

Memorandum for Record

June 27, 2023

Subject: Tier 1 Antidegradation Determination for Cape George Marina (NWS-2023-379), Discovery Bay, Jefferson County, Washington**Introduction**

This memorandum documents the Tier 1 determination and antidegradation evaluation conducted by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Project Description

Cape George Colony Club is a private residential community and marina located on Discovery Bay, west of Port Townsend (Figure 1). The entrance channel requires annual dredging to provide adequate depth for access to the marina. The source of material accumulating in the entrance channel is erosion from feeder bluffs to the north of the marina. The eroded material, consisting primarily of sand and cobble, is transported toward the marina by north-south littoral drift. The accumulated material is dredged with a land-operated track-mounted backhoe or front-end loader at low tide and placed as beach nourishment along the seawall to the south of the entrance channel. Past dredging events have been restricted to the entrance channel and have consisted of 1,000 cubic yards or less. The DMMP agencies have found this material to be suitable for in-water placement under the Clean Water Act exclusionary criteria.

Because of the small dredge volume, frequent maintenance dredging, and previous characterization of the site, this project qualifies for consideration under the small project “No Test” scenario.

Tier 1 Evaluation

Available data were obtained and reviewed by the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) to evaluate the project location’s sediment chemical quality and understand whether sources of contamination could have historically impacted or currently be impacting the project site. The following resources were reviewed to conduct this evaluation:

1. **Previous studies, suitability determinations, or antidegradation assessments conducted by DMMO or other agencies.** The DMMP agencies have found this material to be suitable for beneficial use under the Clean Water Act exclusionary criteria.
2. **Ecology’s Environmental Information Management (EIM) Database.** A search was conducted to look at chemical or biological data within the vicinity of the project location. There were 27 locations within 0.5 miles of the site, but no relevant sediment data were available.
3. **Ecology’s “What’s in My Neighborhood” Site Cleanup Database.** A search was conducted to look at historical and active cleanup sites near the waterway and within 1.0 mile of the project location. A cleanup action was completed at an upland Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) that resulted in a No Further Action (NFA) determination in 2009. There are no aquatic cleanup sites identified near the Cape George Marina. (Figure 1).
4. **Ecology’s Spill Map.** A review of Ecology’s online spills database on March 2, 2023, shows one spill occurred in the marina vicinity on June 21, 2015 (Figure 2). One gallon of lube oil/motor oil was reportedly spilled due to human error during maintenance/testing activities. The impact was defined as “potential pollution only – no release.”

Suitability Determination.

Based on this updated evaluation, this project is excluded from further testing for the recency period of ten years, unless there is a changed condition to the project or sediment as described. This exclusion covers all dredging events at the entrance channel up to the permitted volume. Since all dredged material will be going to a beach replenishment site, a suitability determination for open-water disposal is not needed for this project.

The DMMP must be contacted if:

- there is an increase in annual volume to exceed 1000 cy
- there is a change in the disposal or placement of dredged material
- areas other than the entrance channel are to be excavated (This memorandum does not address areas within the basin of the marina.)

Antidegradation Determination. Based on the Tier 1 evaluation, the potential for onsite contamination is low. The onsite materials consist primarily of sand/gravel/cobble. Due to the nature of the material, the location of the project removed from most sources, the direction of littoral drift that deposited these sediments, and the small volume of material proposed for removal to a beach replenishment site, the DMMP agencies have determined that no chemical testing of the material is required for this project. The sediment exposed by dredging will likely meet the State of Washington antidegradation standard.

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

The DMMP does not make specific beneficial use determinations. However, these data are available for the assessment of project-specific beneficial use by the project proponent, permitting agencies, local health jurisdictions and/or the owner of a receiving property.

References

DMMP 2021. *Dredged Material Evaluation and Disposal Procedures (User Manual)*. Dredged Material Management Program, updated July 2021.

Ecology's EIM Database Search: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/eim/search/default.aspx>

Ecology's What's in My Neighborhood Search: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/w>

Ecology's Spill Incidents Database: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Spill-preparedness-response/Responding-to-spill-incidents/Spill-incidents>

Figures

Figure 1: What's in My Neighborhood Cleanup Sites

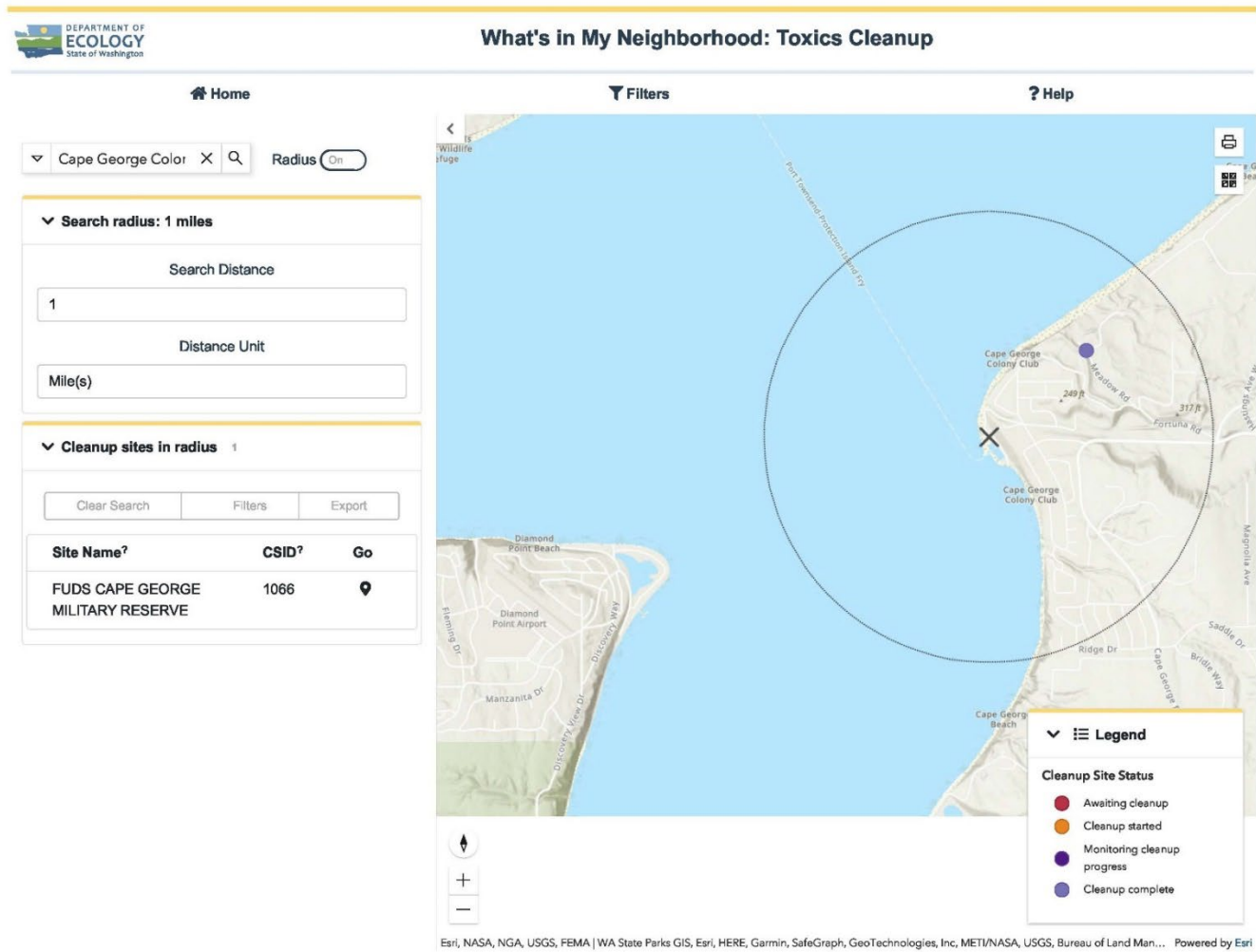
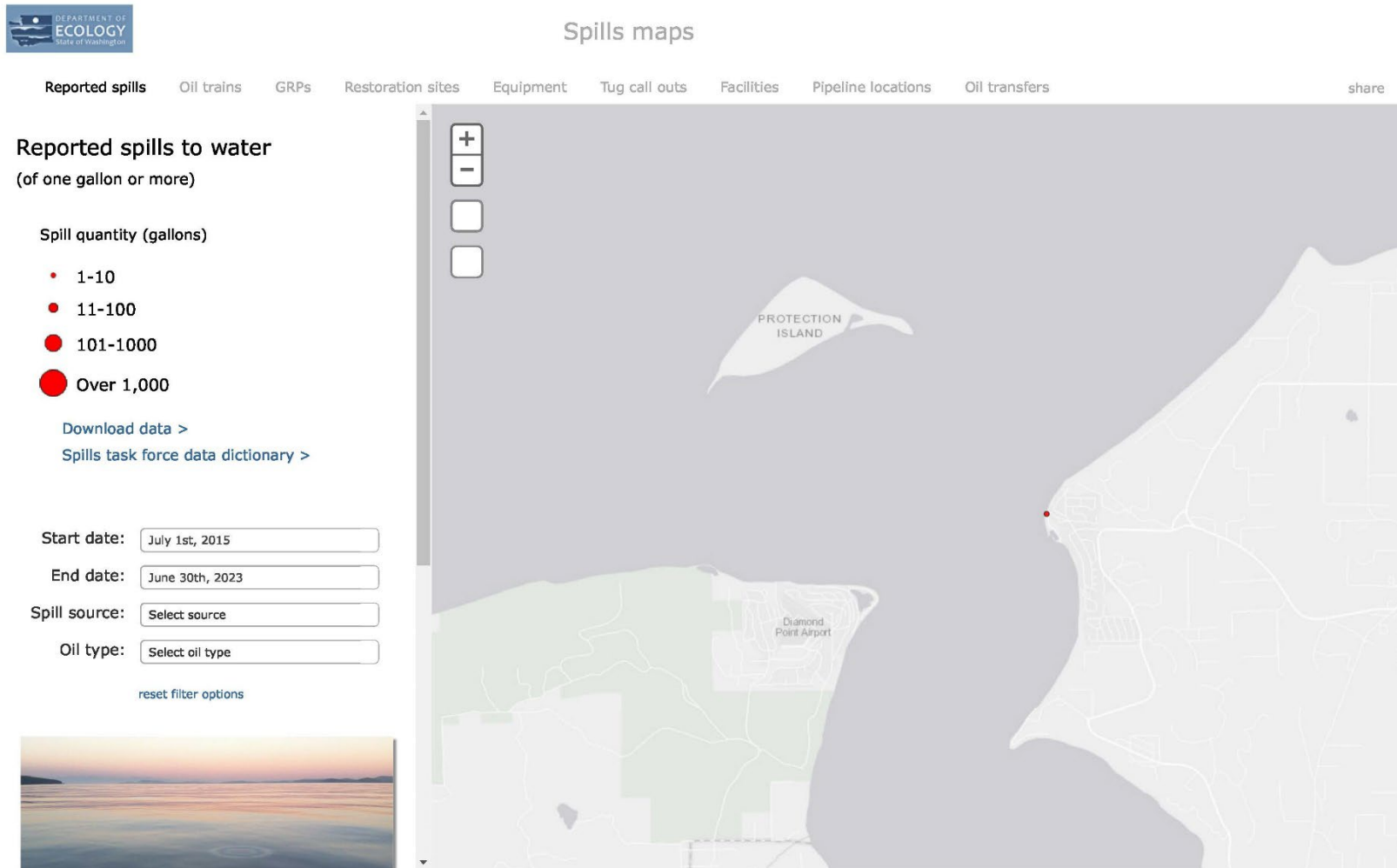


Figure 2. Ecology's Spills Database



Agency Signatures

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

Date Brian Hester – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

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

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

Date Shannon Soto – Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:

- DMMP agencies
- Pamela Sanguinetti, USACE Regulatory Project Manager
- DMMO File