reduce navigation transportation costs for the existing and project future fleet of deep-draft vessels, and improve efficiency and reliability of navigation to and from Grays Harbor over the 50-year period of analysis as feasible and economically justified.	Yes – Based on the economic analysis conducted for this limited reevaluation, Alternative 2 would meet the objective to reduce navigation transportation costs and improve efficiency and reliability.	Yes – Based on the economic analysis conducted for this limited reevaluation, Alternative 3 would meet the objective to reduce navigation transportation costs and improve efficiency and reliability.
Efficiency	No – Alternative 1 does not meet the objectives of this limited reevaluation and, therefore is not efficient.	No – Although Alternative 2 does meet the planning objective of this limited reevaluation, it does not maximize net benefits, based on the economic analysis conducted for this study and, therefore, is not considered efficient.	Yes - Alternative 3 is efficient because it maximizes net benefits (average annual benefits less average annual cost), based on the economic analysis conducted for this limited reevaluation, and is the plan that maximizes net benefits for National

[25] *Completeness* is the extent to which an alternative plan provides and accounts for all necessary investments or other actions to ensure the realization of the planning objectives, including actions by other federal and non-federal entities; *Effectiveness* is the extent to which an alternative plan contributes to achieving the objectives; *Efficiency* is the extent to which an alternative plan is the most cost-effective means of achieving the objectives; *Acceptability* is the extent to which an alternative plan is acceptable in terms of applicable laws, regulations and public policies.

			Economic Development (NED).
Acceptability	Yes – This alternative is acceptable because it is consistent with applicable laws, regulations and public policies.	Yes – This alternative is acceptable because it is consistent with applicable laws, regulations and public policies.	Yes – This alternative is acceptable because it is consistent with applicable laws, regulations and public policies.

6.11 Summary of Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives

Table 26 below summarizes the evaluation and comparison of the three alternatives evaluated during this study.

Table 26: Summary of Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
	No Action	**Deepen channel to -37 ft MLLW**	**Deepen channel to -38 ft MLLW**
National Economic Development (NED)			
Average Annual Benefits		$2,154,000	$4,470,000
Average Annual Cost		$766,000	$1,331,000
NED Benefits		$1,388,000	$3,139,000
Benefit to Cost Ratio		2.81	3.36
Environmental			
Environmental Effects		• Effects would be minor	• Effects would be minor • Slightly greater effect on natural environment compared to Alternatives 1 and 2 because navigation channel would be dredged to greater depth, but still minor
Other			
Meets Planning Objective	No	Yes	Yes
Response to Planning Constraints	Avoids constraints	Avoids constraints	Avoids constraints
Completeness	No	Yes	Yes
Effectiveness	No	Yes	Yes
Efficiency	No	Yes	Yes
Acceptability	Yes	Yes	Yes

6.12 Selection of Recommended Plan

Based on the economic analysis conducted for this study, the Recommended Plan is Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW. The Recommended Plan maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED) and meets the study objective while avoiding the study constraints. Based on the environmental analysis documented in the SEIS, Alternative 3 is also the preferred alternative. Chapters 7 and 8 provide details of the Recommended Plan and Plan Implementation.

7 Recommended Plan

7.1 Changes to Project Scope

The recommended plan to deepen the navigation channel would not change the legislatively authorized scope of the Grays Harbor NIP. The channel segment that would be deepened to -38 feet MLLW under the recommended plan was authorized in 1986 to a depth of -38 feet MLLW, but was constructed and is implemented to a depth of -36 feet MLLW.

7.2 Changes to Project Purpose

The recommended plan would not change the project purpose of the authorized Grays Harbor NIP, which is a single-purpose navigation project.

7.3 Changes to Project Location

No changes to the project location are proposed. The recommended plan would deepen a segment of the existing navigation channel.

7.4 Design Changes

The recommended plan proposes channel deepening from the current implemented depth of -36 feet MLLW to a project depth of -38 feet MLLW, from South Reach (Station 463+00) to Cow Point (Station 1231+48). Implementation of the recommended plan also includes two feet of advanced maintenance dredging and two feet of allowable overdepth dredging, as defined in the Corps' navigation and dredging regulation policy (ER 1130-2-520). Design changes for the upland placement of material unsuitable for open-water placement are addressed in the Land Requirements section below (Section 9.2).

7.5 Changes to Project Cost, Benefits and Benefit-Cost Ratio

Table 21 below provides a comparison of the project first costs, average annual benefits, average annual costs, and benefit-cost ratios for the authorized project, the implemented project, and the recommended plan. The cost from the May 1985 Chief of Engineers Memo and the 1989 GDM were updated to August 2013 price levels using the current FY14 interest rate of 3.5%. No new authorization is required for the recommended plan as the depth in the recommended plan is already authorized in WRDA of 1986.

Benefits from the recommended plan were derived from the transportation cost savings and reduction in vessel delays associated with vessel movement in and out of the Port of Grays Harbor. When updated, the project cost, annual benefits and annual costs change. The ratios of said updates do not change and, as a result, the resulting BCRs remain the same regardless of the year of analysis.

Table 27: Comparison of Costs, Benefits and BCR of Authorized, Implemented, and Recommended Plans

Comparison of Authorized, Implemented, and Recommended Cost, Benefit, and BCR			
	May 1985 Chief of Engineers Memo Authorized -38 ft MLLW (October 1984 Price Levels, 8.375% Interest)	**Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project 1989 General Design Memorandum (-36 feet MLLW)** (October 1988 & 1991 Price Level, 8.625% Interest)	**Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project - 38** (Oct 2016 Price Levels, 3.5% Interest)
Project First Cost	$93,187,000	$61,300,000 [26]	$19,703,000
Average Annual Benefits	$15,443,000	$14,045,000	$4,470,000
Average Annual Cost	$11,513,000	$7,627,000	$1,331,000
Benefit to Cost	1.34	1.84	3.36[27]
	May 1985 Chief of Engineers Memo Authorized -38 MLLW (Oct 2016 Price Levels, 3.5% Interest)	**Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project 1989 General Design Memorandum** (Oct 2016 Price Levels, 3.5% Interest)	**Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project - 38** (Oct 2016 Price Levels, 3.5% Interest)
Project First Cost	$ 356,474,141	$ 190,147,476	$19,703,000
Average Annual Benefits	$ 59,075,087	$ 43,566,416	$4,470,000
Average Annual Cost	$ 44,041,409	$ 23,658,316	$1,331,000
Benefit to Cost	1.34	1.84	3.36

7.6 Changes to Cost Allocation

The recommended plan would not change the project purpose of the authorized Grays Harbor NIP, which is a single-purpose navigation project; therefore no changes to cost allocation are required.

7.7 Environmental Considerations in Recommended Changes

For the environmental analysis, the Corps analyzed project-related effects of the three alternatives. The environmental consequences analyses presented in the SEIS determined that the effects would be minor. Based on this analysis, no new mitigation measures are proposed specifically for the construction or maintenance of the recommended plan. Section 7.8 below

[26] This number was based on October 1988 price levels and was taken from the GDM as the average annual benefit and costs were derived using 1991 price levels also taken from the GDM.

[27] The benefit to cost of the current NIP is subject to change as the fully funded cost has yet to be certified and/or fully developed. However, the cost used for the analysis is not expected to change significantly enough to change the outcome of the NED recommended plan and is considered more than adequate for use in the initial analysis.

describes minimization and avoidance measures the Corps would implement for maintenance of the recommended plan. Considerations for upland placement of unsuitable material are addressed in the placement methods described Section 7.9.1.3 below.

7.8 Mitigation

The environmental consequences analysis conducted for this reevaluation (and documented in Chapter 4 of the SEIS, appendix C) shows the potential impact on resources of the recommended plan (i.e. the increment to dredge from -36 feet MLLW to -38 feet MLLW, and subsequent maintenance requirements) would be minor or negligible. Based on this analysis, no new mitigation measures are proposed specifically for the construction or maintenance of the recommended plan. The potential impact of dredging would be minor to the overall Dungeness crab population based on modeling that was conducted as part of the environmental analysis.

The Corps currently implements the following avoidance and minimization measures in the study area as part of regular maintenance dredging. These same avoidance and minimization measures would be implemented for maintenance of the recommended plan after construction.

- To avoid impacts on bull trout and out-migrating juvenile salmon, the Corps would not dredge the Cow Point Reach, Hoquiam Reach, and turning basins between February 15 and July 15.
- Use a clamshell dredge to reduce entrainment of fish and crabs in the inner harbor reaches.
- Dredge the outer harbor during periods to avoid peak crab abundance.
- Coordinate with local fishers to reduce the potential to damage crab pots.
- Coordinate the timing of dredging to minimize impacts on target species important to Native Americans.
- Place dredged material at Half Moon Bay Nearshore and Upland Placement sites to facilitate a stable beach profile.
- Implement ballast water exchange protocols to avoid and minimize the potential for dredging activities to facilitate the transfer of nonnative and potentially invasive organisms from different estuaries along the Pacific Coast.

The Corps also implements the following avoidance and minimization measures specifically to protect Grays Harbor as an important nursery for juvenile Dungeness crab.

- Schedule dredging to the extent practicable to avoid times and areas of high crab densities.
- Locate offshore placement sites to avoid high concentrations of crabs and interference with the crab fishery.
- Use clamshell dredges instead of hopper dredges wherever possible in order to avoid entraining crabs.
- Continue to implement the 1998 *Revised Crab Mitigation Strategy Agreement* (RCMSA) (SEIS, Appendix F).

7.9 Plan Construction

7.9.1 Dredging Process

Under the recommended plan, project construction (i.e. initial dredging from -36 ft MLLW to -38 ft MLLW), including scheduled work periods, types of equipment, and methods for dredged material placement, would be implemented as per current maintenance dredging, with the following exceptions: dredged material for nearshore nourishment would be pumped ashore via submerged/floating hydraulic pipeline moored in Half Moon Bay, a long-reach excavator would be used to remove some material from the Cow Point Reach, material determined to be unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal would be transferred and disposed upland, and dredged material would be placed in a shifted Point Chehalis aquatic site during construction of the deepened channel. Construction would occur concurrently with maintenance dredging in the year the project is implemented. The following section describes timing and methods for dredging during construction and maintenance of the recommended plan.

7.9.1.1 Timing

The dredging schedule varies by reach (Table 2-1). Dredging occurs between July 16 and February 14 in the Cow Point turning basin, Cow Point, and Hoquiam Reaches, and from 1 August to 14 February in the North Channel and Inner Crossover Reaches. Dredging is scheduled to allow removal of shoals resulting from high river flows in the spring and to avoid salmonid migrations in the spring and early summer. Typically, this dredging operation lasts approximately 4.5 months but could be up to an allowed window of 6 months, depending largely on weather conditions. For the outer harbor reaches, dredging occurs between April 1 and June 30 in South Reach, and the Outer Crossover is dredged 1 April to 31 May if a hopper dredge is utilized or 1 August to 14 February if a clamshell dredge is used. The duration of maintenance dredging can vary year to year, but is typically about 1 month. Dredging is scheduled for this time to coincide with favorable weather/wave conditions and to reduce impacts on the Dungeness crab fishery. Therefore, throughout the year dredging and placement of dredged materials are not occurring during two periods: February 15 through March 31 and July 1 through July 15.

7.9.1.2 Dredged Material Placement Method/Equipment - Nearshore and Upland Nourishment Sites

The Corps uses two methods to dredge the navigation channel. The first method is a mechanical or “clamshell” dredge (Photo 2-1), which is used to dredge the inner harbor reaches (including the entire Crossover reach, however, a hopper dredge may still be used in the Outer Crossover reach when necessary). Clamshell dredges include use of a tugboat and two barges, one to support the clamshell derrick and the other a bottom-dump barge for storage and transport of the dredged material to the placement site. Under baseline conditions (Alternative 1), one tugboat is used to position one clamshell dredge (on a barge) and one bottom-dump barge is used to transport material in order to complete the inner harbor dredging.

Use of a clamshell dredge has been well documented to greatly reduce both entrainment and mortality of crab and other aquatic species when compared to a hopper dredge (Armstrong et al 1987, Dumbauld et. al. 1988). Clamshell dredging is used exclusively in the Inner reaches

(inner Cross-Over Reach and inward) to reduce entrainment of fish, shrimp, and crabs in the inner harbor reaches. For the outer half of the Cross-over Reach clamshell use is emphasized and preferred, however this reach can be dredged with either hopper dredge or clamshell. The clamshell bucket proceeds from the outer edges of the navigation channel, across the channel to the other bank and then back, dredging progressively until the desired depth is achieved. This method of dredging, along with the mild angle of the channel's side slopes (e.g., 1V:5H in South Reach, steepening to 1V:3H beginning at the North Channel), leaves the channel width substantially unchanged and minimizes the potential for sloughing/avalanching of sediment from the channel's side slopes after dredging is completed.

The other method uses a hydraulic hopper dredge (Photo 2-2) for the reaches in the outer harbor. The hopper dredge is able to dredge material, store it onboard, transport it to a placement area, and deposit it. Two government hopper dredges "*Essaysons*" and "*Yaquina*" have annual assignments in Grays Harbor to perform outer harbor maintenance dredging. Hopper dredges are better suited for use in the more exposed outer harbor reaches, because clamshell dredges must be rafted together with a scow barge, which can be hazardous in choppy seas. Sediments removed from the outer harbor reaches are primarily sands of marine origin that are extracted using a hopper dredge. These heavy particles settle out of suspension rapidly and generally do not disperse to adjacent areas (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2011). Use of a hopper dredge also reduces suspension of these heavier sediments.

The hydraulic hopper dredge typically cuts from the toe of the sideslope outward, maximizing the bank height to achieve greater production rates. The mild angle of the channel's side slopes minimizes the potential for sloughing/avalanching of sediment from the side slopes after dredging is completed.

The Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site will be recharged with dredged material from a hopper dredge with hydraulic pump-ashore capability. The hopper will dredge sand from the navigation channel and transit to a mooring dolphin within Half Moon Bay and hydraulically pump dredged material via a floating or submerged pipeline into the stockpile site. The sandy dredged material would quickly dewater and a bulldozer would grade the sand uniformly over the placement area. The slurry of water and sand would temporarily pond in the placement site as the dredged sediments settle out of suspension, and decant water would be conveyed via effluent pipe into Grays Harbor at the exposed rock revetment near Groin A. A water quality monitoring plan would be implemented in accordance with an approved Water Quality Certification issued by Ecology. Material placed above MHHW in the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is expected to subsequently erode through natural processes, with portions of the material entering the intertidal zone and thus the littoral system.

7.9.1.3 Dredged Material Placement Method/Equipment – Upland Placement During Construction for Material Unsuitable for Open-Water

Material dredged during construction that is unsuitable for open-water placement would be clamshell dredged for removal. Implementation of best management practices – such as control of the speed of the dredging bucket during descent and ascent – and compliance with the water quality monitoring plan will ensure that turbidity is reduced to the maximum extent possible during dredging. Dredged material would be placed in a fully fenced haul barge where it will be dewatered through filtered scuppers to control turbidity in water returning to Grays Harbor.

Contaminants are generally associated with the sediment itself and with suspended sediment particles in the water column. By minimizing the loss of suspended particles during dewatering, loss of any chemical contaminants associated with the sediment will also be minimized. The dredged material would be taken by barge to be offloaded at nearby Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 3 (a distance of less than 4 miles) and trucked the short distance to the former Hoquiam city wastewater treatment lagoon for offload (less than half-a-mile), and dumped from the transport trucks directly into the offload site. The dewatered dredged material would be mechanically transferred from the barge to trucks using an excavator or front load excavator. The lagoon is a former wastewater treatment pond formerly utilized by the city of Hoquiam for treatment of municipal sewage. The site is bermed with containment dikes so minimal earthwork would be required (Figure 15). Spill plates or a similar best management practice would be used during offloading to minimize spillage of sediment back into the harbor or onto the ground at the offloading facility. Any spillage that occurs would be cleaned up daily. Any dewatering discharge would be filtered prior to its reentry into Grays Harbor.

DMMU subunit 32a would be physically surveyed after construction, and a determination would be made at that time whether an additional round of testing is required of that subunit prior to any subsequent maintenance dredging episode in that subunit's footprint.

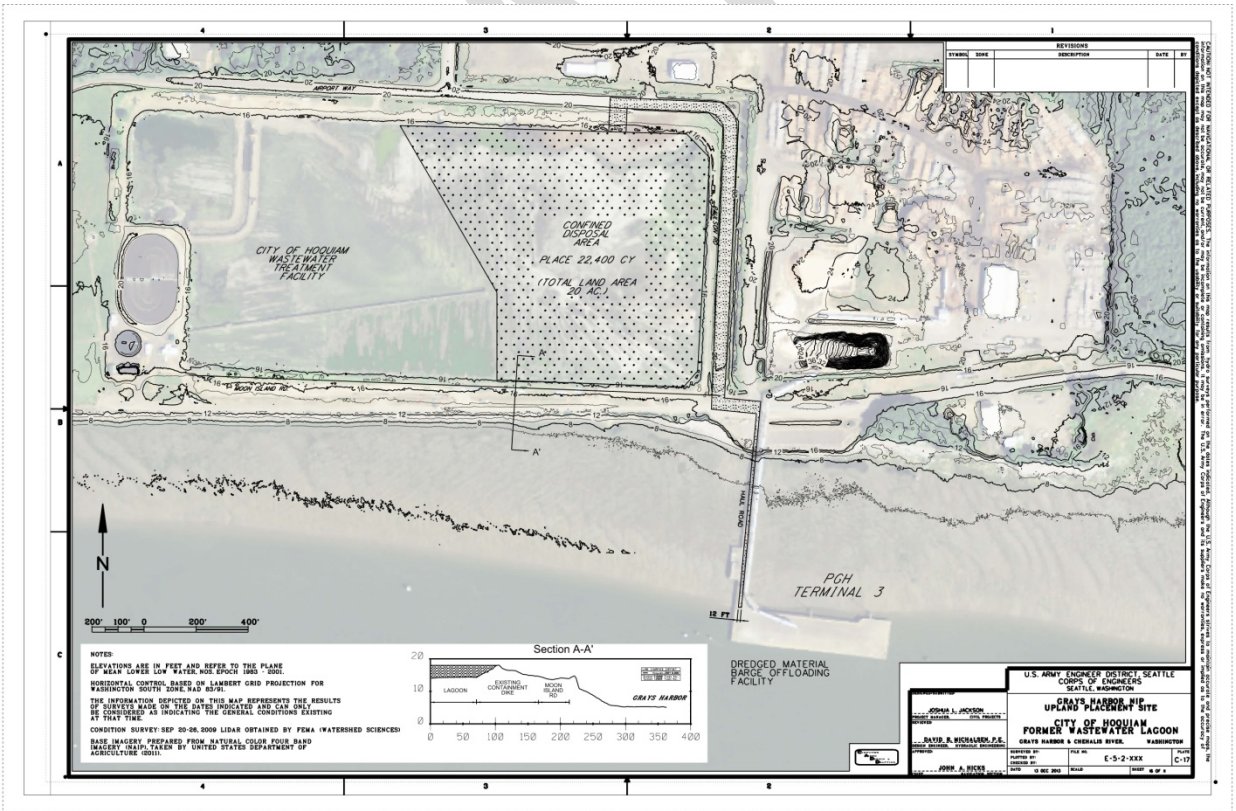

Figure 15: City of Hoquiam Wastewater Treatment Lagoon, Located Near Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 3

7.10 Placement Sites

Placement of the material dredged from the navigation channel occurs only at designated placement sites. Figure 16 illustrates the location of all dredged material placement sites. Two Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public, multi-user, unconfined open-water dredged material placement sites are located directly adjacent to the navigation channel: the South Jetty and the Point Chehalis placement sites. Both sites are located on state-owned aquatic lands and managed by Washington DNR. In addition, material dredged from the sandy outer harbor reaches of the channel is periodically used for both direct upland placement at the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site (when feasible) and nearshore nourishment at the Half Moon Bay beneficial use site and nearshore nourishment at the South Beach beneficial use site. Material placed above MHHW in the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site is expected to subsequently erode through natural processes, with portions of the material entering the intertidal zone and thus the littoral system. The Point Chehalis site overlaps the navigation channel however, the dispersive nature of this site effectively transports material out of the site boundaries and has historically provided sufficient capacity for annual O&M dredged material. The Southwest (also known as 3.9 mile) site is not typically used.

Determination of sites: The determination of which placement site is used during the course of maintenance dredging is based on a variety of factors. For both the inner and outer harbor reaches, placement is determined based on the source of the dredged material, the depth of each aquatic placement site, the amount of material already present at the placement sites, and weather/wave conditions at the time of placement. For the inner harbor reaches, material is typically deposited at the South Jetty site, unless there are adverse weather/wave conditions or the South Jetty site is full, in which case placement typically occurs at the Point Chehalis open water placement site. For the outer harbor reaches, some of the dredged materials may be deposited at three beneficial use sites: Half Moon Bay dredged material placement site (offshore of Half Moon Bay), Half Moon Bay upland direct beach nourishment site, and South Beach nearshore nourishment site. Remaining material is typically placed in the South Jetty or Point Chehalis sites. Factors that determine which placement sites are used for the outer harbor reaches include the presence of commercial crab pots in a placement site and/or access lane (for South Beach), the amount of material present (for Half Moon Bay), as surveyed annually, and results of pre-disposal Dungeness crab surveys (for both Half Moon Bay and South Beach).

NWS is pursuing a one-time shift of the Point Chehalis site boundary to provide adequate capacity for the large volume of material that would be dredged for construction of the recommended plan - some of which is anticipated to be cohesive material. The basis for pursuing this shift is a 2012 analysis by the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center that recommended shifting the Point Chehalis placement site 1,000 feet to the north-northwest to take advantage of deeper water and more dispersive hydrodynamics (Figure 16).

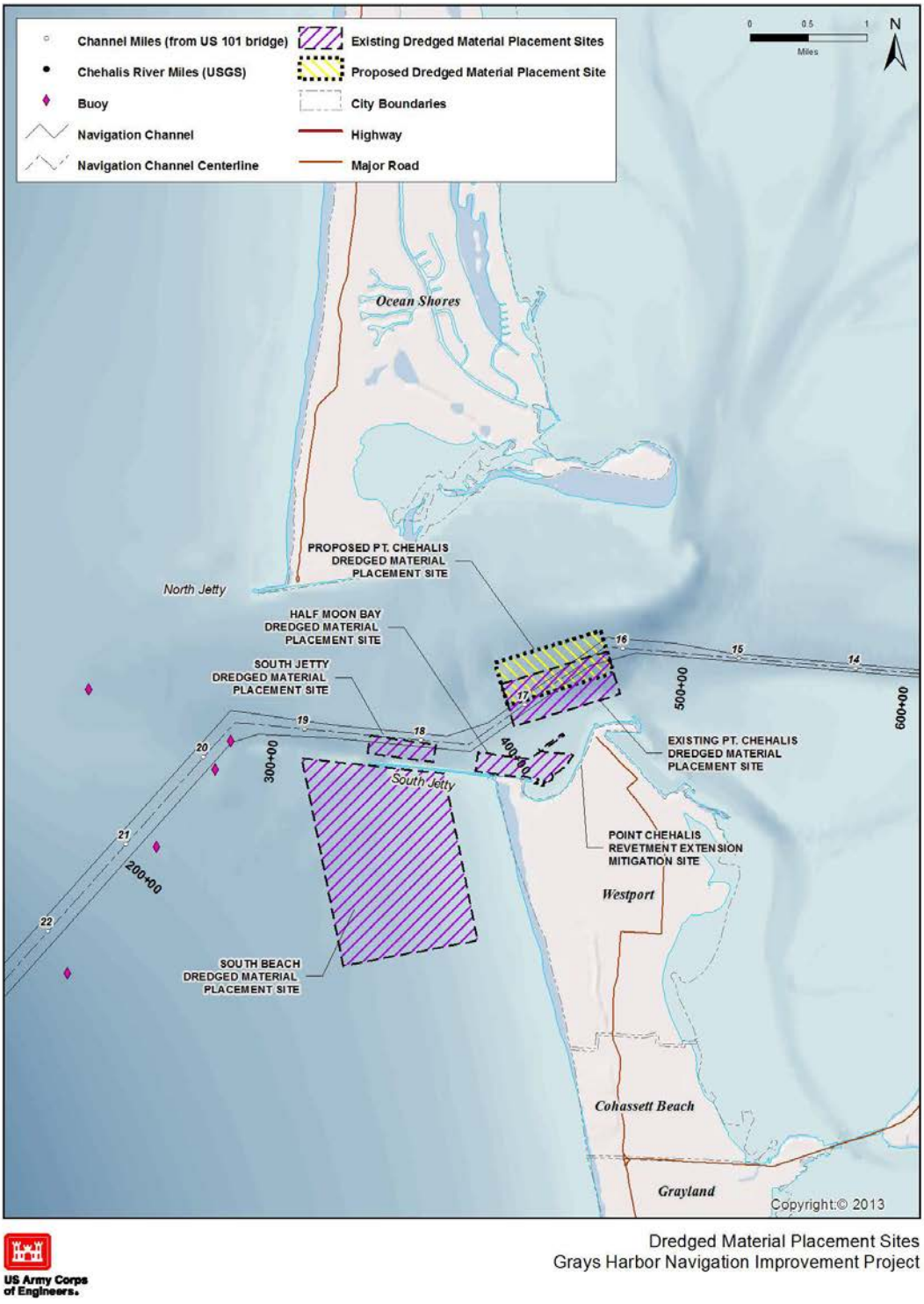

Figure 16: Open-Water Placement Sites and Point Chehalis Placement Site Shift

7.11 Cost Estimate

The fully funded current cost estimate to construct the recommended plan is $19.771 million. The additional volume of material that would be dredged during subsequent operation and maintenance of the recommended plan (107,000 cy) would be an incremental increase above the current O&M volume. The O&M cost of the increment from -36 feet MLLW to -38 feet MLLW would be approximately $774,000 annually.

Guidance for preparation was obtained from ER 1110-2-1150 Engineering and Design (E&D) for Civil Works Projects, ER 1110-1-1300 E&D Cost Engineering Policy and General Requirements, ER 1110-2-1302 Civil Works Cost Engineering, and ETL 1110-2-573 E&D Construction Cost Estimating Guide for Civil Works. The cost estimates were prepared using Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System MII version 4, build 4. Supporting cost libraries or databases were MII 2012-b English Cost Book, 2011 Region VIII Equipment library (EP 1110-1-8) and the 2013 Davis-Bacon Wage Rates for heavy construction in Grays Harbor County, Washington.

The basis of the cost estimate is the conceptual design drawings prepared by the Project Delivery Team (PDT). Dredging quantities were provided by the Costal Engineering Section. Additional information has been developed by the PDT via emails, phone calls, and in-person discussions. The MII cost estimate carefully documents the basis of information used in development of costs, down to the lowest reasonable level.

The major features of work include two types of dredging: clamshell dredging and hopper dredging. All clamshell dredging costs were developed using the most current version of the Corps of Engineers Dredge Estimating Program (CEDEP). All hopper dredging costs were developed using the FY14 daily rate and production rates of the Government Hopper Dredge Yaquina. The PDT assumed that the hopper dredging would be done via government vessel and the Yaquina is the most conservative of the options available.

Risk and uncertainties are captured in the Cost and Schedule Risk Analysis (CSRA). PDT input was used to capture the likelihood and impact for each risk element. The CSRA assigns a contingency to all features of work in the cost estimate. The cost estimate and its corresponding contingency were then placed into the Total Project Cost Summary and the proper escalation factors were applied. See Appendix E for the Total Project Cost Summary.

7.12 Section 902 Cost Limitation

A 902 calculation was performed on the Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project in January 2014 to verify current and projected costs of the authorized project will not exceed the maximum allowable cost by Section 902. The project was authorized in WRDA 1986 for $95.7 million at an authorized depth of -38 MLLW. To date, the project has only been maintained to -36 MLLW and this Limited Reevaluation Report examined the economic justification in dredging

to the authorized depth. A total of $29.7 million was allocated through fiscal year (FY) 2013, with $26.2 million allocated to construction and $3.5 million allocated to real estate. Cost estimates for the additional 2 feet of dredging to the authorized depth is estimated at $18.4 million, bringing the current cost estimate of the authorized project to $47.6 million. The current cost estimate inflated through construction is $49.3 million.

The 902 calculation utilized the certified Corps spreadsheet tool to generate Tables G-1 to G-4 in Appendix G of the Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100). Inputs to the model included the authorized cost, date of authorization, first year of expenditure, current cost estimates (construction and real estate), and the current fully funded cost estimate. Two sets of indices are used in the 902 calculation: 1) Civil Works Construction Cost Index System for Navigation Ports and Harbors (EM 1110-2-1304, updated 30 September 2013); and 2) the Unadjusted Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers – US City Average) for real estate costs. Allocated costs for construction and real estate were input by fiscal year as shown in Table 28.

Table 28 is Table G-4 generated using the 902 tool. The authorized cost at current price levels is $158 million, or $163 million inflated through construction. Cost estimates are not allowed to exceed more than 20 percent of the authorized cost limit. Currently the 902 limit for this project is estimated at $182,359,000 (see Line 4 of Table G-4). The current project cost estimate inflated through construction is $49,269,000 (see Line 1 of Table G-4), which is well below the computed 902 limit of the project. At this time, the project has low risk of approaching or exceeding the 902 limit.

Table 28: Maximum Cost of Grays Harbor NIP, Including Inflation, Through Construction

Table G-4 (ER 1105-2-100 Appendix G)
Maximum Cost Including Inflation Through Construction

FY 12		**Thousands Dollars (000's)**
Line 1		
a.	Current Project estimate at current price levels:	$47,595
b.	Current project estimate, inflated through construction:	$49,269
c.	Ratio: Line 1b / line 1a	1.0352
d.	Authorized cost at current price levels:	$157,673
	(Column (h) plus (i) from table G-3)	
e.	Authorized cost, inflated through construction:	$163,219
	(Line c x Line d)	
Line 2	Cost of modifications required by law:	$0
Line 3	20 percent of authorized cost:	$19,140
	.20 x (table G-3, columns (f) + (g)	
Line 4	Maximum cost limited by section 902:	$182,359
	Line 1e + line 2 + line 3	

8 Plan Implementation Requirements

This chapter defines implementation responsibilities necessary to ensure the Recommended Plan's goal and objective are achieved.

8.1 Cost Sharing

Table 29 below shows general cost share guidance applicable to the recommended plan, per ER 1105-2-100:

Table 29: General Cost Share Guidance Applicable to Recommended Plan

9 Local Sponsor Share of Construction	
Project Depth	20 to 45 feet
General Navigation Feature[28]	25/10%[29]
Mitigation	25/10%*
Aids to Navigation	0%
Service Facilities	100%
LERRD & Associated Cost[30]	100%

Table 30 shows the federal and non-federal project first costs of the recommended project, at current price levels.

Table 30: Cost Share Summary

Cost Summary[1]						
		Project Cost	**Contingency**	**Total Project Cost**	**Federal Share**	**Non-Fed Share**
WBS No.	General Navigation Features (GNF)	20-45 ft			75%	25%
9	Channels & Canals	**$14,128,000**	**$3,165,000**	**$17,293,000**	**$12,970,000**	**$4,323,000**
30	Planning, Engineering & Design	**$700,000**	**$49,000**	**$749,000**	**$562,000**	**$187,000**
31	Construction Management	**$220,000**	**$15,000**	**$235,000**	**$176,000**	**$59,000**
	Subtotal Construction of General Navigation Features	**$14,128,000**		**$18,277,000**	**$13,708,000**	**$4,569,000**
1	Lands and Damages (non-Federal)	**$98,000**	**$15,000**	**$113,000**	**$0**	**$1,000**
	Total Project First Costs	**$14,226,000**		**$18,390,000**	**$13,708,000**	**$4,570,000**
	Credit for Non-Federal LERR[(2)]				**$1,000**	**-$1,000**
	10% GNF Non-Federal[(3)]				**-$1,827,700**	**$1,827,700**
	Total Cost Allocation	**$13,357,000**	**$2,917,000**	**$17,505,000**	**$11,378,600**	**$6,127,400**

[28] GNF costs for this project include: mobilization/demobilization, all dredging costs, all disposal area construction costs

[29] *The second 10% is the amount of total cost of general navigation features and mitigation that the local sponsor must pay over a period not to exceed 30 years. This amount may be offset by the value of LERRD.

[30] Associated costs are dredging of port berthing area; port infrastructure construction; lands, easements, right of ways, relocations, and acquisition of disposal areas; all utility relocations; costs for features requested by the port in excess of NED.

1 - Cost is based on Project First Cost (constant dollar basis) on Total Project Cost Summary sheet, which includes 0.9% escalation for WBS number 9 and 1, and 2.1% escalation for WBS numbers 30 and 31 to program year 2015 at effective price level 1 Oct 14.

2 - LERR adjustment credit not to exceed 10% of General Navigation Features (GNF)

3 - Project cost sharing also includes the sponsor paying additional 10% cash contribution of the total project cost over a period of 30 years. The 10% cash contribution may be offset by a credit for LERRD which are a non-Federal responsibility.

9.1 Financial Analysis of Non-Federal Sponsor's Financial Capabilities

A financial analysis is required for any plan being considered for USACE implementation that involves non-Federal cost sharing. The purpose of the financial analysis is to ensure that the non-Federal sponsor understands the financial commitment involved and has reasonable plans for meeting that commitment. The financial analysis includes the non-Federal sponsor's statement of financial capability, the non-Federal sponsor's financing plan, and the assessment of the sponsor's financial capability. A self-certification of financial capability signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the non-Federal Sponsor is required and will be provided with submittal of the revised draft LRR and SEIS to NWD for approval.

9.2 Land Requirements

Upland Placement of Unsuitable and Suitable Material During Construction. As noted above, approximately 22,400 cubic yards of sediment that will be dredged during construction of the recommended plan from the Cow Point 32a subunit are unsuitable for open-water disposal and would require fee interest in an appropriate upland disposal site. The PDT and Port have identified the City of Hoquiam's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) as the upland site within the immediate vicinity of the Port for the unsuitable dredging material disposal during construction. Unsuitable material resulting from subsequent maintenance dredging is not anticipated at this time[31]. For suitable material resulting from construction and subsequent maintenance dredging and placed upland for mitigation purposes, fee interest at the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site located on the eastern shoreline of Half Moon Bay in Westport, WA will be required. Current assumptions of land requirements include:

- Initial construction by the Corps' contractor would utilize the Federal Navigational Servitude for dredging and open-water placement activities within the harbor. The Federal Navigational Servitude is available throughout Grays Harbor up to the MHHW tidal elevation.
- Fee interests at the City of Hoquiam's wastewater treatment plant lagoon (WWTP) will be required for upland disposal for unsuitable materials, as well as a temporary work area

[31] As noted earlier in this document, DMMU subunit 32a would be physically surveyed after construction, and a determination would be made at that time whether an additional round of testing is required of that sub-unit prior to any subsequent maintenance dredging episode in that sub-unit's footprint. If it is determined that there is additional unsuitable material that must be dredged and disposed during the subsequent maintenance dredging episodes, the material will be placed at the WWTP. If the WWTP is no longer available, then a similar appropriate upland site will be identified at that time.

(TWA) easement for the NFS' dock that would be used as a barge off-loading facility for dredged materials during the initial construction effort.

- The road separating the Port's dock from the upland City of Hoquiam's WWTP disposal site, Moon Island Road/Airport Way, is a public road right-of-way; therefore, trucks transporting dredged materials from the barge off-loading facility to the disposal site would not require any additional easements, or permits to drive on/across the public road between the dock/off-loading facility and the WWTP disposal site.

Maintenance Dredging: Maintenance dredging for the proposed project would require use of an open-water disposal site. As an option for mitigation activities in accordance with the October 1998 *Point Chehalis Revetment Extension Project Inter-Agency Mitigation Agreement*, fee interests at the Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site located on the eastern shoreline of Half Moon Bay would also be required as an option for disposal of suitable materials for subsequent O&M maintenance dredging activities by the Corps.

Cost: Table 31 identifies the preliminary cost for lands and is based on assessed market values for each affected parcel. It is assumed that upon completion of the TWA activities, the dock will be left in as good a condition as when the TWA activities started, resulting in a $0 land value for the TWA easement.

Table 31: Baseline Cost Estimate for Real Estate

Estate	Acres	Estimated Land Cost	NFS LERRD Admin	Fed LERRD review & assistance	NFS LERRD Total
Fee for construction and perpetual O&M disposal (Point Chehalis Revetment Extension mitigation site)	5.92	$31,080*	$5,000	$10,000	$131,745
Fee for construction disposal (WWTP)	3.38	$82,620			
Perpetual Road Easement (Half Moon Bay)	.58	$3,045			
Temporary Work Area (Port dock for offloading– 1yr term)	1.3	$0			
Subtotals		$116,745	$5,000	$10,000	$131,745

15% contingency		$17,512	$750	$1,500	$19,762
Project Totals	11.18	$134,257	$5,750	$11,500	$151,507
Totals (round-up to nearest $1,000)	11.18	$135,000	$5,800	$12,000	$152,000

9.3 Changes in Local Cooperation Requirements

By a Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA) dated 16 February 1990, the Government and the non-federal sponsor (the Port) agreed to cooperate in the modification of the Grays Harbor navigation channel to implement the Grays Harbor NIP, based on the project description in the 1989 GDM. The proposed work in the recommended plan in this LRR requires execution of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) because the recommended plan would involve changes to the navigation channel depth, placement (during construction) of material unsuitable for open-water placement, and changes to the project cost. Cost sharing for construction would be 65% percent federal and 35% percent non-federal with 10% percent of which is in cash contribution that may be offset by the value of LERRD. The Corps would construct and maintain the recommended plan.

10 Public Involvement

The PDT has conducted several public involvement activities since initiating this study in 2011, to inform the public and seek input and feedback from interested parties. Table 32 below summarizes these activities.

Table 32: Grays Harbor NIP, Feasibility Study Public Involvement Activities

Date	Action
5 Dec 2012	The Corps and Port conducted a public information meeting on 5 December 2012 at the Port offices to share with the public the current study status, scope and process at that time. No written comments submitted; only a few clarifying questions asked during meeting.
27 Sep 2012, Marysville 20 Nov 2012, NWS 9 Jul 2012, Aberdeen 28 Feb 2013, NWS 25 April 2013, NWS	Crab Working Group meetings to discuss potential impacts of further deepening navigation channel and potential mitigation strategies if potential impacts require mitigation. Primary participants include: Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Quinault Indian Nation, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental protection Agency, Port of Grays Harbor.
7 Jul 2011, NWS 11 Jul 2013, NWS	Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) meetings. DMMP is an interagency approach to the management of dredged material in the state of Washington. Two federal and two state agencies, all with roles in the oversight of dredging and disposal, cooperate to streamline dredged material evaluation and regulation. Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acts as the lead agency. Cooperating agencies are Region 10 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington Department of Natural Resources. These meetings focused on the sediment suitability and characterization analyses conducted for this study.
TBD, Feb 2014	The Corps anticipates conducting a public information meeting in early 2014 during the public comment period on the draft SEIS, to provide opportunity for public comment on the draft LRR and draft SEIS.

11 Conclusions

The economic analysis summarized in this LRR and documented in Appendix A shows there is economic justification for deepening the navigation channel. The recommended plan, based on the economic and environmental analyses conducted for this reevaluation, is Alternative 3: Deepen Channel to -38 feet MLLW. Alternative 3 maximizes net benefits (benefits less cost) and is the plan that maximizes net benefits for National Economic Development (NED). The NED Plan is the federal recommended plan.

The depth in the recommended plan is the legislatively authorized project depth and no additional congressional authorization would be required to implement the recommended plan[32].

The recommended plan to dredge the channel to -38 feet MLLW would reduce transportation costs and allow for more efficient navigation in Grays Harbor by alleviating tidal delays and light loading of the vessel fleet, which is currently caused by insufficient channel depths at all tidal stages.

The fully funded current cost estimate to construct the recommended plan is $19.771 million. The O&M cost of the increment from -36 feet MLLW to -38 feet MLLW would be approximately $774,000 annually. Average annual benefits would be $4,470,000, average annual costs of $1,331,000, NED benefits of $3,139,000, and a BCR of 3.36.

The Government and non-federal sponsor (Port of Grays Harbor) would sign a Project Partnership Agreement.

[32] The recommended plan is for a project depth that Congress authorized in 1986, but was not implemented, based on post-authorization analyses conducted in 1989).

12 Recommendation

It is recommended that the existing Grays Harbor, Washington, Navigation Improvement Project (NIP), authorized by WRDA 1986 and as implemented pursuant to the 1989 GDM, be modified generally as described in this report as the Recommended Plan. As the District Engineer, I recommend this plan with such modifications thereof as in the discretion of the Commander, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, may be advisable.

Date: _____ _____

BRUCE A. ESTOK
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commander and District Engineer

"The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They do not reflect program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of a national Civil Works construction program or the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the sponsor, the states, interested Federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any modifications and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further."

13 References

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