

DREDGE
6.02AP



About the GLDT

- Home
- The Scoop
- Get Involved
- Publications
- Links
- About GLDT
- Site Index

- Beneficial Use
- Case Studies
- Contaminated Sediments
- Dredging Around the Great Lakes
- Dredged Material Management
- Navigation Depths & Lake Levels
- Research & Development / Technologies
- Soil Erosion & Sedimentation

- [GLDT Members](#)
- [GLDT Charter](#)
- [GLDT Signatories](#)
- [Local Advocates](#)
- [Public Outreach Fact Sheet](#)

Introduction

The Great Lakes Dredging Team is a partnership of federal and state agencies created to assure that the dredging of U.S. harbors and channels throughout the Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and tributaries is conducted in a timely and cost effective manner while meeting environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement goals.

The Great Lakes, as the largest system of freshwater in the world, are a valuable and unique resource. The use of these waters for recreational and commercial navigation requires the continued maintenance of harbors, ports, marinas and shipping channels throughout the Great Lakes. Dredging is required to construct navigation channels and to maintain depths for safe navigation at existing ports and harbors. Dredging is also required to construct and maintain other important facilities, such as water supply intakes, bridges and utility crossings and for the remediation of contaminated sediments.

A Partnership in the Making

Dredging and the management of dredged material have been the focus of considerable research, evaluation, and coordination among State and Federal agencies responsible for these activities on the Great Lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (predecessor of the Environmental Protection Agency) collaborated in a 2-year study and pilot-program on Great Lakes dredging and disposal practices in the late 1960's. In 1970, Congress authorized a program for the confined disposal of contaminated dredged material from Great Lakes harbors. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1987 Protocol) identified restrictions to dredging activities as an impairment to the beneficial use of the Great Lakes. States are developing and implementing Remedial Action Plans at designated Areas of

Concern to address the sources of sediment contamination and remediate in-place contaminants.

Several interagency and international committees and working groups have been formed by the USEPA, USACE, Great Lakes Commission and International Joint Commission to work with States to coordinate dredging and dredged material management activities on the Great Lakes, resolve technical and policy issues, and develop testing and interpretation guidance.

A Regional Dredging Team Is Formed

In 1993, the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration initiated the Interagency Working Group on the Dredging Process to evaluate problems and delays encountered with dredging the Nation's ports. The Working Group held public hearings at several locations, including Chicago, to obtain input and released a report of its findings in December 1994. One of eighteen recommendations was that National and Regional Dredging Issue Teams be established to "provide a mechanism for timely resolution of conflicts by involving all agencies, and maximizing interagency coordination." The Great Lakes Dredging Team was formed in 1996 in response to that recommendation.

Each State can designate two representatives on the Dredging Team to assure that natural resource and commerce interests are represented. The Team may also expand its membership, upon consensus, to other agencies, organizations or groups.

The Great Lakes Dredging Team is co-chaired by one Federal and one State representative. These co-chairs are selected by the Federal Team members and the State Team members respectively, on a biennial basis. The State co-chair also leads the State Caucus which has as its membership the Great Lakes States and the Great Lakes Commission. The full Dredging Team meets twice a year; issue specific task or work groups can meet at other times.

Dredging Team Objectives

The Great Lakes Dredging Team has adopted a charter and work plan which are built around four main objectives:

- Contribute to the national goal of assuring that the dredging of U.S. harbors and channels is conducted in a timely and cost effective manner while meeting environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement goals.
- Facilitate the resolution of dredging issues common to the Great Lakes region among the participating Local, State, Tribal

and Federal agencies.

- Promote implementation of the relevant portions of the recommendations of the interagency report on the dredging process.
- Facilitate effective communications and decision-making among federal and state agencies represented on the Dredging Team and between the Team and key stakeholders in the dredging process.

With respect to legislative matters, a permanent committee of the Dredging Team has been established to address relevant issues. Chaired by the Great Lakes Commission, it consists of all non-Federal Dredging Team members, and can act independently of the Dredging Team, if needed.

Last Modified: November 04, 2002
Maintained by Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org
Copyright © 1998-2002



Dredged Material Management

[Home](#)
 [The Scoop](#)
 [Get Involved](#)
 [Publications](#)
 [Links](#)
[About GLDT](#)
 [Site Index](#)

[Beneficial Use](#)

[Case Studies](#)

[Contaminated Sediments](#)

[Dredging Around the Great Lakes](#)

[Dredged Material Management](#)

[Navigation Depths & Lake Levels](#)

[Research & Development / Technologies](#)

[Soil Erosion & Sedimentation](#)

- [General Information](#)
- [Confined Disposal Facilities](#)
- [Beneficial Use of Dredged Material](#)
- [Environmental Windows](#)

General Information

[National Coastal Program Dredging Policies: An Analysis of State, Territory, and Commonwealth Policies Related To Dredging and Dredged Material Management. \(1.2 MB pdf\)](#) April 2000. This document summarizes dredging policies in all states that participate in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. Illinois and Indiana are not covered in this document.

[Decision Making Process for Dredged Material Management \(pdf\)](#) This document has been developed by the Great Lakes Dredging Team in order to describe the decision making process used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the appropriate method(s) for management of dredged material from federal navigation projects, to describe the key environmental laws and regulations involved in this process, and to describe the responsibilities of other federal and state resource agencies and local proponents in this decision making process. [A flow chart \(pdf\)](#) provides a visual overview of the decisionmaking process for dredged material management, including the agencies and legislative authorities involved.

[Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing & Evaluation Manual](#) Developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers in order to forecast potential impacts of contaminants from dredged material proposed for discharge to the Great Lakes, connecting channels and tributaries. This manual is intended to be used as a decision making tool for dredge and fill permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, or States or Tribes where delegated, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

[Dredging: Great Lakes Navigation Maintenance, US Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Regional Headquarters](#)

Management Options for Dredged Material Management (pdf)
Excerpted from the Great Lakes Dredging Team's "Decision Making Process for Dredged Material Management."



Confined Disposal Facilities

Confined Disposal Facilities Fact Sheet developed by the Great Lakes Dredging Team, provides an overview of CDFs in the region, their history, design and current use.

Great Lakes Dredging and Confined Disposal Facilities

This issue paper developed as part of the 1996 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference paper on Changing Land Use provides an overview of the evolution of dredging in the Great Lakes region and describes the role of CDFs in dredged material management.

Confined Disposal Facilities on the Great Lakes, produced by the Army Corps of Engineers, provides an overview for CDFs on the Great Lakes.

Goals for Dike 14: Public Preferences for Future Uses. This report describes the public involvement process and results of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources initiative to identify local preferences for land uses and activities in the future development of the Cleveland Dike 14 site, and to recommend means by which community consensus could be reached on a concept strategy for development.



Environmental Windows

Environmental windows are time constraints place on dredging or dredged material operations to protect biological resources or their habitats from detrimental effects. Such windows can include, among other reasons, effects on resuspended sediments on fish and shellfish resources, sedimentation effects on sensitive resources and habitat, entrainment of aquatic organisms by hydraulic dredges and disruption during bird nesting times. The technical issues underlying requests for and compliance with windows are complex, as are the implications of windows for conduct of dredging in a cost effective manner. Windows complicate dredging contracts in many ways that can increase

costs on a per cubic yard basis. Achieving a balance between adequate resource protection and cost effective dredging operations has been a continuous, challenge.

Last Modified: June 05, 2003
Maintained by Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org
Copyright © 1998-2002