

DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT IN A WATERSHED CONTEXT: SEEKING INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

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Abstract: Dredged material management historically utilizes site-specific solutions to address what are essentially the results of watershed-wide problems. The National Dredging Team is seeking to incorporate a broader watershed perspective into dredged material planning. Dredged material managers are primarily affected by sediment deposition in navigational waterways that result from sediment overloading. Watershed managers also face problems stemming from sediment overloading, such as water quality and loss of flood-carrying capacity. Possible solutions for dredged material managers that reduce the amount of sediment deposited can lead to sediment shortage for the watershed and result in coastal and stream bank erosion, as well as wetland loss. Coordination between dredged material and watershed managers is necessary. The National Dredging Team plans to bring the dredged material, sediment, and watershed managers together at a national conference to discuss dredged material management in a watershed context in order to create a coordinated approach to solving these problems.