

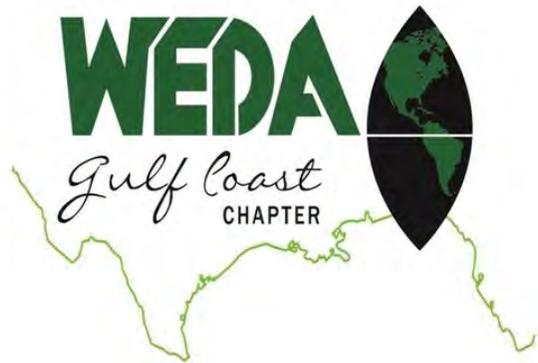


# Custom-Built Water Injection Dredge (WID) for the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)

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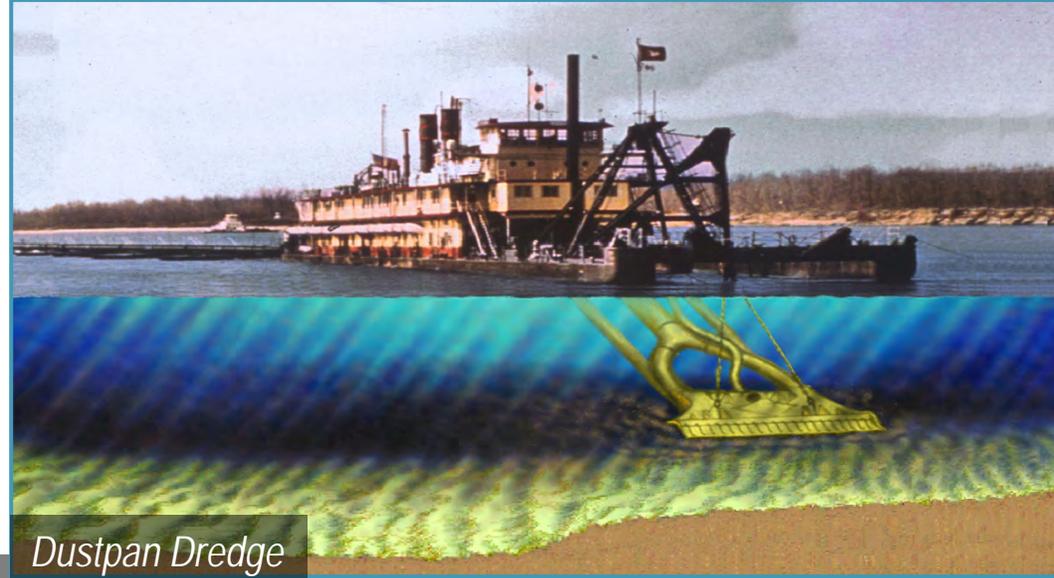
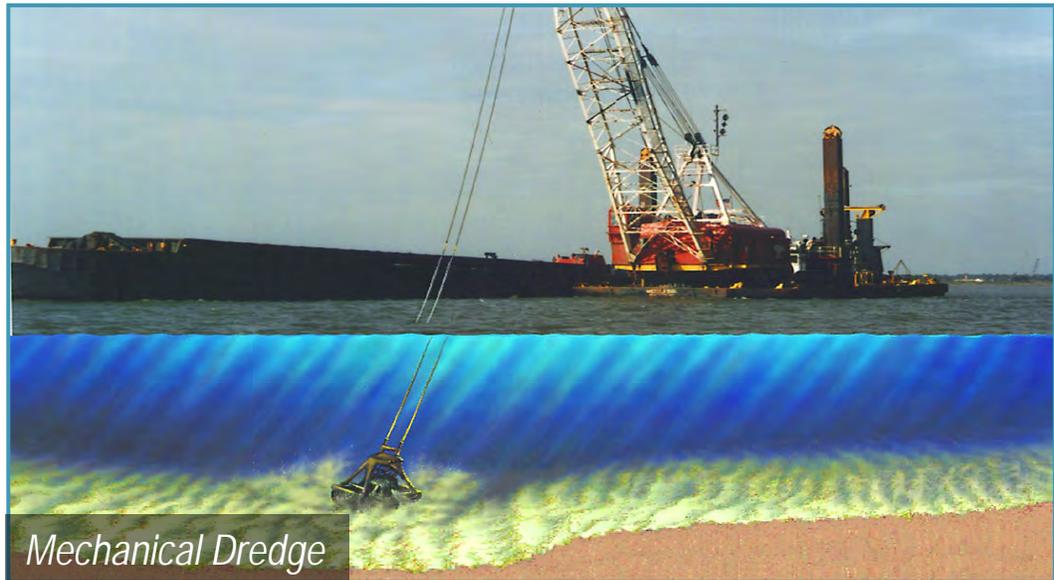
Port of Wilmington, Turning Basin

# Outline

- **Traditional Dredging Methods**
- **Hydrodynamic Dredging**
  - **Agitation & Plow**
  - **Water Injection Dredge (WID)**
    - **Environmental Considerations**
    - **Economic Benefits**
- **Case Studies**
  - **North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)**
  - **Port Tampa Bay (PTB)**
  - **Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)**
  - **South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA)**
  - **Maryland Port Administration (MPA)**
  - **Kansas Water Office (KWO)**
- **Summary**
- **Discussion - Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA)**



*Port of Morehead City, Ocean Inlet*



## Dredging Methods - Traditional Dredges



*Water Injection Dredge, Damen, Netherlands*

# Comparison of Dredging Techniques



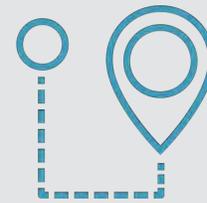
*Hydraulic & Mechanical Dredging* are **traditional dredging** techniques that hydraulically or mechanically remove sediments from a waterbody



In comparison, all *Hydrodynamic Dredging* techniques horizontally transport the dredged material, **entirely within the water column**

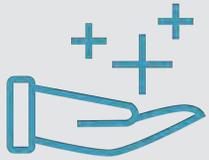


All *Hydraulic & Mechanical Dredged* sediments are **transported** using buckets, pipeline, hoppers, barges, etc.

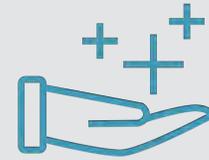


All *Hydrodynamic Dredging* sediments **flow through the water** from the dredge area to the final disposal area

# Types of Hydrodynamic Dredges



*Agitation & Plow Dredging* disperses the sediments from the bottom into the *whole water column*



*Water Injection Dredging* fluidizes the sediments, creating a near-bottom *density current* with higher density than the surrounding water



Plough Dredge, MDHY Intl, Netherlands

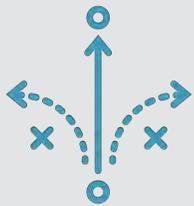
Water Injection Dredge, Damen, Netherlands



*Boskalis Terra Plana Plough Dredge*

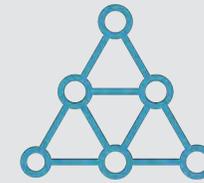
## Hydrodynamic Dredges – Agitation & Plow Dredging

# Hydrodynamic Dredging - Agitation & Plow



*Agitation & Plow Dredging* require:

- 1) Equipment that suspends sediments into the water column
- 2) Water flow that transports the sediment away from the site



*Agitation & Plow Dredging* produce a turbid water column & thus, at least temporarily, higher water quality impacts

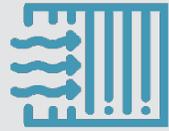


Various means can be used for this process, including

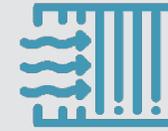
- Prop-Wash
- Hopper Dredge overflow
- Vertical mixers or Air Bubbles
- Drag beams or Rakes (Plow Dredging)



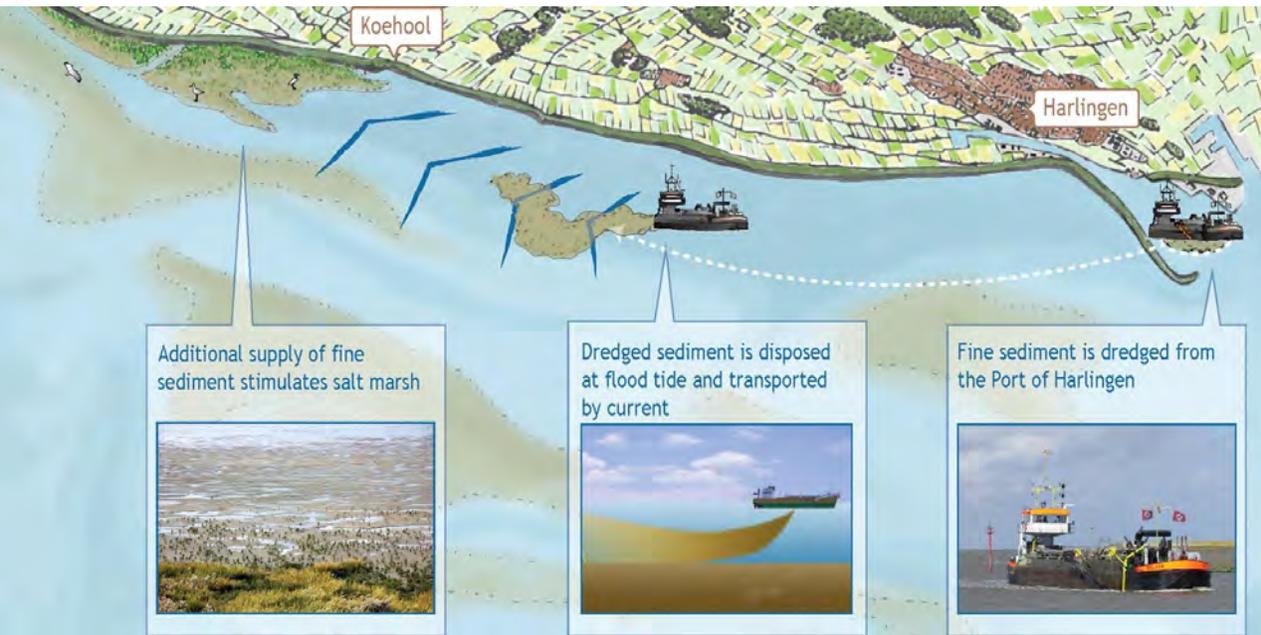
# Hydrodynamic Dredging - Agitation & Plow



**Mud Motor:** A semi-continuous source of dredged material (mud) is dispersed in a shallow tidal channel allowing natural processes to disperse the sediment



**Sand Engine:** Beach renourishment where a massive amount of sand is added to the coast & natural forces distribute the sand - more beach, while reducing ecological disturbance, at less cost





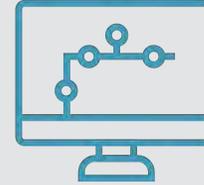
*Osprey WID, IHC-America, NCSPA*

## Hydrodynamic Dredges – Water Injection Dredges

# Water Injection Dredging



WID pumps water into channel bottom sediments at relatively *high-volume & low pressure*



WID allows sediments to flow horizontally out of a waterbody, while the *fluidized sediment layer* remains close to the bottom



The objective is to remove the material from a selected area by taking advantage of the near-bottom *density current*

- Tides
- Currents
- Gravity
- Other Hydrodynamic Forces

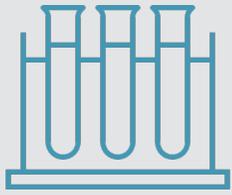


Osprey WID, IHC-America, NCSPA





# Environmental Considerations

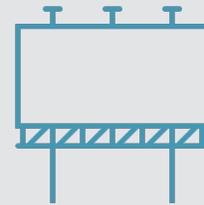


*WID* cannot be used where *unacceptable environmental impacts* may occur

- Contaminated resuspension
- Suspended solids effects
- Site specific impacts



All *WID* sediments *must be analyzed* & most sediments will be appropriate for the dredging technique



*Parameters* that influence *WID* production include:

- Soil characteristics
- Site bathymetry & geometry
- Hydrodynamic conditions
- Geographic location
- Type & level of contamination
- Regulatory agency acceptance



Sediment transport modelling is required to determine the destination of *dredged sediments*



*WID* has the *ecological advantage* as it does not disturb the sediment distribution & waterbody balance

# Economic Benefits



*Traditionally dredged sediments* require more costly transportation, using pipelines, buckets, hoppers, barges, etc.



In comparison, for all *hydrodynamic dredging* (including WID) the dredged material is transported *entirely within the water column*



*Traditional dredged sediments* require acquiring placement or disposal areas for the storage



In comparison, for all *hydrodynamic dredging* (including WID) techniques the sediments *flow through water*



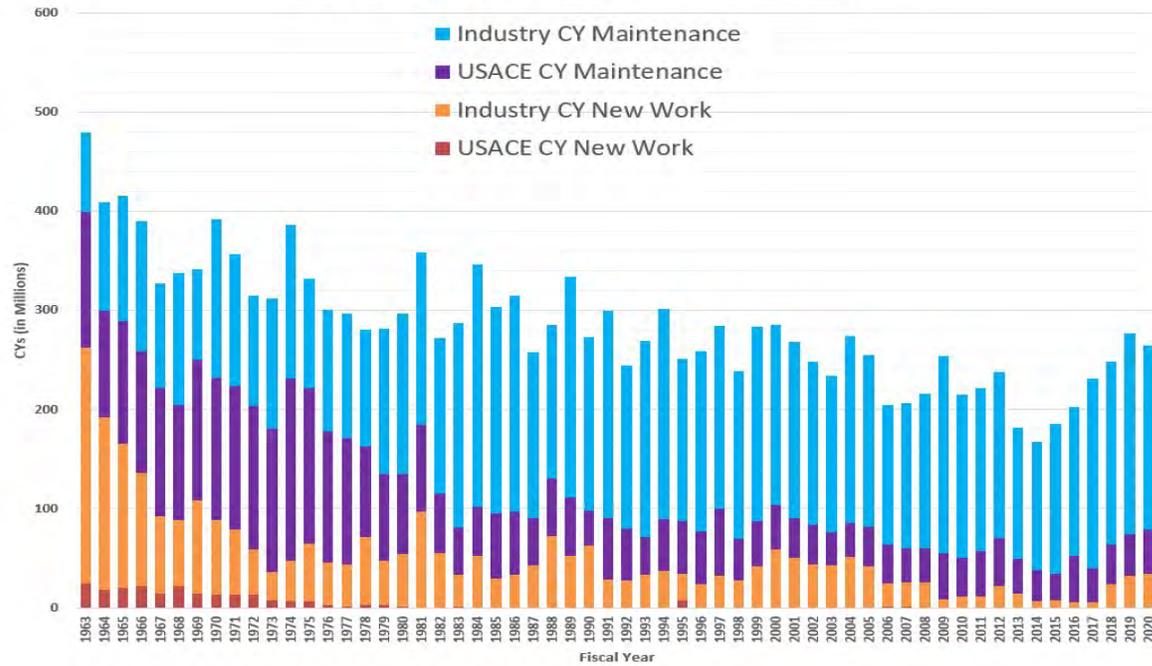
- Traditional dredging* costs:
- Mobilization/Demobilization
  - Transportation & Storage
  - Complex dredge plant O & M
  - Lower production rates



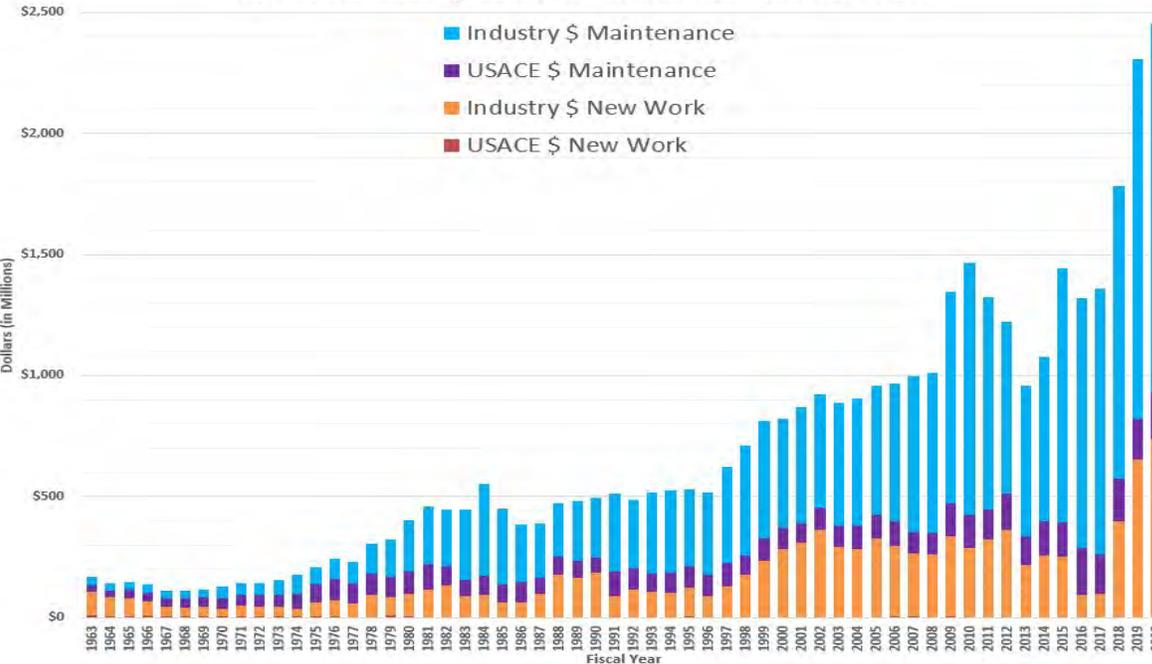
- Optimized hydrodynamic dredging*
- Rapidly moved on short notice
  - Don't require disposal facilities
  - Reduced dredge plant O & M
  - Higher production rates

# USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020)

USACE and Industry CYs for Maintenance and New Work



USACE and Industry Dollars for Maintenance and New Work



- Overall US dredging volumes have decreased
- New work dredging volumes have dramatically decreased
- Maintenance dredging volumes have slightly decreased
- Overall US dredging costs have significantly increased
- Overall US maintenance dredging responsibility (both volume & dollars) has shifted to Industry

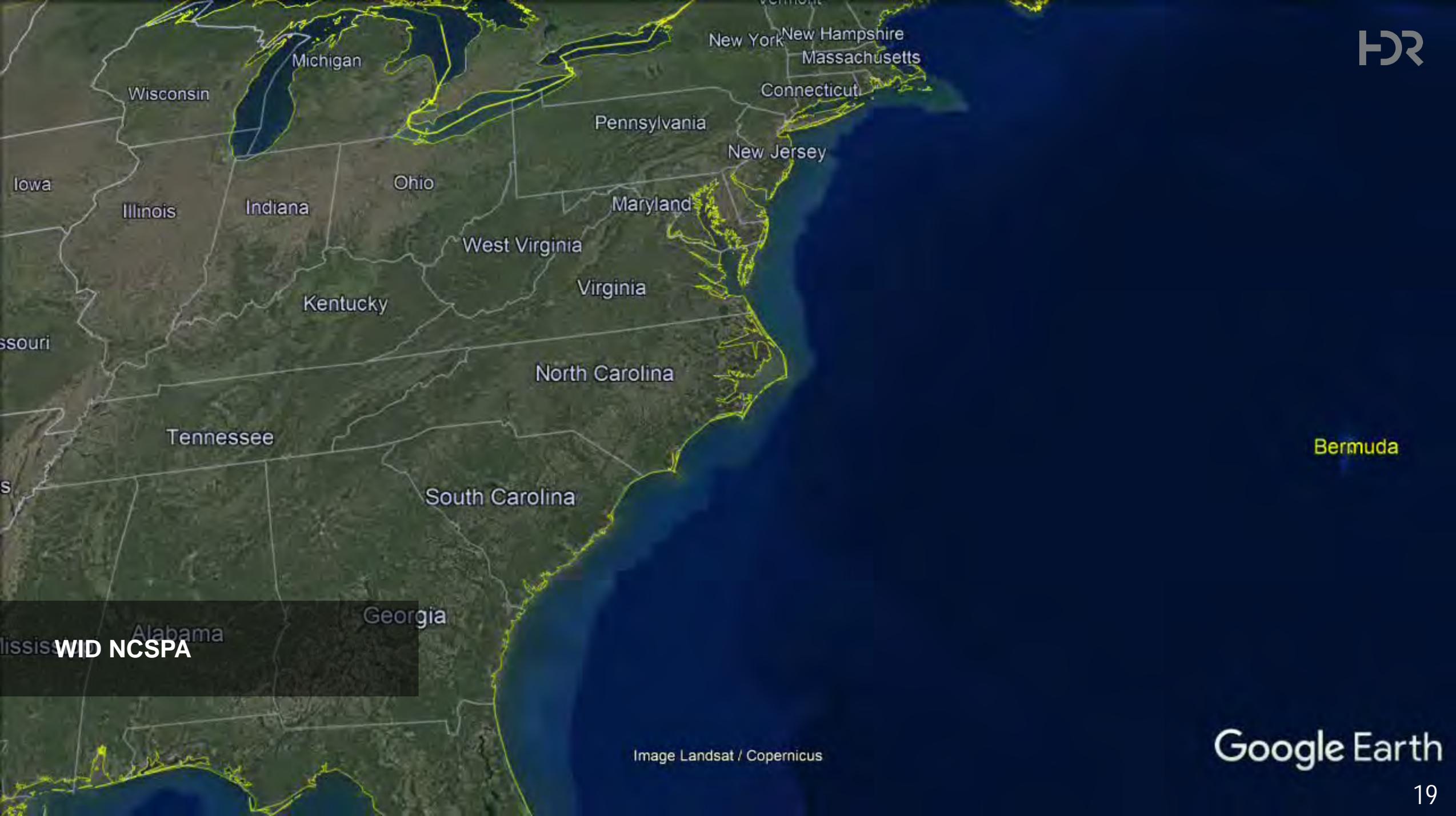


Case Studies

# Water Injection Dredge (WID)

## North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)

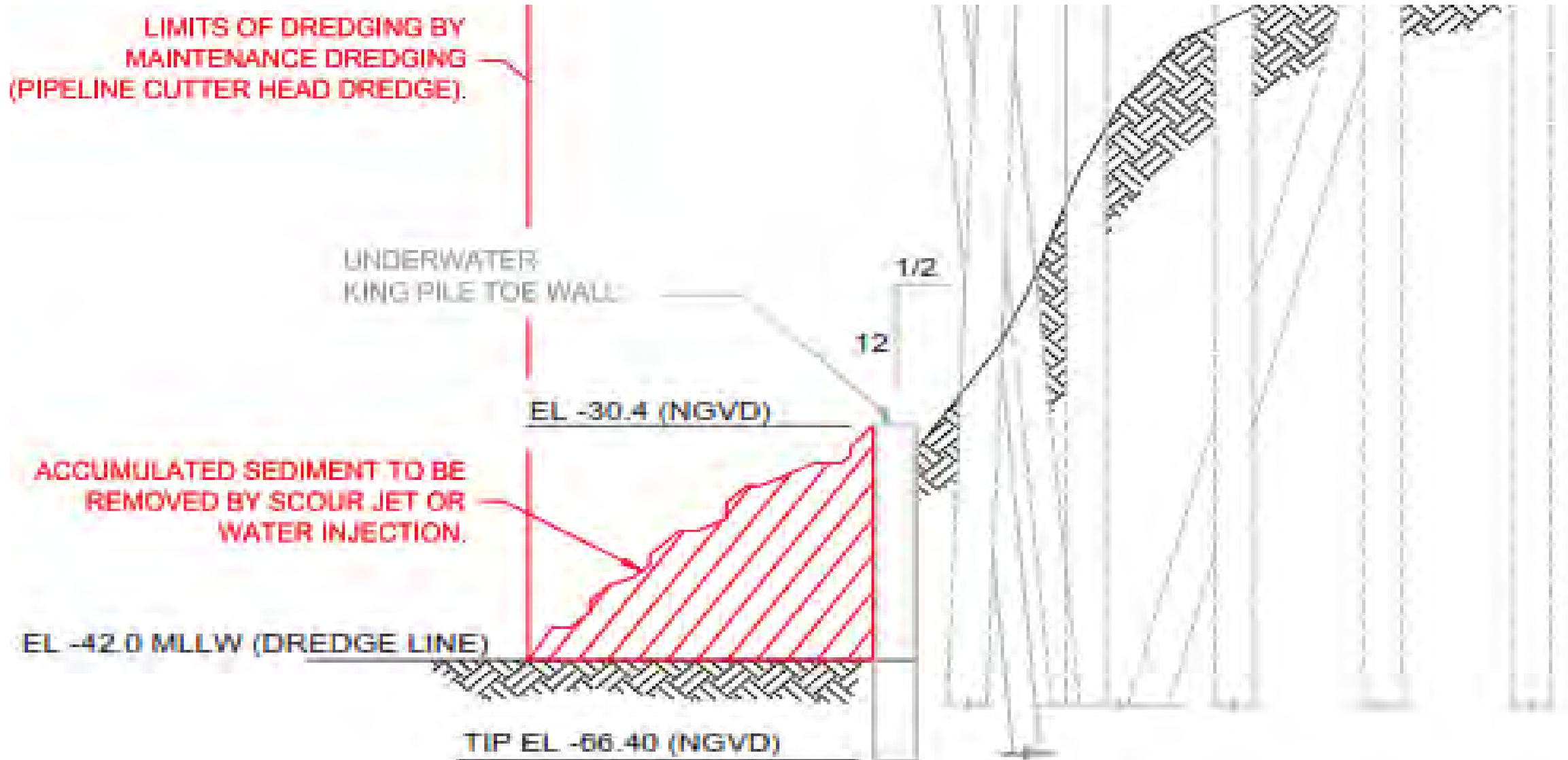




**WID NCSPA**

Image Landsat / Copernicus

# Dredging Template



# Project Approach

---

- NCSIPA authorized research into acquiring a WID, hiring a WID contractor, or some other variant (Spring 2018)
- Contacted over **70 organizations**, including dredge manufacturers & other possible sources of relevant information
  - *Dredging related electronic newsletters*
  - *Trade publications*
  - *Trade show membership & attendance*
  - *Annual dredging related directories*
  - *Hydraulic agitation dredge operators*
- Interview roughly **20 organizations**, with 11 of them becoming promising candidates for WID design-build teams (Fall 2018)

# *The Jones Act*

“Section 1 of the Act of May 24, 1906 (34 Stat. 204; 46 U.S.C. App. 292), provides that, “a foreign-built dredge shall not, under penalty of forfeiture, engage in dredging in the United States unless documented as a vessel of the United States.”

# Procurement Fact Sheet

- Solicited feedback from dredge manufacturers & others regarding several crucial project factors:
  - Preliminary schedule
  - Time needed to fabricate & transport the dredge to the NCSPA
- Factors similar to any NCSPA purchase of large, expensive equipment
  - Maintenance
  - Warranties
  - Operation manuals
- Unique factors included:
  - Proof of concept demonstrations
  - Training requirement



# Request for Pre-Qualifications

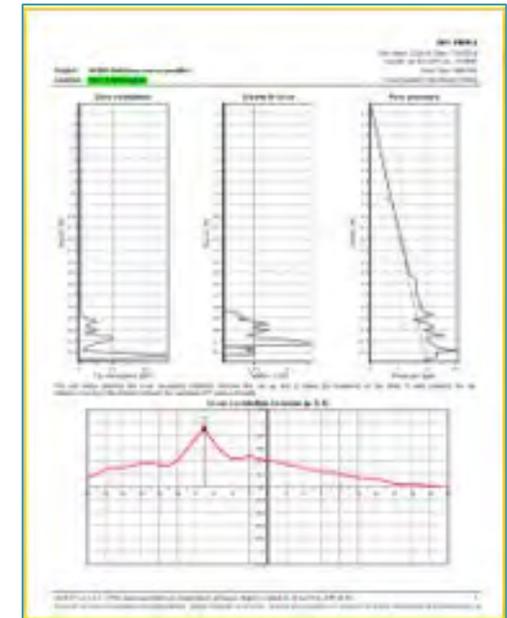
## Project sequence:

- Commissioning of a fully equipped WID
- Delivery of WID to the NCSPA Ports of Wilmington & Morehead City
  - Execution of a Port operator's training program
  - Full week demonstration at each Port
- Report summarizing the Contractor's executed proof of concept, including pre- & post- dredge hydrographic survey data
- Modification of the WID plant, as necessary, & handover to NCSPA



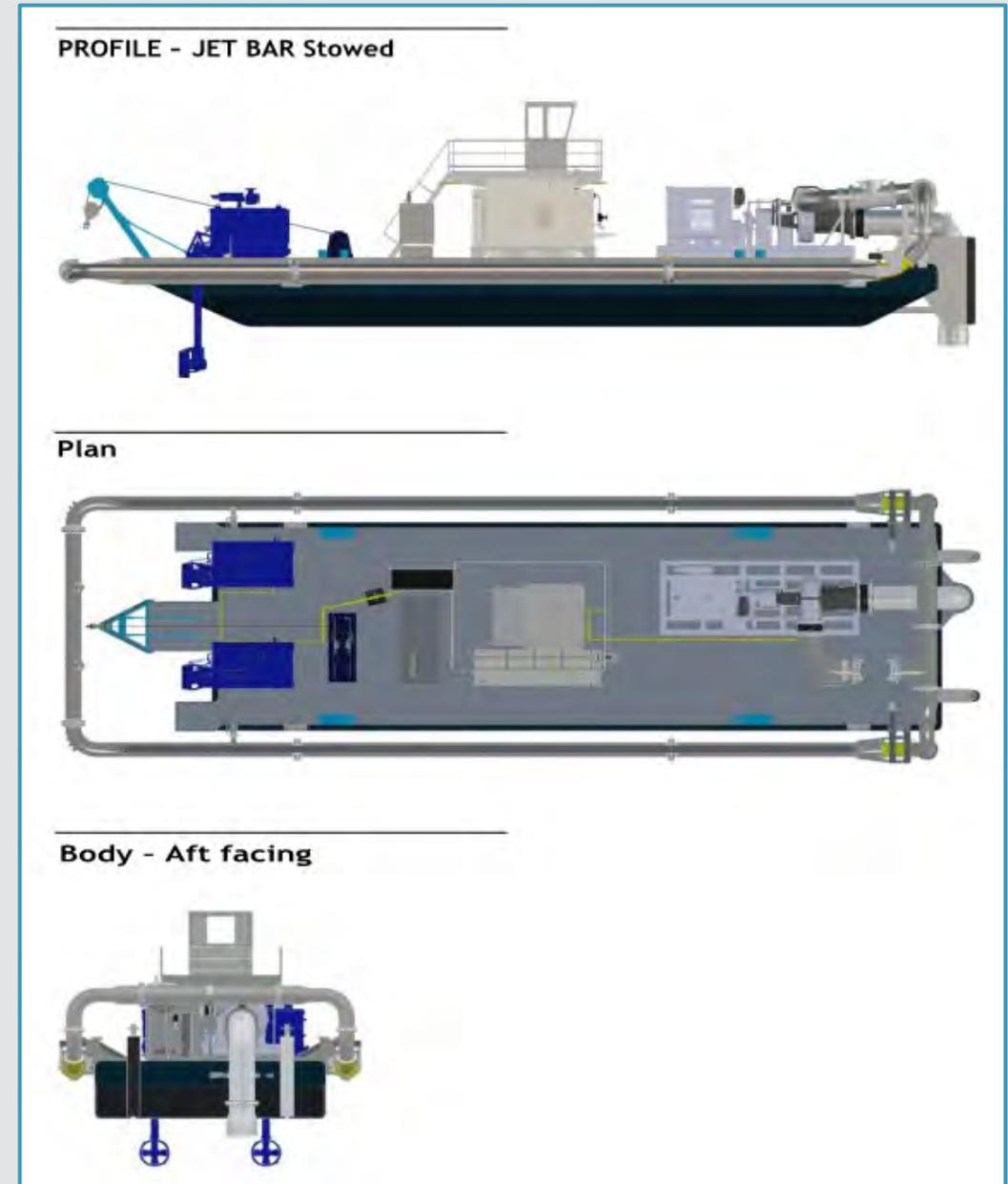
# Request for Information & Geotechnical Data Collection

- Sediment characterization fieldwork at both ports
- Ponar grab & cone penetrometer test (CPT)
- Several unique sediment parameters
  - CPT Testing
    - Tip resistance
    - Sleeve resistance
    - Pore water pressure
  - Measuring ability to fluidizes
    - Post-decant solids mass loss
    - Slurry mass loss
    - Slurry volume loss



# Request for Proposals (RFP), Selection, & Delivery

- **Design-Build RFP**
  - Issue RFP to all Potential Teams
  - Technical Proposals & Sealed Price Proposals Due
  - Technical Presentation by Teams
- **Selection & Delivery**
  - NCSPA Board of Directors Meeting
    - Recommend Selection
    - Final Selection
  - Contract Execution



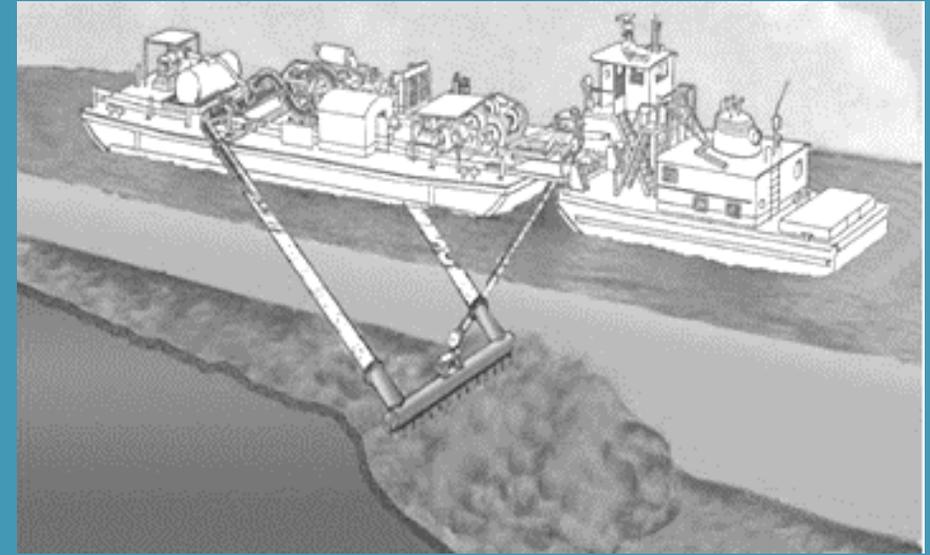
# Contracting Summary

Several designs were submitted, but two firm's responses stood out:

- *Modular Dredge & Barge Combination*
- *Self-Contained Vessel*

Lessons Learned:

- *Economics*
- *Legal & regulatory concerns*
- *Site conditions (sediment & hydrodynamic forces)*
- *Technical feasibility*





# Future Phases

## WID Monitoring

- USACE-ERDC is developing a dredging monitoring plan, with hopes of mobilizing in January 2022
- Compare pre- & post-dredging hydrographic surveys 'upstream' & 'downstream' of the WID
- Establish production rates for the WID
- Develop baseline dredging efficiencies for the WID, which the NCSPA will use to adopt alternative means & methods
- Provide a better understanding of how the fluidized material is dispersed utilizing ADCP, turbidity sondes, density meters, & other technology



# Dredging Efficiencies Investigation

## Port Tampa Bay (PTB)



PORT TAMPA BAY™



# Tampa Bay's Federal Waterways

USACE District:

All

USACE Channel:

All

Channel ID:

All

Survey Date Range:

All Surveys

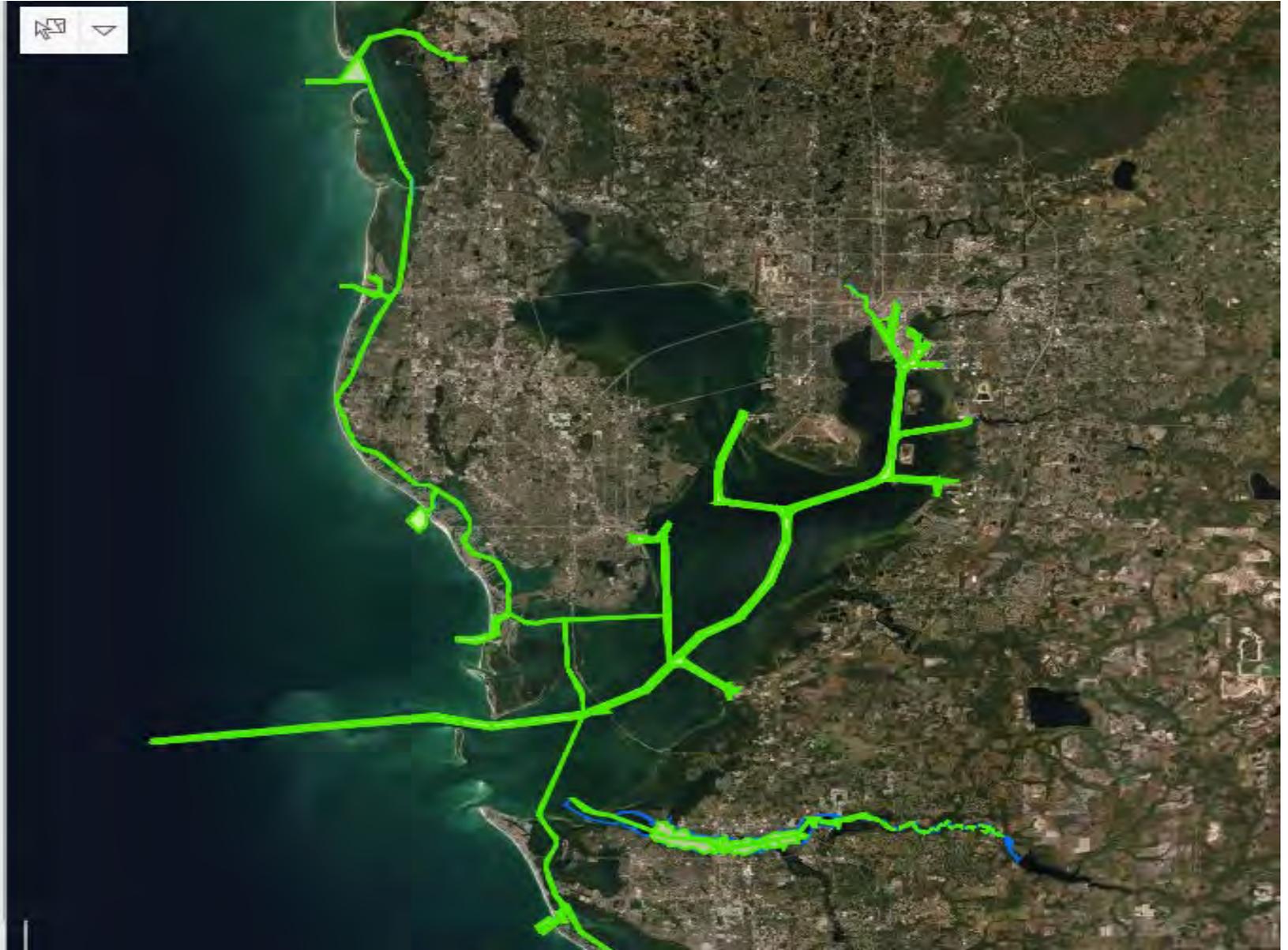
Last 60 days

2019

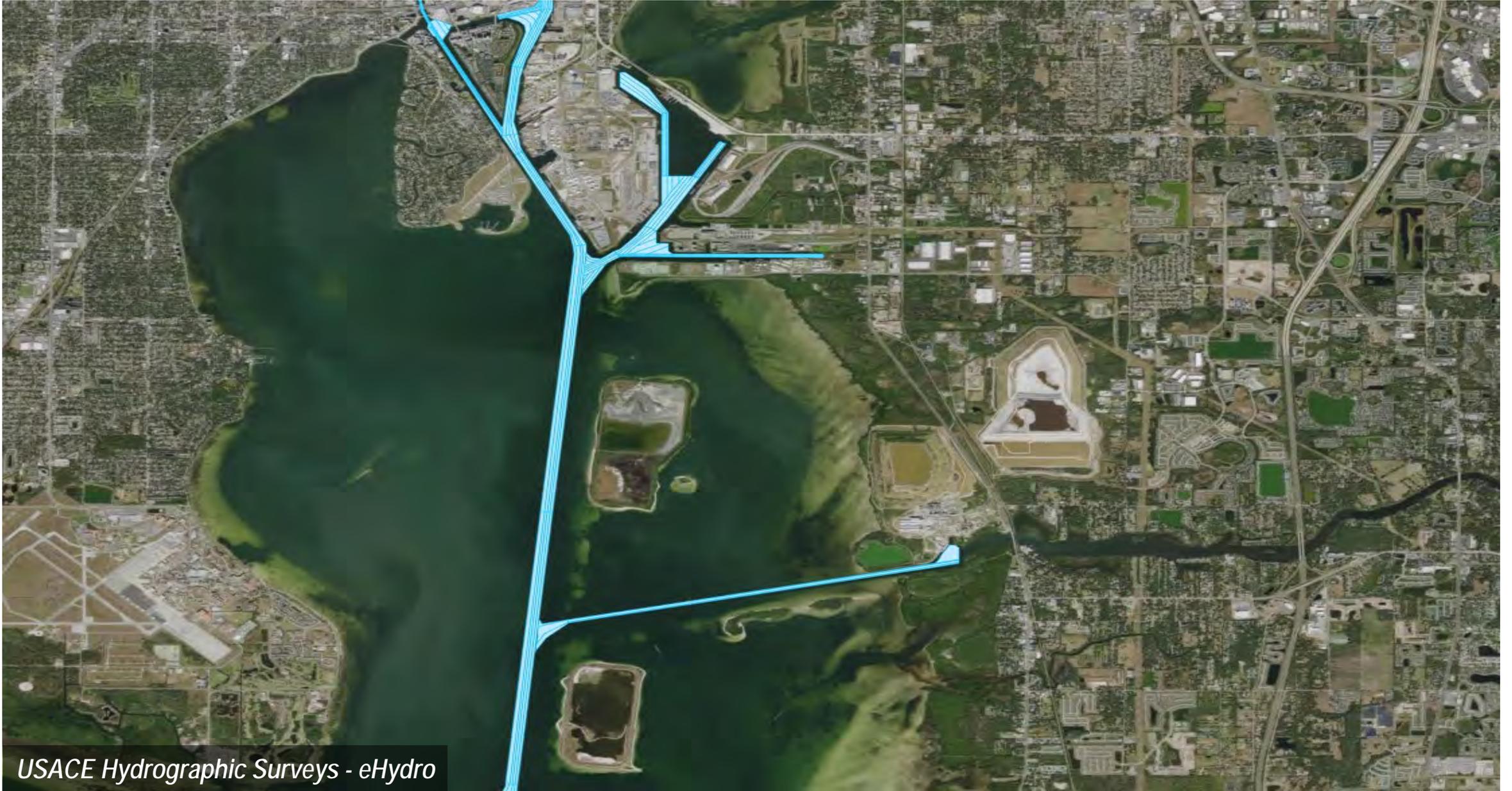
2018

Custom Date Range

*USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro*  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)



# Tampa Harbor



# Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP)

- More than 67 miles of channels with various depths & widths & six turning basins
- Roughly 1 MCY of maintenance dredging per year
- Approximately 7.5 MCY of capacity is available
- The USACE DMMP calls for:
  - Continual raising of existing Dredged Material Containment Facility Dikes
  - More disposal in Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS)
  - Beneficial Reuse of dredge material
  - Reducing dredging needs

April 2011



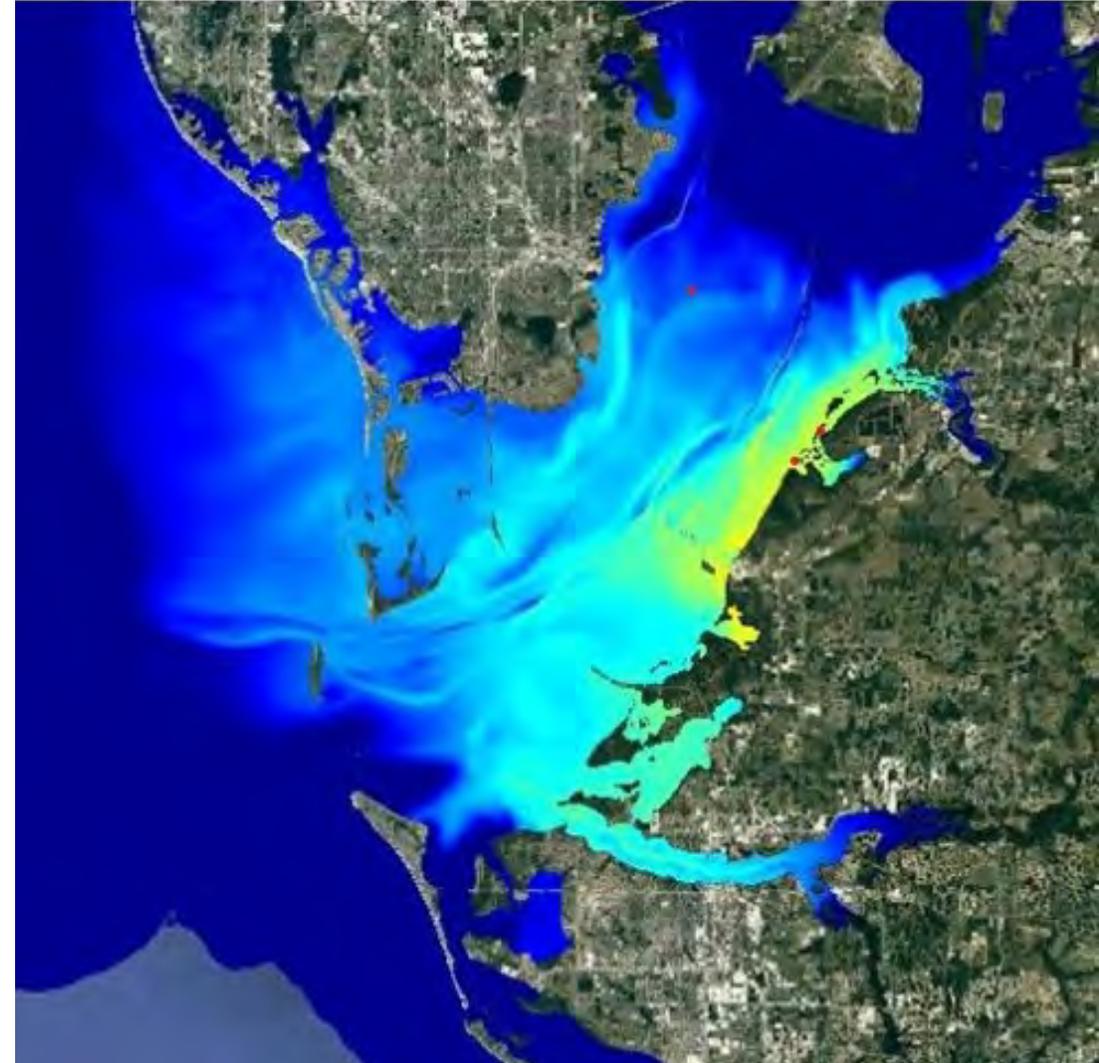
**TAMPA HARBOR, FLORIDA  
DREDGED MATERIAL  
MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Jacksonville District

# Discussion Summary & Feasibility Study Outline

- \$3 M maintenance dredging annual budget
  - Includes PTB's federal responsibilities
  - Does not include any new infrastructure
- Feasibility study outline evaluation:
  - Current dredging methods efficiency
  - Review & summarize existing studies documenting the dominant circulation features
  - Potential effectiveness of WID
  - Possibility of using in-channel sumps & wideners to “collect” material re-fluidized by the WID



# Summary – Case Studies and Conversations



- North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)
- Port Tampa Bay (PTB)
- Kansas Water Office (KWO)
- Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)
- South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA)
- Maryland Port Administration (MPA)
- Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA)



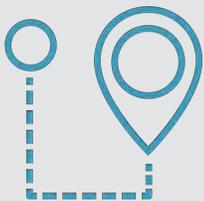
# Summary - Takeaways



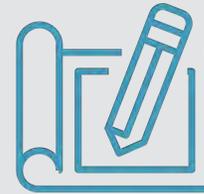
The key benefit of WID is that horizontal *transport* of the dredged material takes place *entirely within the water column*



Worldwide WID is a *rapidly evolving field* & will require educating regulatory agencies & the public



*Traditional dredging* is often as much about transporting & *handling water* as it is about the removed sediment



*Four-part formula* for WID success:

- Site conditions (sediment & hydrodynamic forces)
- Technical feasibility
- Legal & regulatory concerns
- Economics (benefits/costs ratio vs cost only)



The *WID technique* dilutes & fluidizes the sediments, creating a *near-bottom density current* with higher density than the surrounding water

# Water Injection Dredge (WID)

## Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA)



# ASPA Waterways

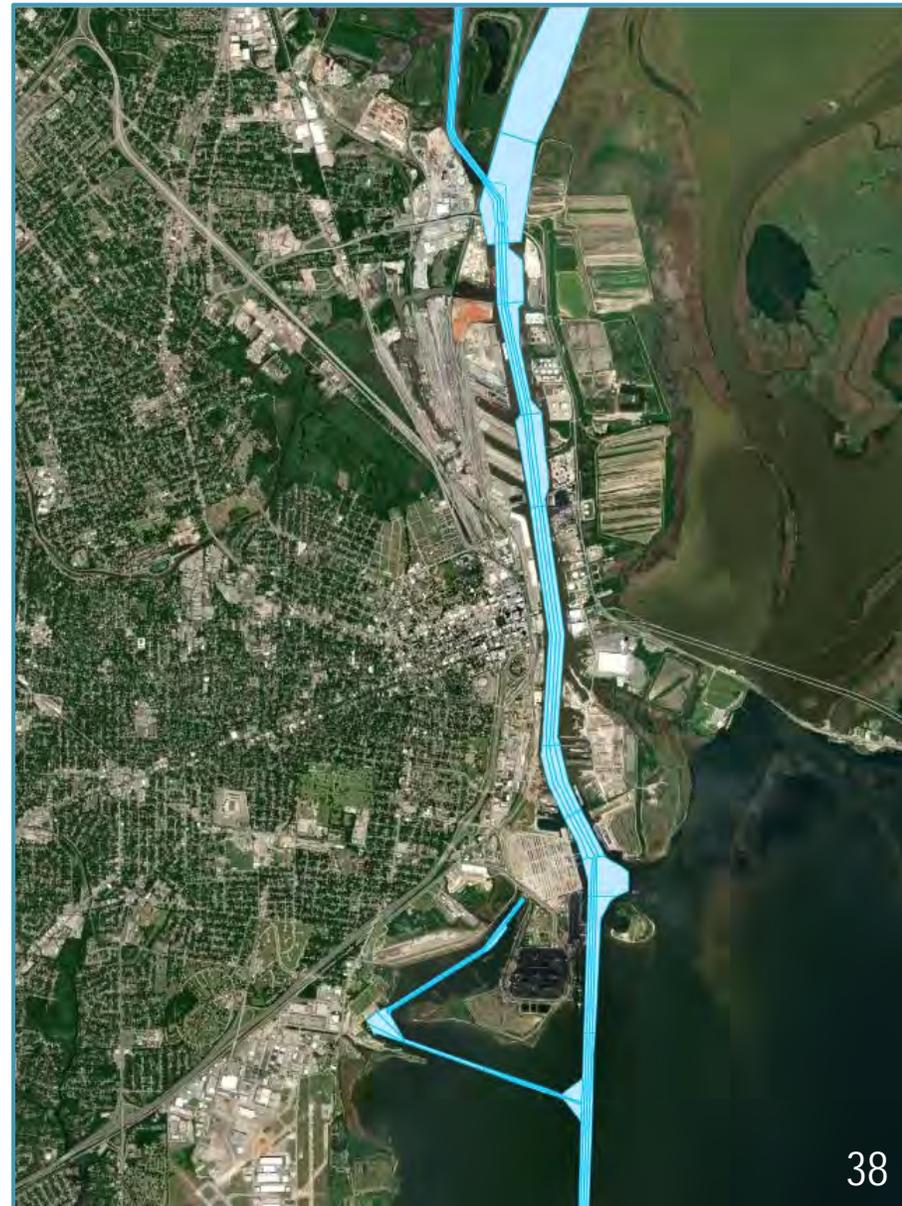
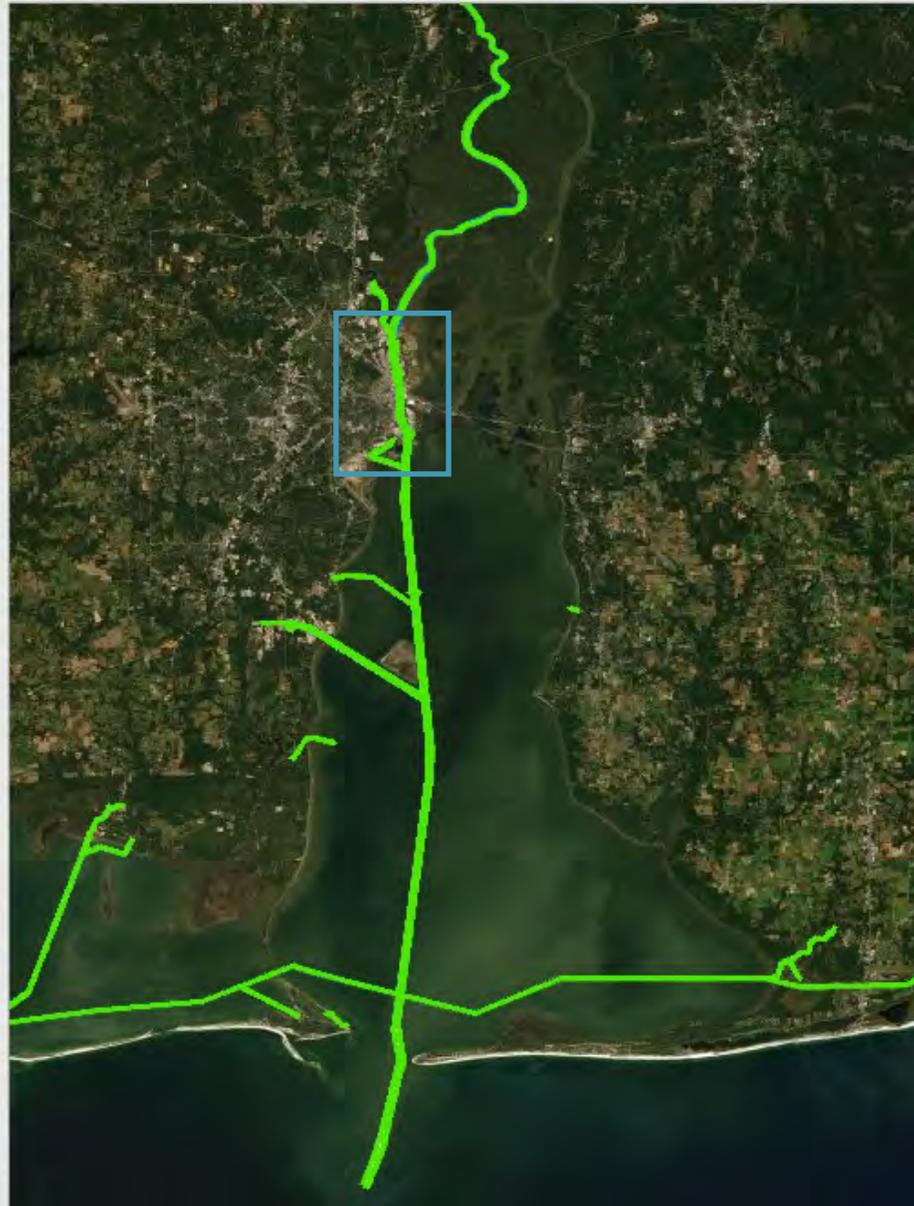
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All

USACE Channel:  
All

Channel ID:  
All

Survey Date Range:  
Predefined Custom Date Range

- All Surveys
- Last 60 days
- 2019
- 2018



**USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro**  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)

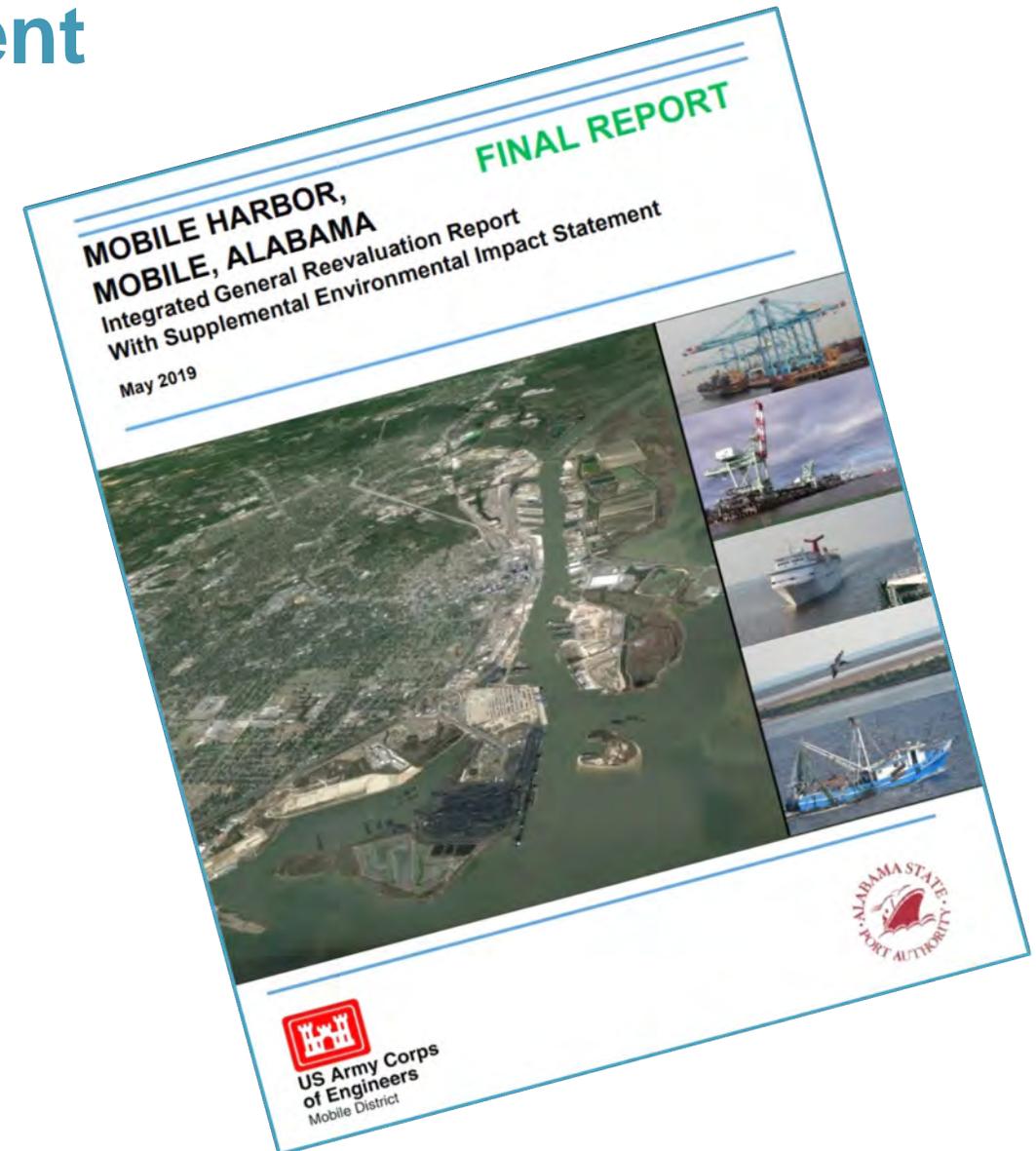
# Mobile Bay Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Strategy

- Mobile Bay Ship Channel was primarily the 45-foot-deep & 400-foot-wide extending northward from the mouth of Mobile Bay for 29 miles to the mouth of the Mobile River
- About 4 MCY per year annual maintenance dredged material is removed by hopper dredges from Mobile Bay Ship Channel & placed in the ODMDS
- ODMDS is roughly 4 miles from the inlet & over 4.75 square miles, but ~40 miles from the north end of Mobile Bay
- Requirement to use hopper dredges for Mobile Bay dredging limited by USACE-SAM access to a smaller percentage of the available hopper dredging fleet



# Mobile Harbor Construction, Engineering & Design Agreement

- Six-phase project – anticipated completion by late 2024 or early 2025. Total estimated cost for the project is \$365.7 M
- Project will deepen the bar, bay & river channels in Mobile Harbor to 50 feet
  - Bend easing at the double bends of the bar channel
  - Widening of the bay channel from 400 feet to 500 feet from the mouth of Mobile Bay northward for three miles
  - Expanding the Choctaw Pass Turning Basin by 250 feet to the south at a 50-foot depth.
- In April 2021, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (GLDD) awarded a ~\$54 M contract to deepen & widen portions of the Mobile Harbor with an estimated completion date of October 18, 2022



# Mobile Harbor Deepening Project



## MOBILE HARBOR APPROVED PLAN



- ❑ Channel Deepening: 50 feet Bay/ 52 feet Bar
- ❑ Channel Widening: 3 mi. long, 100 ft wide\* **A**
- ❑ Turning Basin Modification **B**
- ❑ Bar Channel Bend Easing **C**



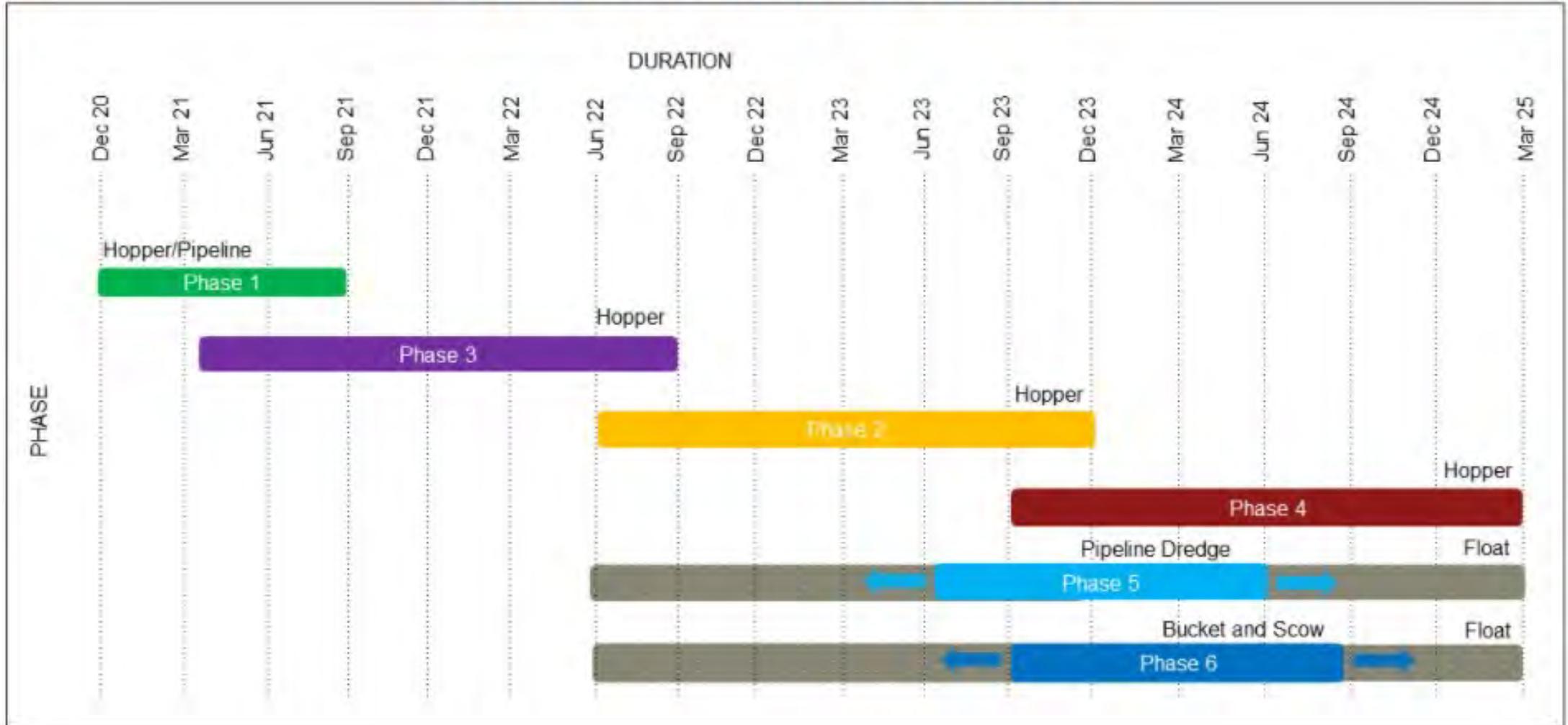
CONSTRUCTION PHASING	
Phase 1	Bar Channel Deepening
Phase 2	Bar Channel & Bend Easings to 52' plus Widener
Phase 3	Deepening Lower Bay Channel
Phase 4	Deepening remainder of Lower Bay Channel and portion of Upper Bay Channel
Phase 5	Deepen Upper Bay Channel (Relic Shell)
Phase 6	Turning Basin

<b>FULLY FUNDED COSTS: \$365.7M</b>	
*Federal Share:	\$274.3M
*Non-Federal Share:	\$91.4M

# Mobile Harbor Deepening Project



## MOBILE HARBOR CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



Joe Wagner, PE, D.NE, BCEE  
Senior Dredging Engineer  
Ports & Harbors

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Jacksonville, FL 32202  
904.210.4078  
[joe.wagner@hdrinc.com](mailto:joe.wagner@hdrinc.com)



[hdrinc.com](http://hdrinc.com)

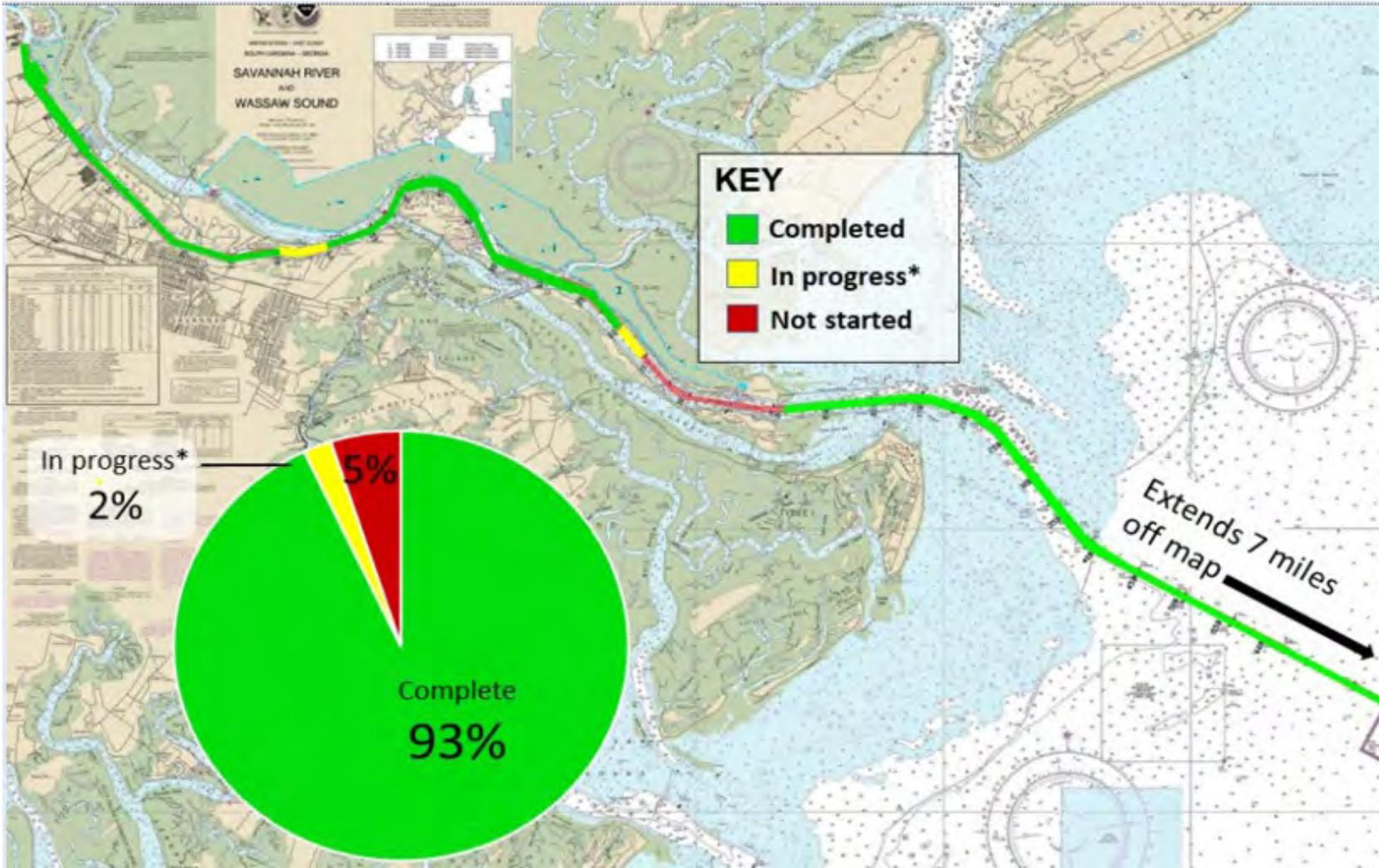
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# Water Injection Dredge (WID)

## Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)



# Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP)



# GPA Waterways – Savannah Harbor

USACE District:  
Savannah - SAS

USACE Channel:  
All

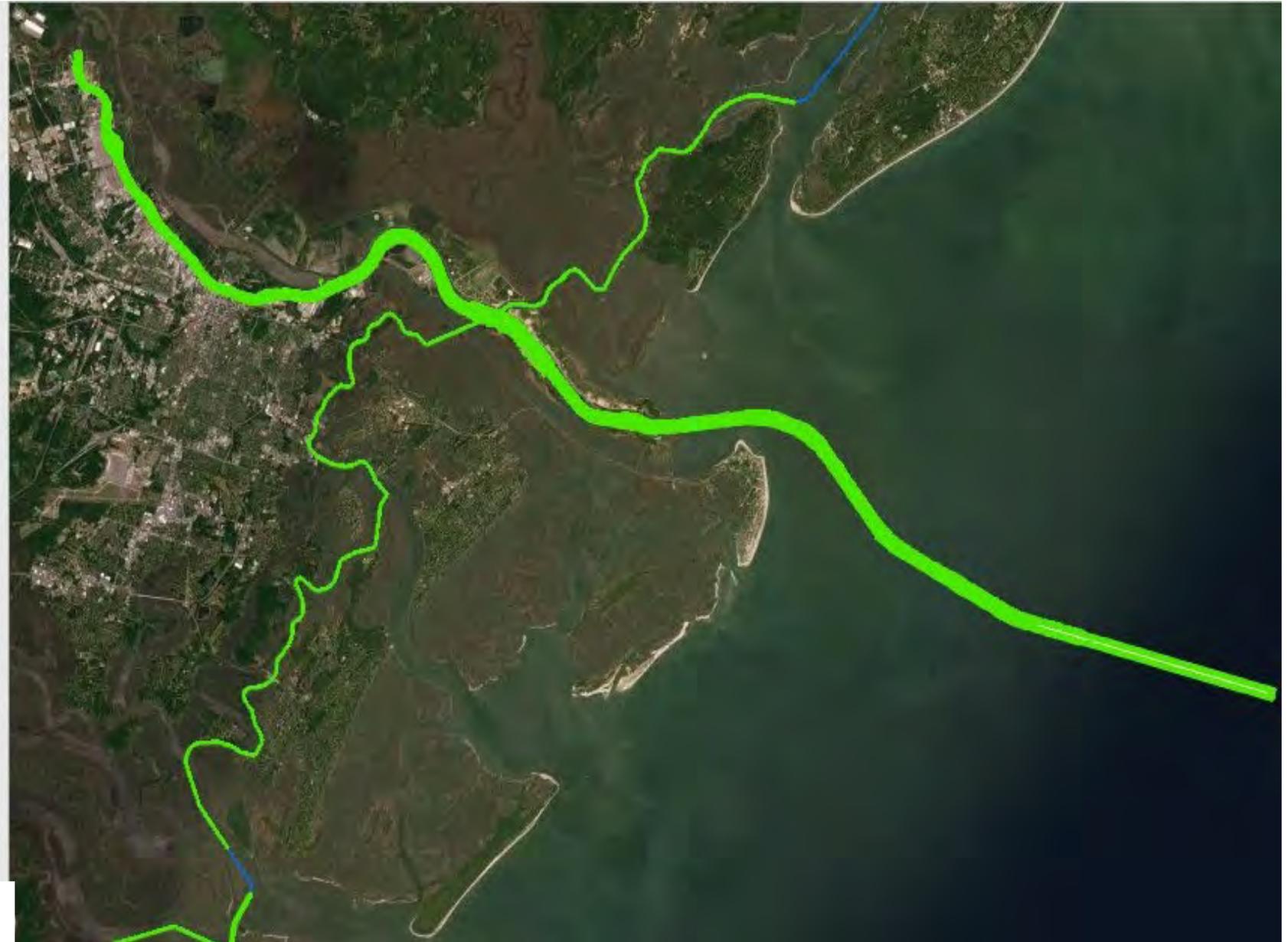
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Survey Date Range:

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- All Surveys
- Last 60 days
- 2019
- 2018

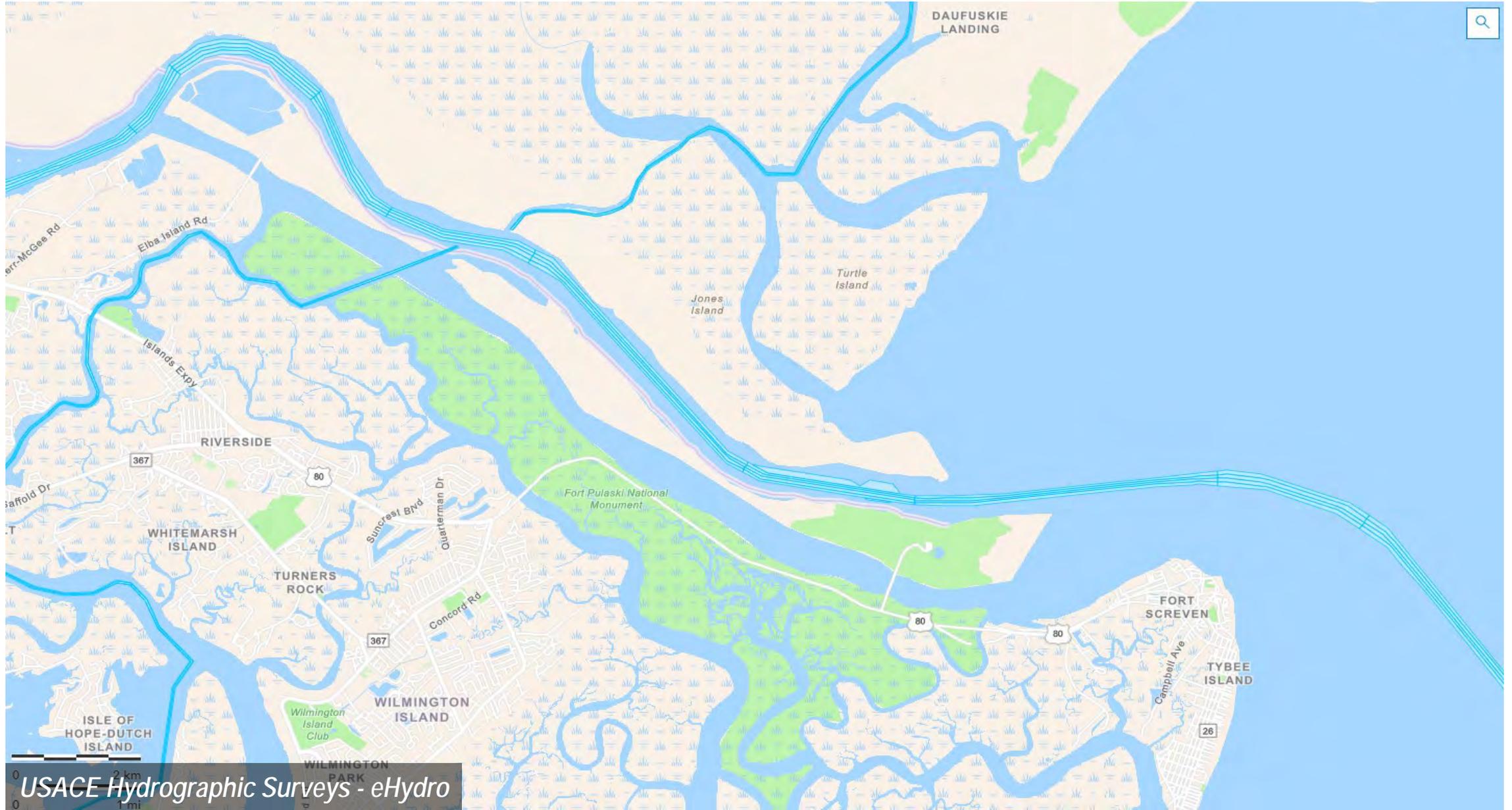
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# Savannah Harbor (West)

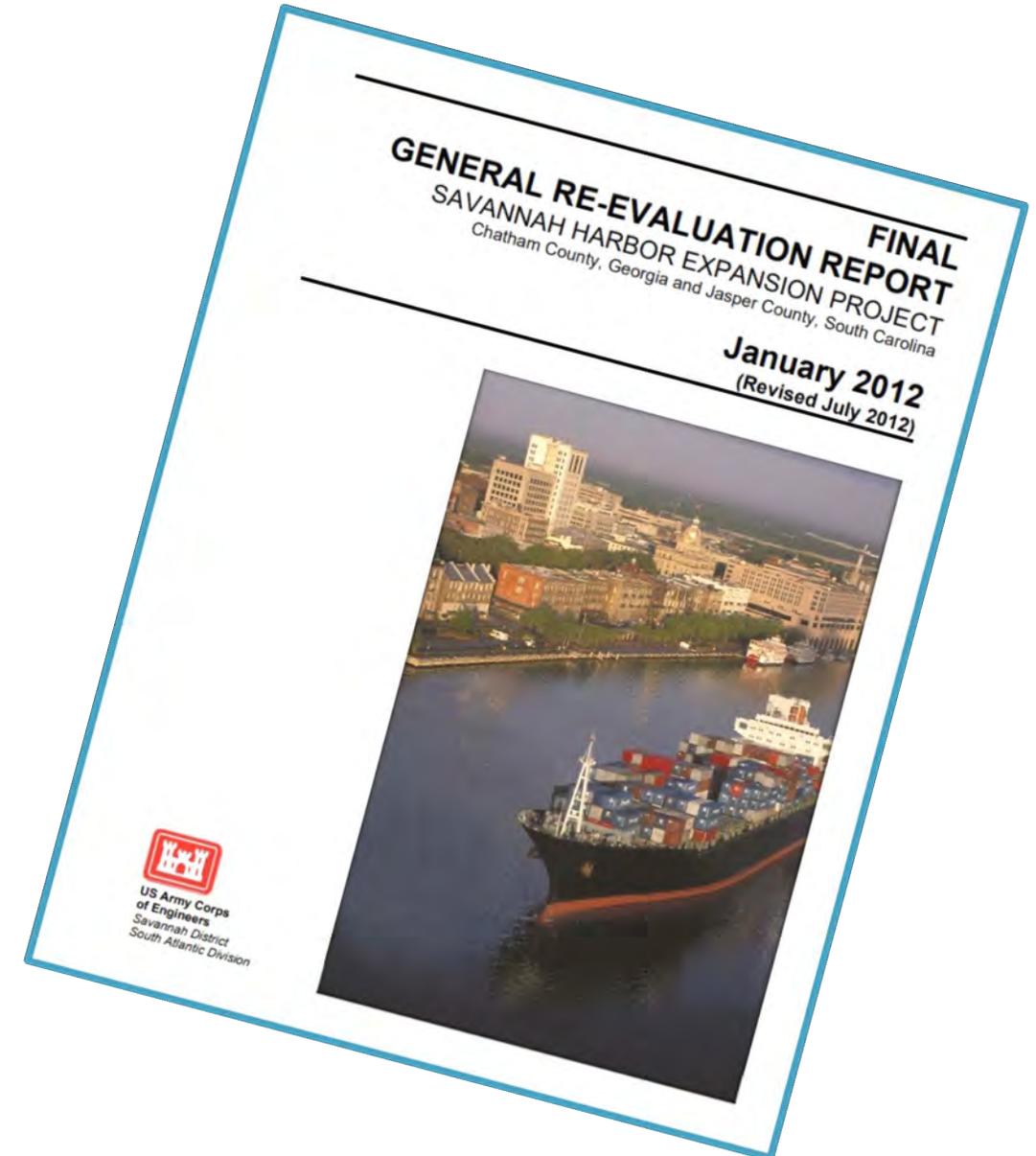


# Savannah Harbor (East)

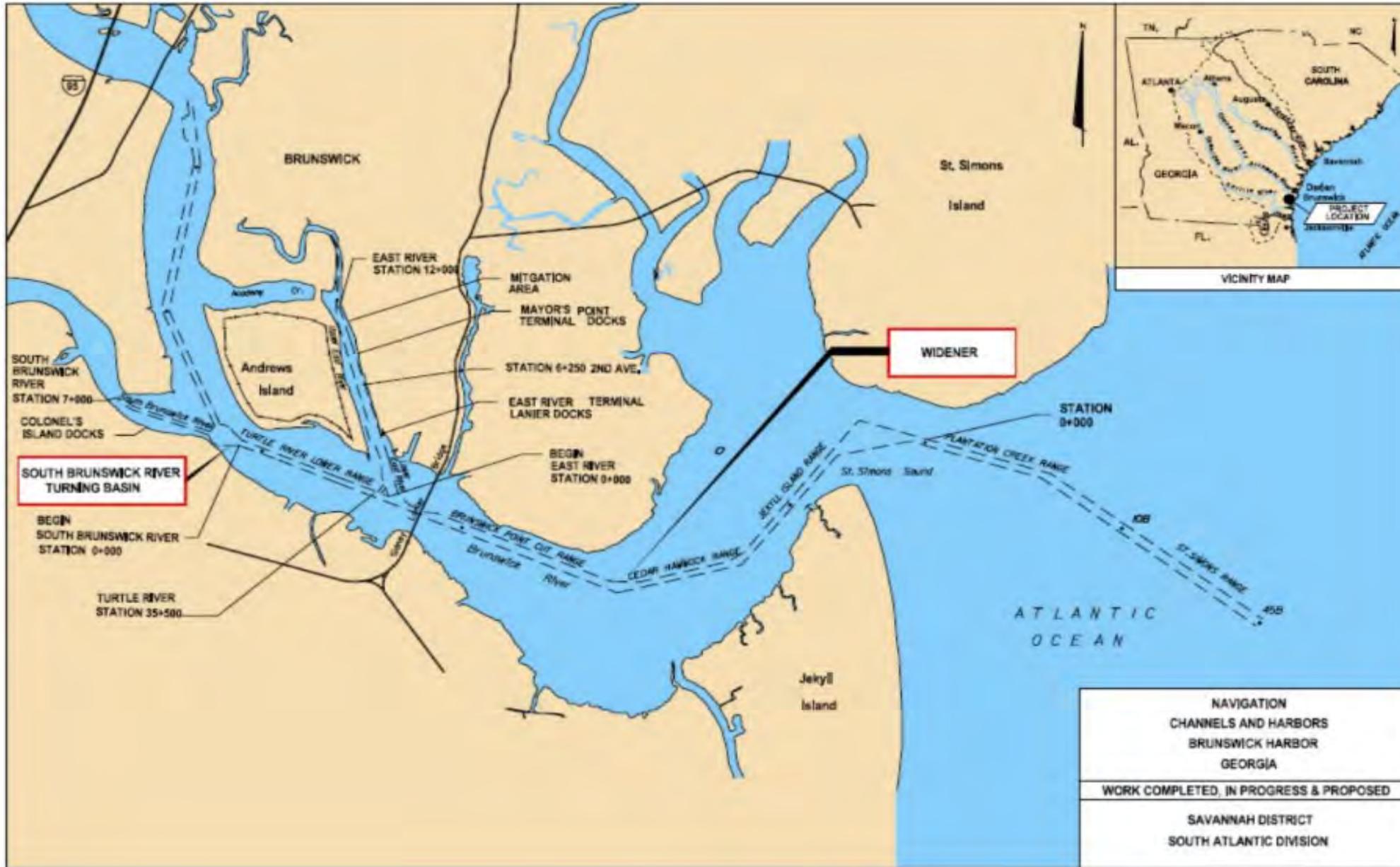


# Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) General Re-evaluation Report (GRR)

- Savannah Harbor Bar Channel is 11.5 miles long, 44 feet deep & 600 feet wide, & an Inner Harbor Channel 21 miles long, 42 feet deep & 500 feet wide
- Ongoing deepening will result in 47 feet depths
- Up to 7 MCY of sediments (sand, silt & clay) removed each year from the Inner Harbor into ~8 DMCA
- Up to 800 KCY of sediment from the Entrance Channel from December through March



# GPA Waterways – Brunswick Harbor



# Brunswick Harbor

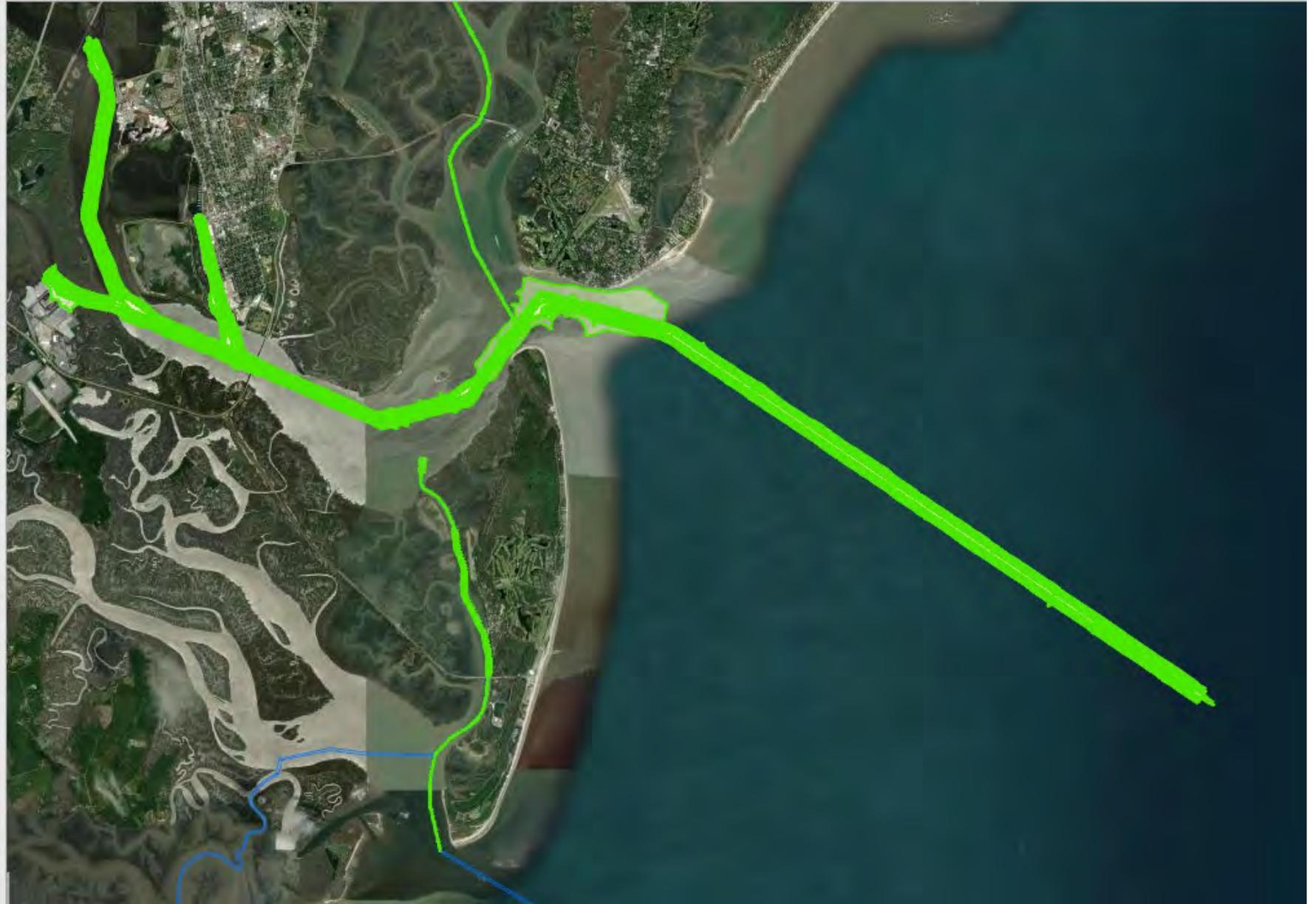
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Savannah - SAS

USACE Channel:  
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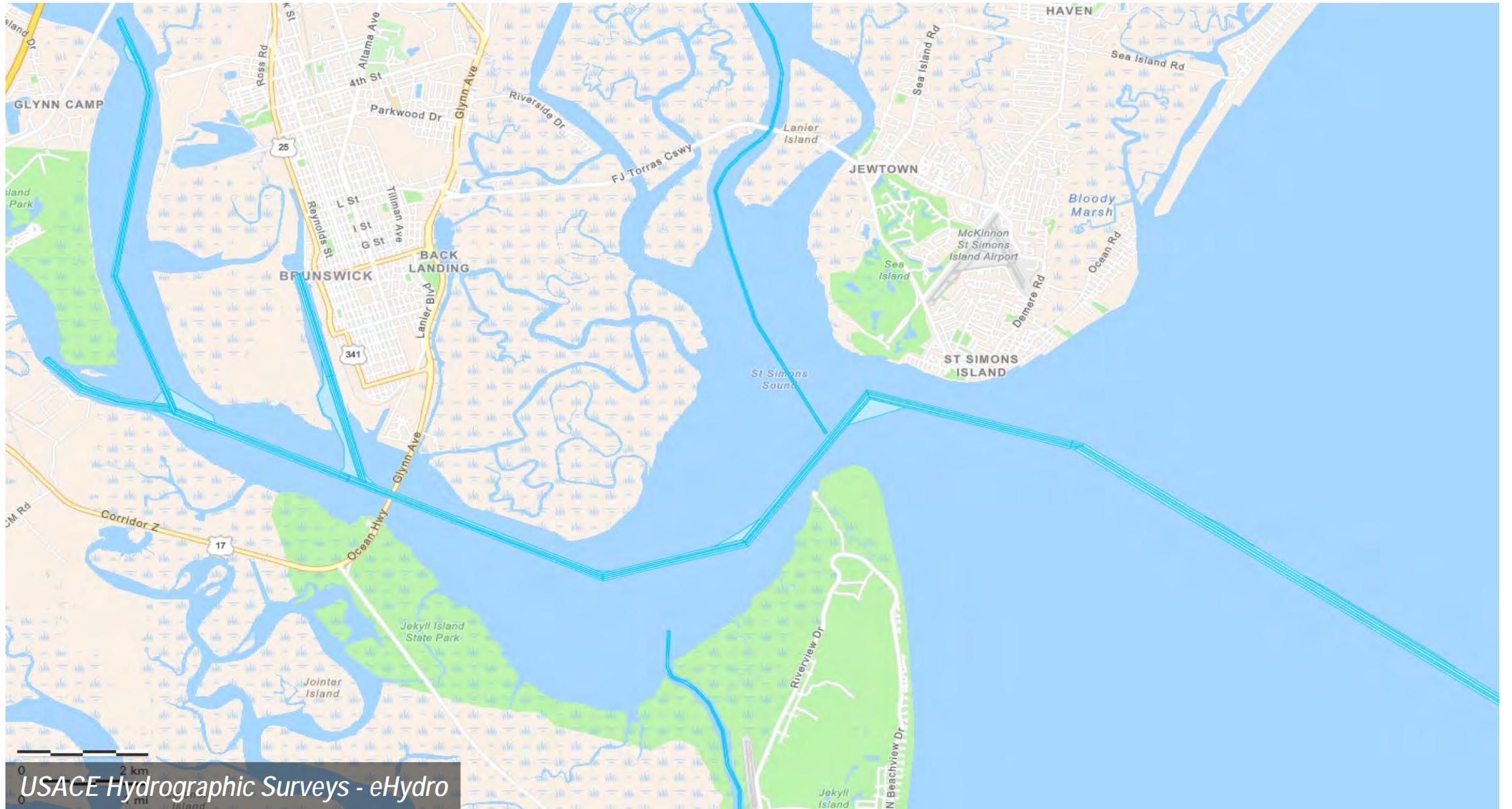
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- All Surveys
- Last 60 days
- 2019
- 2018



# Brunswick Harbor



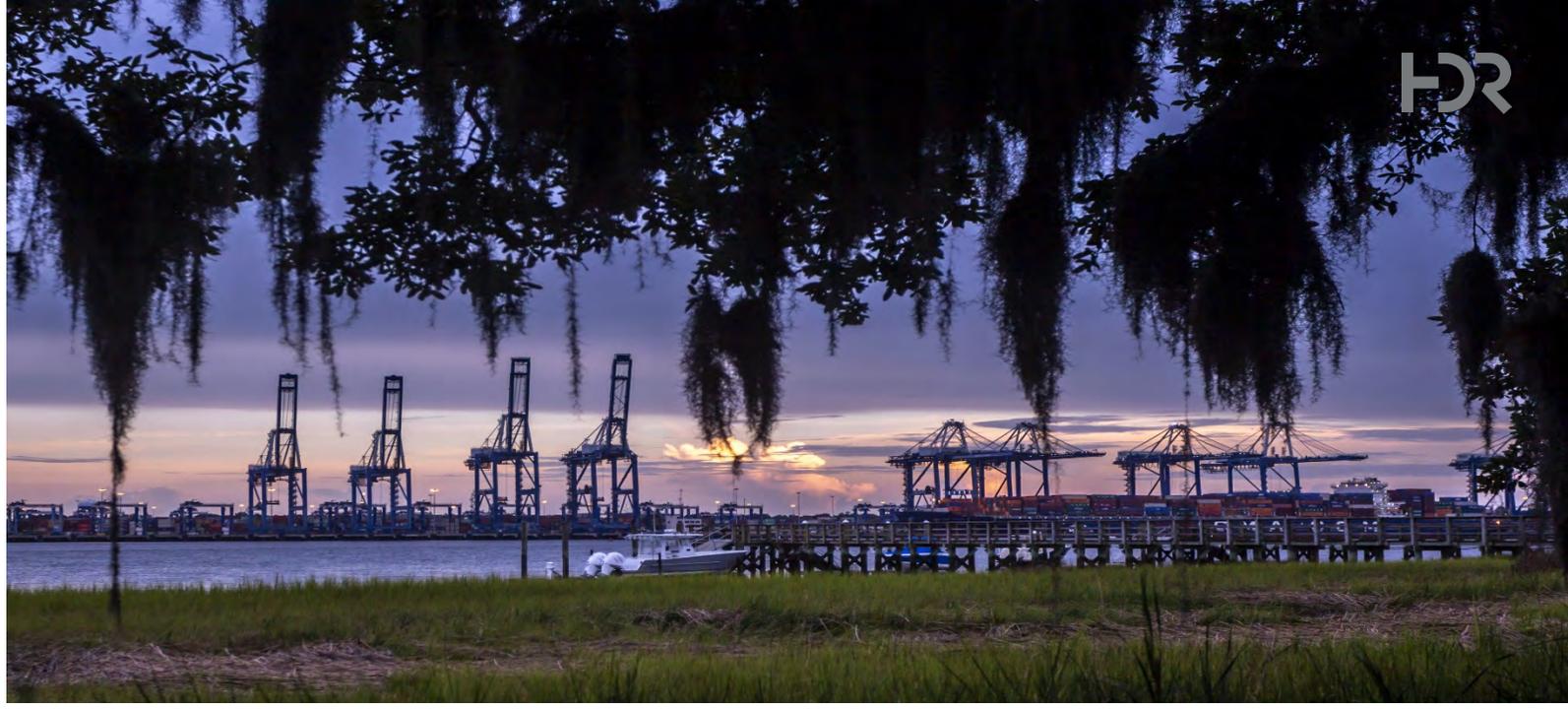
# Brunswick Harbor Modification Study Draft FONSI

- Brunswick Harbor Bar Channel is 38 feet deep, 500 feet wide, & 10.7 miles long & an Inner Harbor Channel 36 feet deep, 400 feet wide, & 15.3 miles long through St. Simon's Sound, Brunswick River & East River
- Inner Harbor has two turning basins – East River & Turtle River
- Inner Harbor dredged material placed in Andrews Island, the sole upland DMCA
- Brunswick Harbor has not been dredged to authorized project dimensions since 2010 due to funding shortfalls, a limited number of hopper dredges, & environmental hopper dredging windows



# Water Injection Dredge (WID)

## South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA)



# SCPA Waterways

USACE District:  
All

USACE Channel:  
All

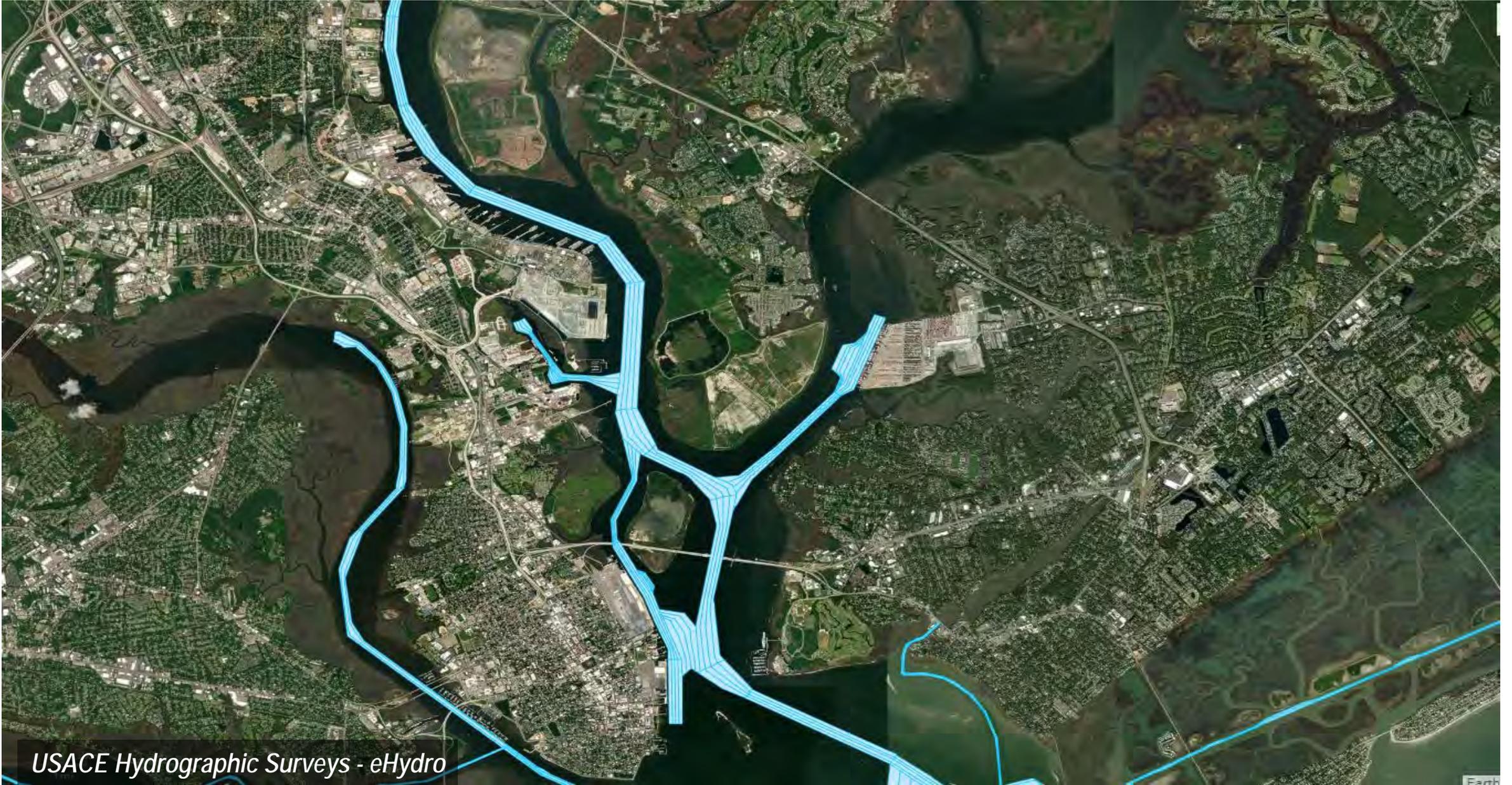
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Survey Date Range:  
All Surveys | Last 60 days | 2019 | 2018  
Custom Date Range

*USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro*  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)



# Cooper River & HLT



# Charleston Harbor Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Update

- More than 39 miles of channels with various depths & widths & six turning basins.
- Roughly 6.9 MCY of maintenance dredging per year
- ODMDS is roughly 8 miles from the inlet & over 12 square miles, with a smaller drop zone
- USACE Charleston District is currently dredging parts of the Harbor to 52 feet & entrance channel to 54 feet



# Project Focus

- Charleston Harbor is formed by the junction of the Ashley, Wando, & Cooper Rivers
- In 1942, Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric Project was completed, & was flow into the west branch of the Cooper River
- In 1959 three (3) **contraction dikes** were constructed in the Cooper River
- As long ago as 1992, the USACE has acknowledged the need to reconfigure the **contraction dikes**
- HDR's proposed study would, among other issues like the **contraction dikes**, look at the potential effectiveness of WID in the Charleston Harbor



# Water Injection Dredge (WID)

# Maryland Port Administration (MPA)



# MPA Waterways (Northern)

USACE District:

All

USACE Channel:

All

Channel ID:

All

Survey Date Range:

All Surveys Last 60 days 2019 2018

Custom Date Range

*USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro*  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)



# MPA Waterways (Central)

USACE District:  
All

USACE Channel:  
All

Channel ID:  
All

Survey Date Range:  
All Surveys Last 60 days 2019 2018  
Custom Date Range



*USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro*  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)

# MPA Waterways (Southern)

USACE District:  
All

USACE Channel:  
All

Channel ID:  
All

Survey Date Range:  
All Surveys | Last 60 days | 2019 | 2018  
Custom Date Range



*USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro*  
[www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro](http://www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro)

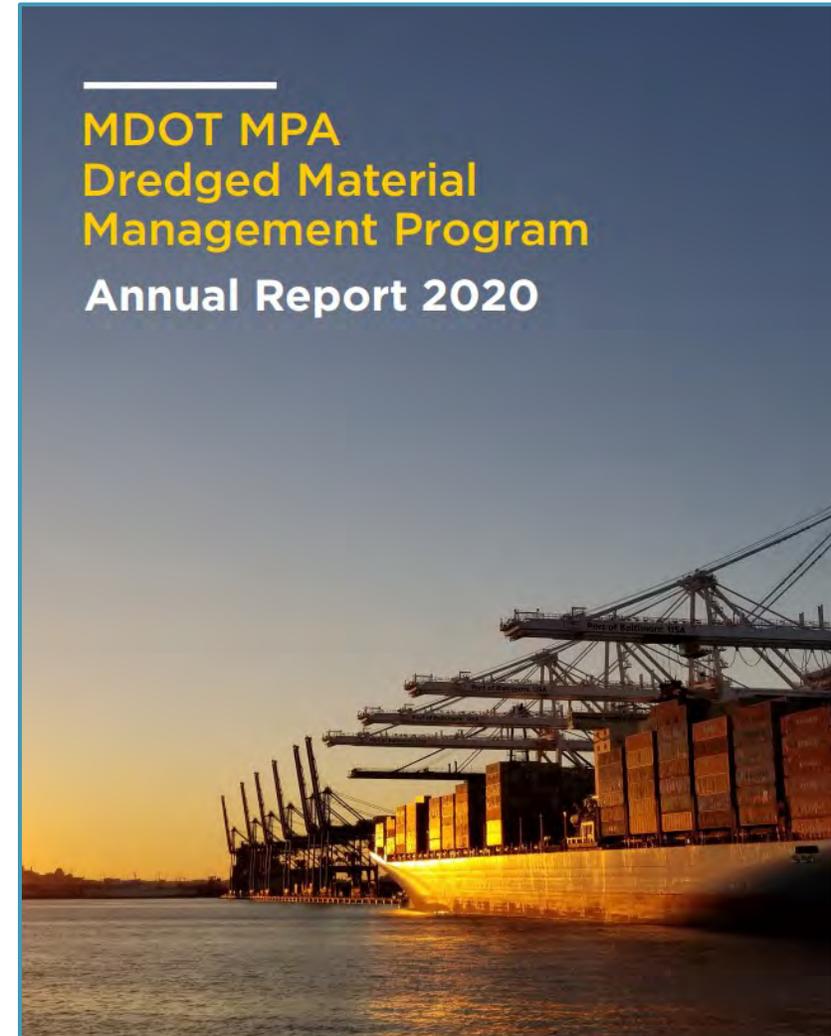
# Port of Baltimore



USACE Hydrographic Surveys - eHydro

# MDOT MPA DMMP 2020

- A series of vast & complex channels with various depths & widths & multiple turning basins
- Roughly 5 MCY of maintenance dredging per year
- Mid-Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project's beneficial use of dredged material is the Port's number one federal priority
- What is the Future of Confined Aquatic Disposal?
- What are the most daunting & potentially long-lasting programmatic challenges?
- What are the crucial budget concerns?



MDOT MPA DMMP 2020  
[www.maryland-dmmp.com](http://www.maryland-dmmp.com)

# Water Injection Dredge (WID) in Reservoirs

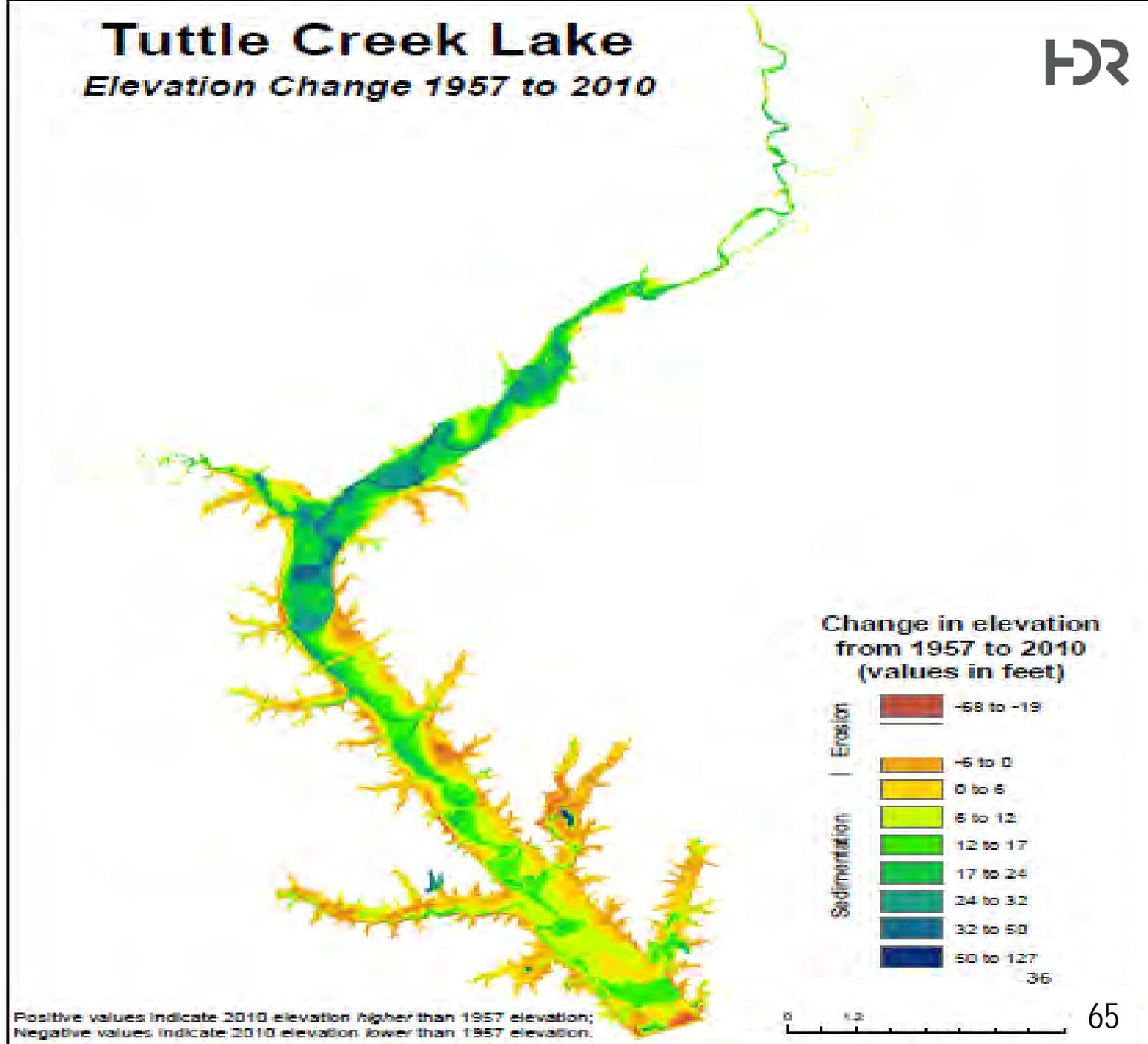
Kansas Water  
Office (KWO)

Tuttle Creek Lake

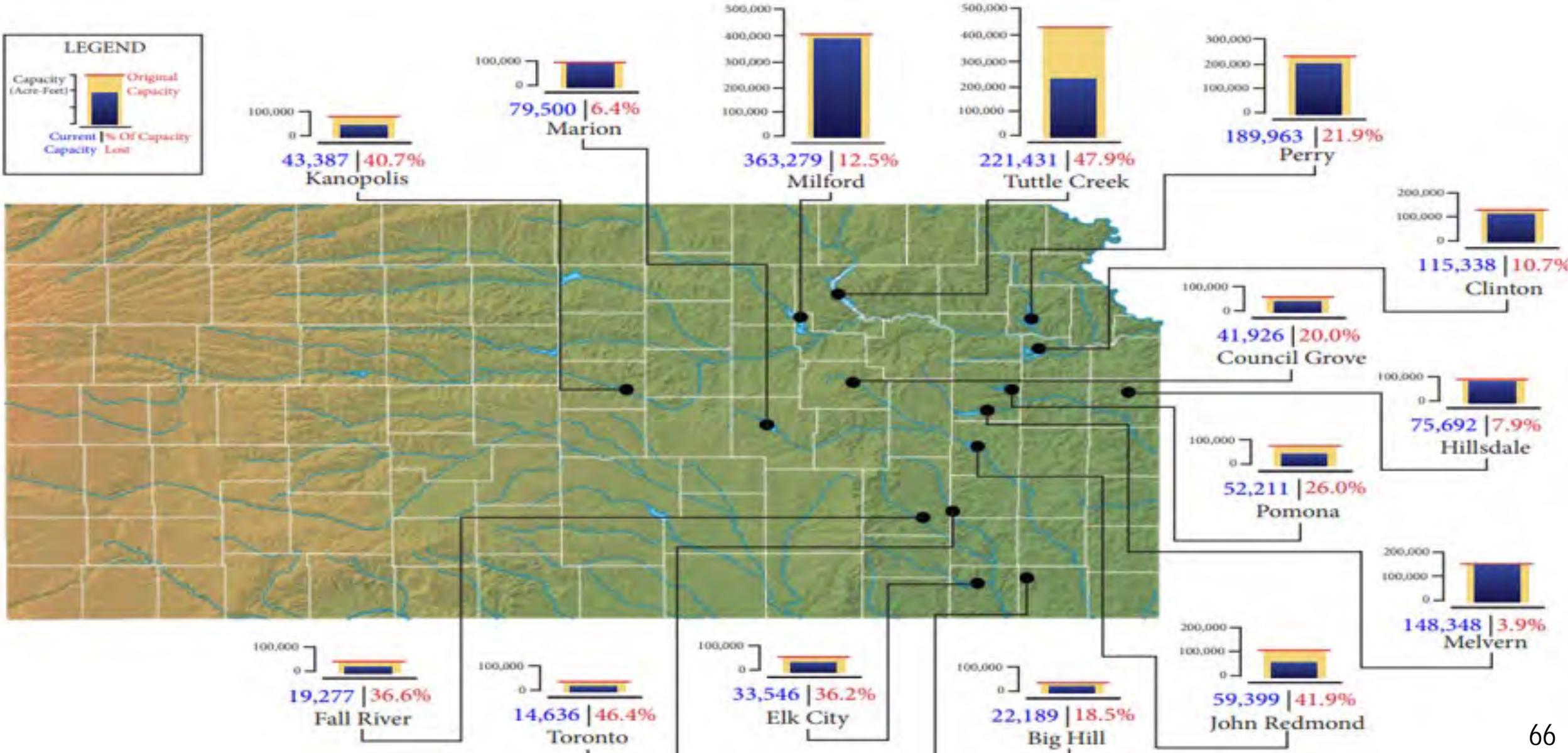


## Tuttle Creek Lake

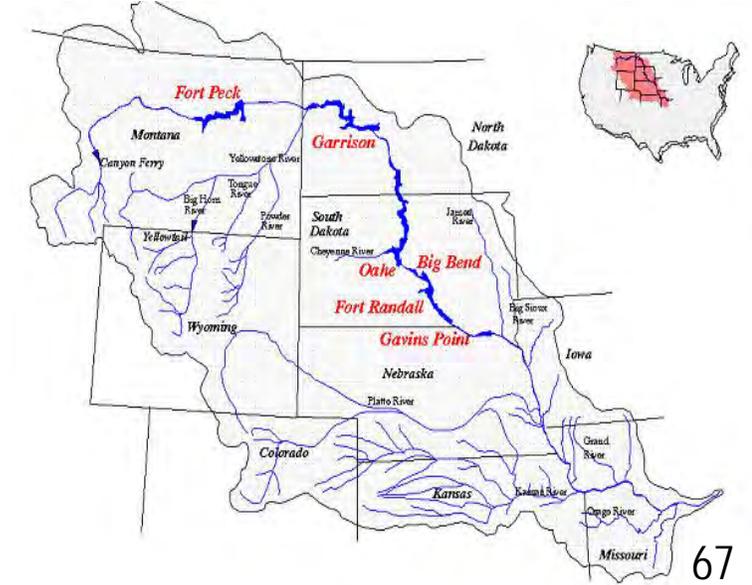
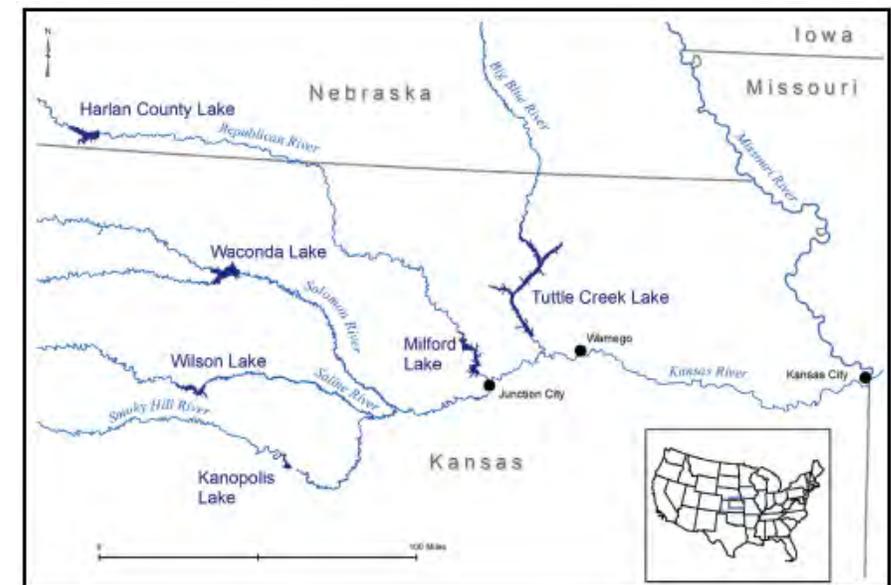
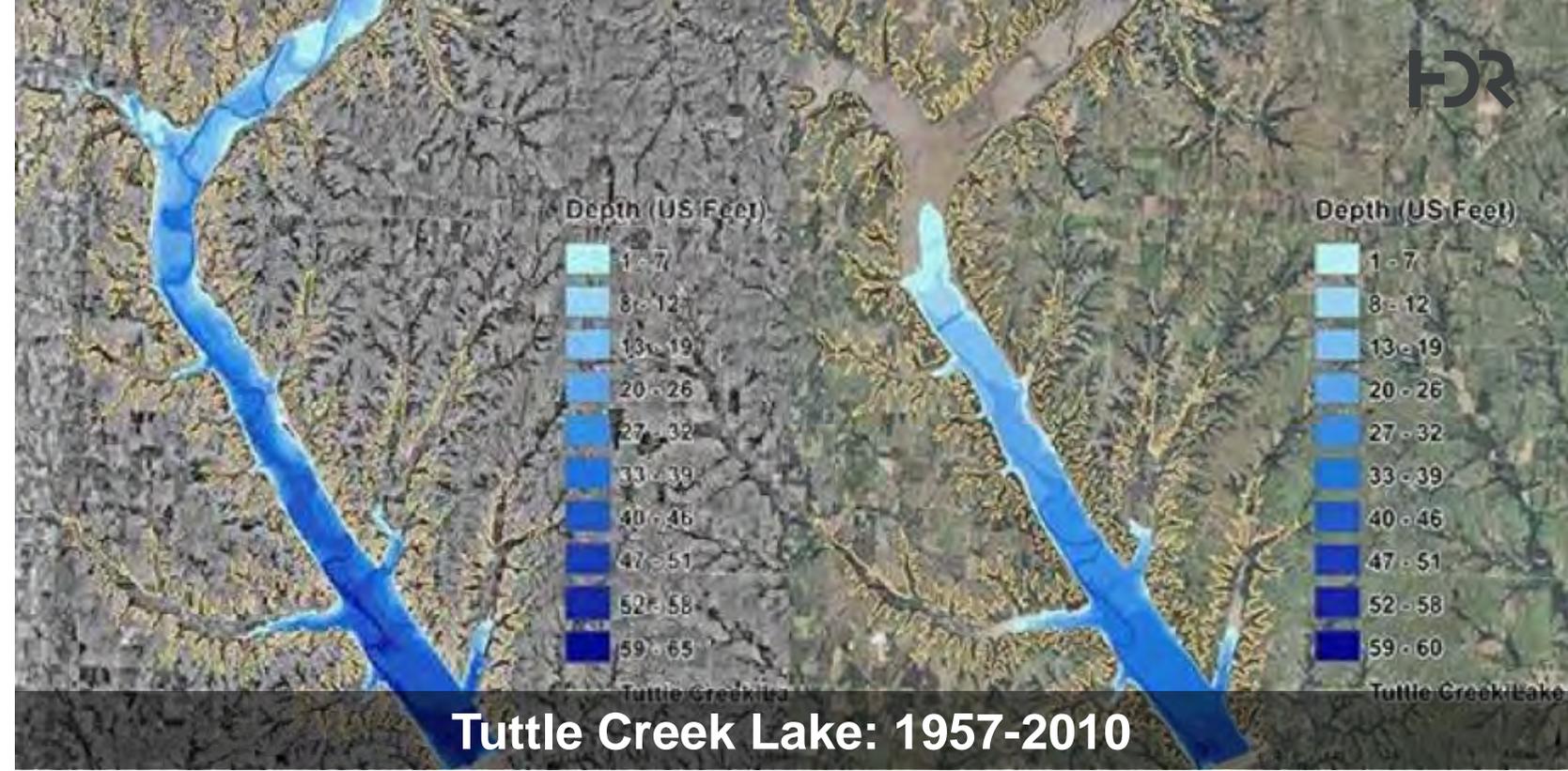
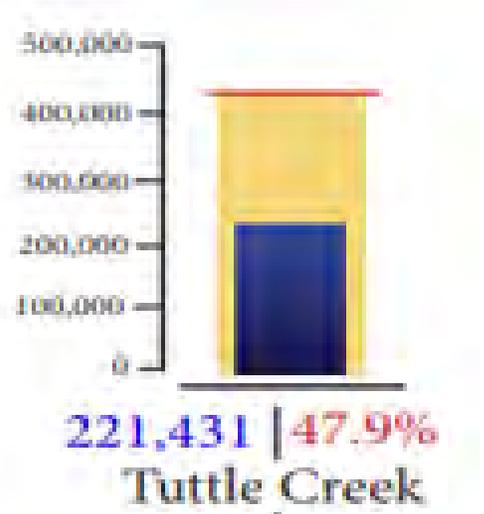
*Elevation Change 1957 to 2010*



# WID Kansas Water Office (KWO) Tuttle Creek Lake



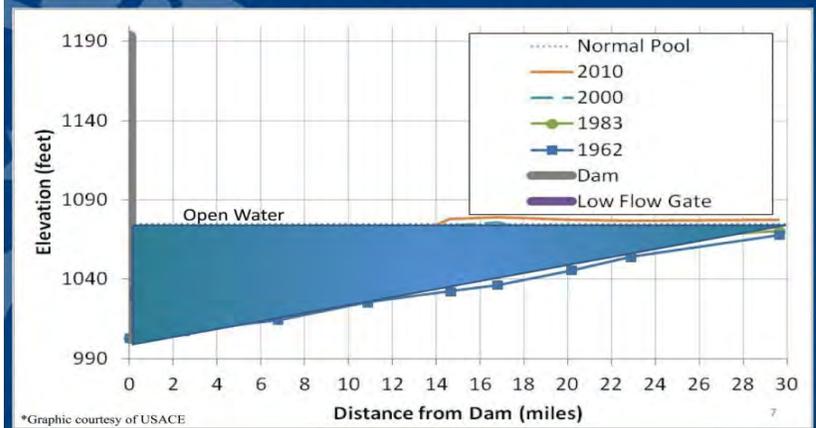
# WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)



# WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)

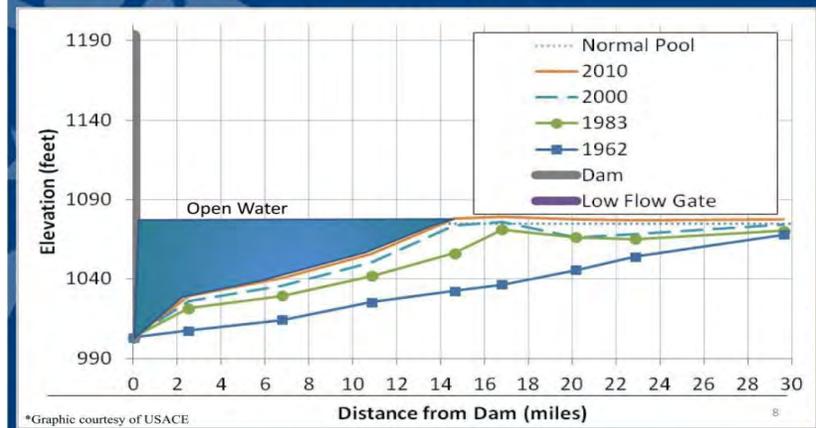


Tuttle Creek Lake: 1962



\*Graphic courtesy of USACE

Tuttle Creek Lake: 2010



\*Graphic courtesy of USACE



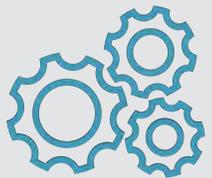
## Annual Storage Volume Lost

- Sedimentation Rate in the Reservoir's Multi-Purpose Pool (1957 – 2010)
  - 3,600 acre-feet/year
  - 5.8 million cubic yards per year



Open the sluice gates & release the sediment through the existing low elevation discharge conduit under the forces of:

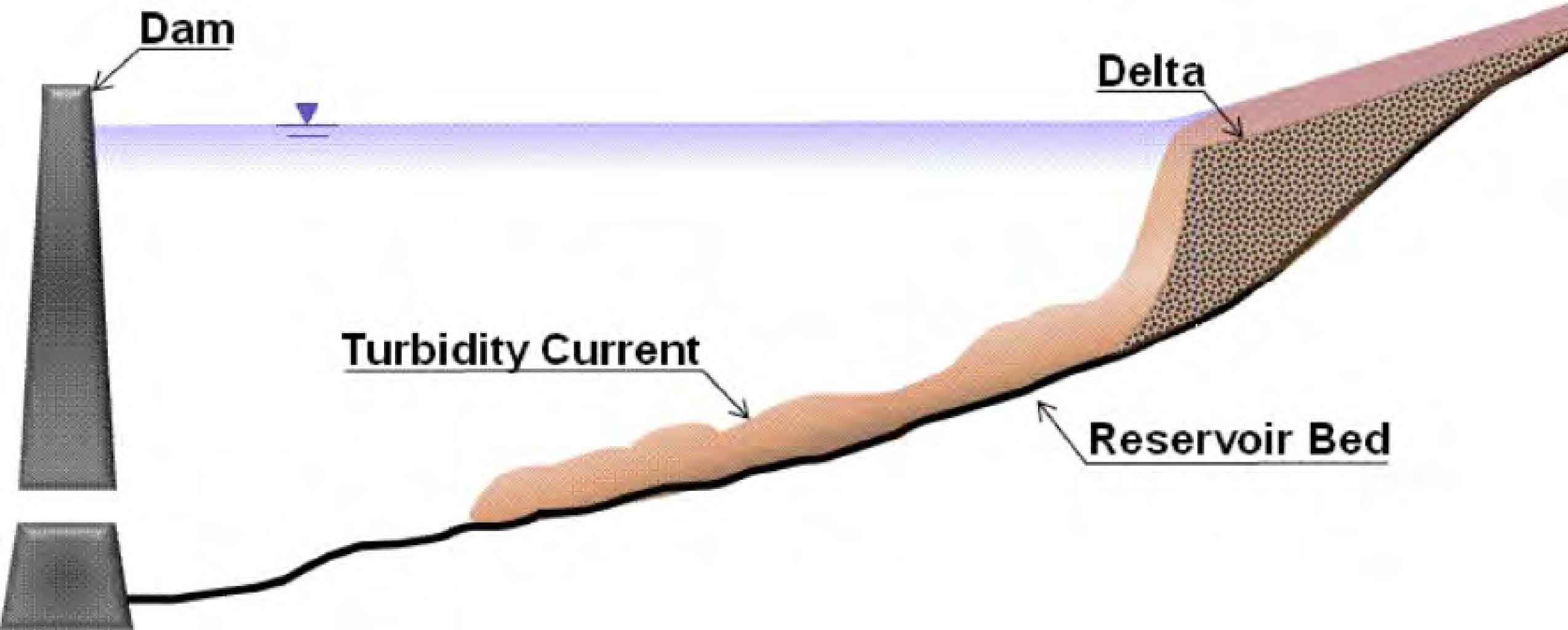
- Gravity due to elevation changes
- Current (suction) from the low elevation discharge conduit



## Water Injection Dredging

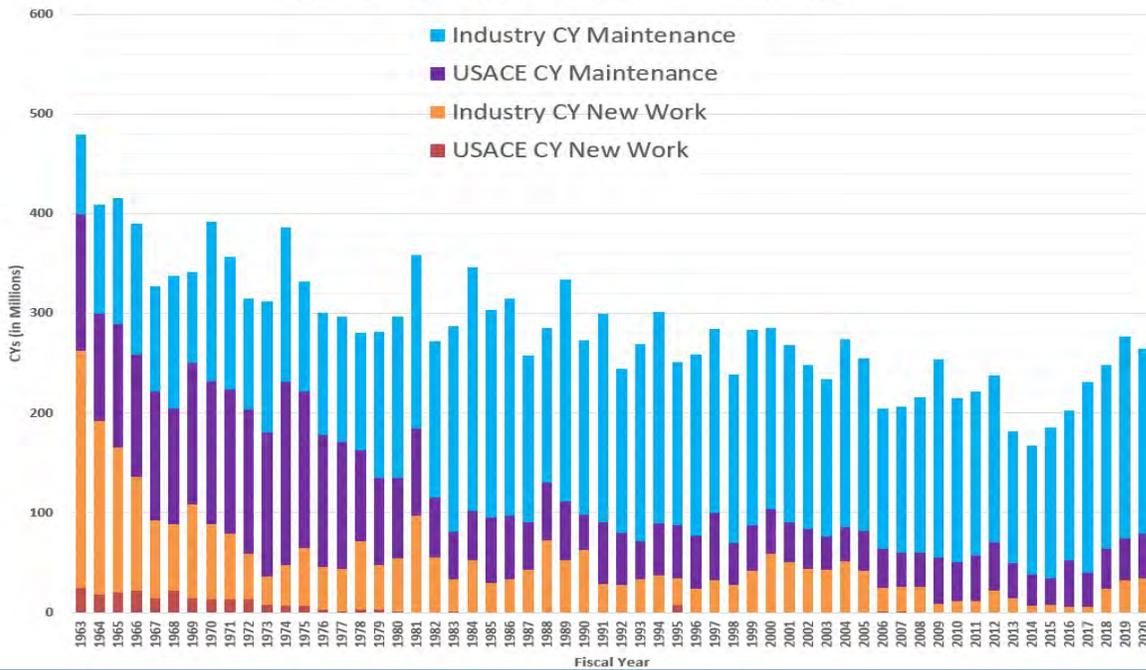
Inject water into the sediment deposits to induce a *density current*

# WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)

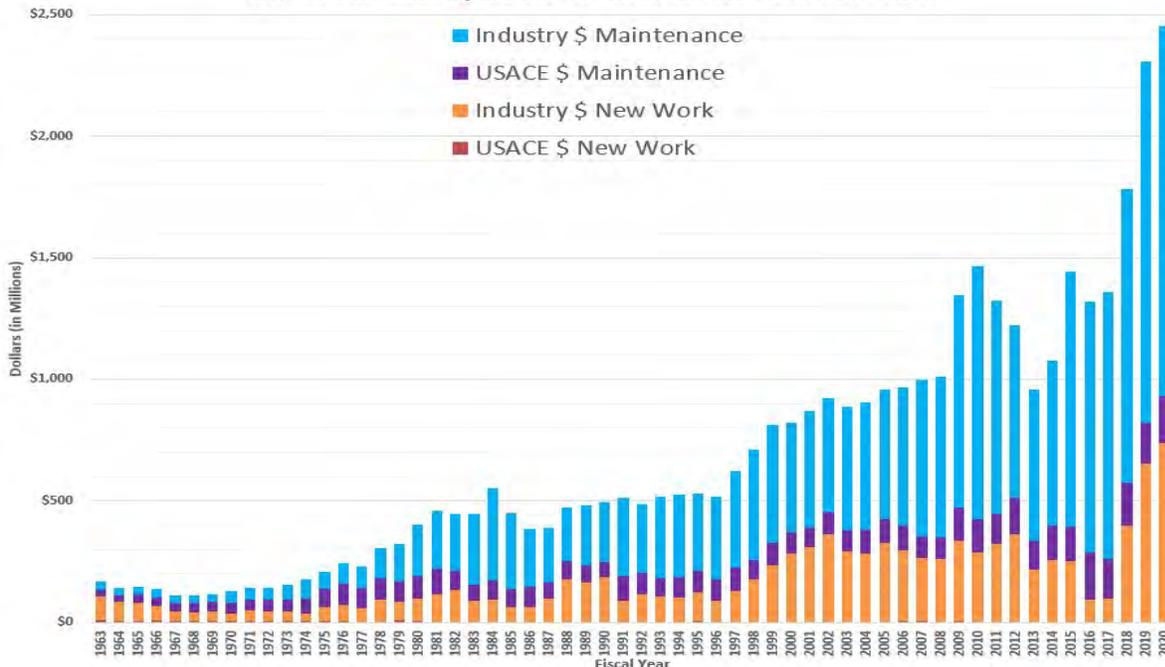


# USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020)

USACE and Industry CYs for Maintenance and New Work



USACE and Industry Dollars for Maintenance and New Work



- Overall US dredging volumes decreased
  - USACE CY has **decreased by ~377%**
  - Industry CY has **decreased by ~125%**
  - Overall CY has **decreased by ~170%**
- Overall US dredging costs increased
  - USACE \$/CY has increased by ~178%
  - Industry \$/CY has increased by ~250%
  - Overall \$/CY has increased by ~255%
- Overall US dredging volumes by type have decreased
  - New Work CY has **decreased by ~773%**
  - Maintenance CY has **decreased by ~121%**
- Overall US maintenance dredging responsibility has shifted to Industry
  - USACE portion has **decreased by ~17%**
  - Industry portion has increased by ~43%

# USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020)



<https://publibrary.planusace.us/#/series/Dredging%20Information>

CORPUS OF ENGINEERS									
DOLLARS			CUBIC YARDS			2020 \$\$/CY			
MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	WEIGHTED AVG.	
First Ten Years	\$37	\$6	\$44	131	17	149	\$2.16	\$2.79	\$2.24
Last Ten Years	\$157	\$0.01	\$157	39	0.002	39	\$3.98	\$3.78	\$3.98
				333%	96667%	377%	184%	135%	178%

INDUSTRY									
DOLLARS			CUBIC YARDS			2020 \$\$/CY			
MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	WEIGHTED AVG.	
First Ten Years	\$37	\$53	\$90	118	110	228	\$2.36	\$3.68	\$3.00
Last Ten Years	\$1,028	\$339	\$1,367	166	16	182	\$6.20	\$20.55	\$7.49
				140%	667%	125%	262%	558%	250%

USACE & INDUSTRY									
DOLLARS			CUBIC YARDS			2020 \$\$/CY			
MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	WEIGHTED AVG.	
First Ten Years	\$74	\$60	\$134	249	127	377	\$2.26	\$3.56	\$2.70
Last Ten Years	\$1,185	\$339	\$1,524	205	16	222	\$5.77	\$20.55	\$6.87
				121%	773%	170%	256%	578%	255%