

“OVERVIEW OF CRITERIA FOR REQUESTING DISPOSAL OF SEDIMENT INTO EPA’S OCEAN MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL SITES (ODMDS)”

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WEDA SUMMIT - HOUSTON, TEXAS, JULY 25 - 28, 2022



<https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/managing-ocean-dumping-epa-region-6#odmnds>

OVERVIEW AND IMPORTANCE TODAY?

- Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA)
- MPRSA
 - General Provisions
 - Monitoring Activities
 - Dredged material management and evaluation
- Why is this important more today?
 - Focus on Infrastructure:
 - One Federal Decision
 - Widening & deepening navigation channels, port development (e.g., Corpus Christi, Brazos Island Harbor, Matagorda, Sabine-Neches, Freeport Harbor)
 - Region 6 anticipated activities for the next two years

MPRSA: WHO DOES WHAT?

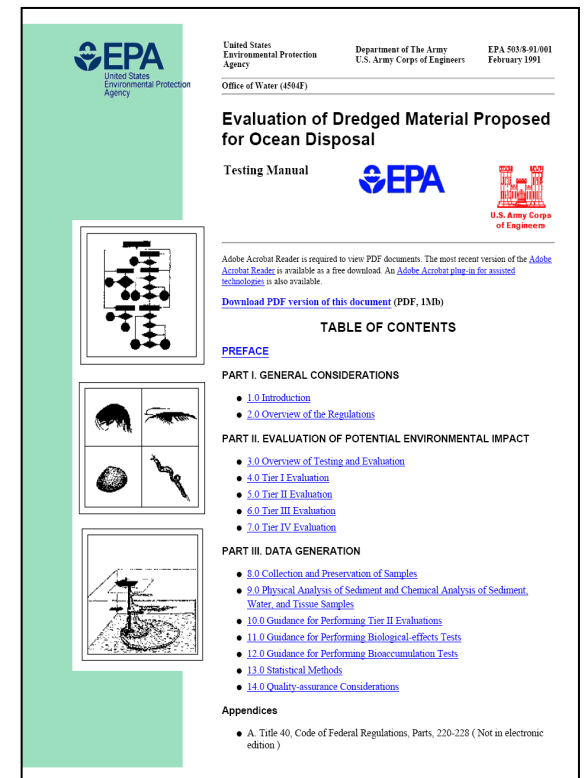
For dredged material:

- **USACE** issues ocean dumping permits and specifies disposal site if use of EPA-designated site is not feasible.
- **EPA**
 - Establishes environmental criteria for evaluating permit applications and for site designation
 - Reviews all MPRSA permits for, and federal or non-federal projects involving, ocean dumping for concurrence
 - Review includes pre-application consultations, development of sampling and analysis plans, independent evaluation of data and information for compliance with criteria
 - Concurs, concurs w/conditions, or non-concurs on USACE permits
 - Designates ocean dumping sites in the FR
 - Manages ocean dumping sites
 - Develops and updates/revises, with USACE, a Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for each designated dredged material disposal site
- **EPA, USACE, and U.S. Coast Guard** are responsible for compliance and enforcement.



MPRSA PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- Materials must meet EPA-established ocean dumping criteria [MPRSA section 102(a)]
 - EPA's criteria consider, among other things:
 - the environmental impact of the dumping
 - the need for the dumping
 - the effect of the dumping on esthetic, recreational, or economic values
 - land-based alternatives to ocean dumping
 - the adverse effects of the dumping on other uses of the ocean
- Materials generally undergo a series of chemical/biological tests and evaluations
- Materials must be placed in an EPA-designated or an approved USACE-selected ocean dumping site [MPRSA section 102 and 103]



MPRSA: WHO NEEDS A PERMIT?

- Anyone transporting material from the U.S. to dump it into ocean waters (anywhere)
- U.S. vessel or aircraft transporting material to dump it into ocean waters (anywhere)
- U.S. department, agency, or instrumentality transporting material to dump it into ocean waters (anywhere)
- Anyone dumping material transported from outside the U.S. into the territorial sea or into the contiguous zone to the extent that it may affect the territorial sea or a territory of the U.S.

MPRSA SITE DESIGNATION

- Ocean disposal sites must be designated in locations that mitigate adverse impacts to the greatest extent [MPRSA section 102 (c)]
- EPA is responsible for designating sites for the ocean dumping of all materials, including dredged material [MPRSA section 102 (c)] , and follows a voluntary NEPA policy
 - EPA designates through rulemaking and sites are published in the CFR
 - EPA must consider the ocean disposal site criteria that are in the regulations when selecting a site for designation
 - EPA bases the designation of an ocean disposal site on environmental studies of a proposed site, environmental studies of regions adjacent to the site, and historical knowledge of the impact of disposal on areas similar to the sites in physical, chemical and biological characteristics.
- USACE may select “alternative” ocean sites for dredged material disposal for short-term use (up to two 5-year periods) where it is not feasible to use designated sites [MPRSA section 103(b)]
 - EPA must concur on use of “alternative” sites selected by USACE

JURISDICTION

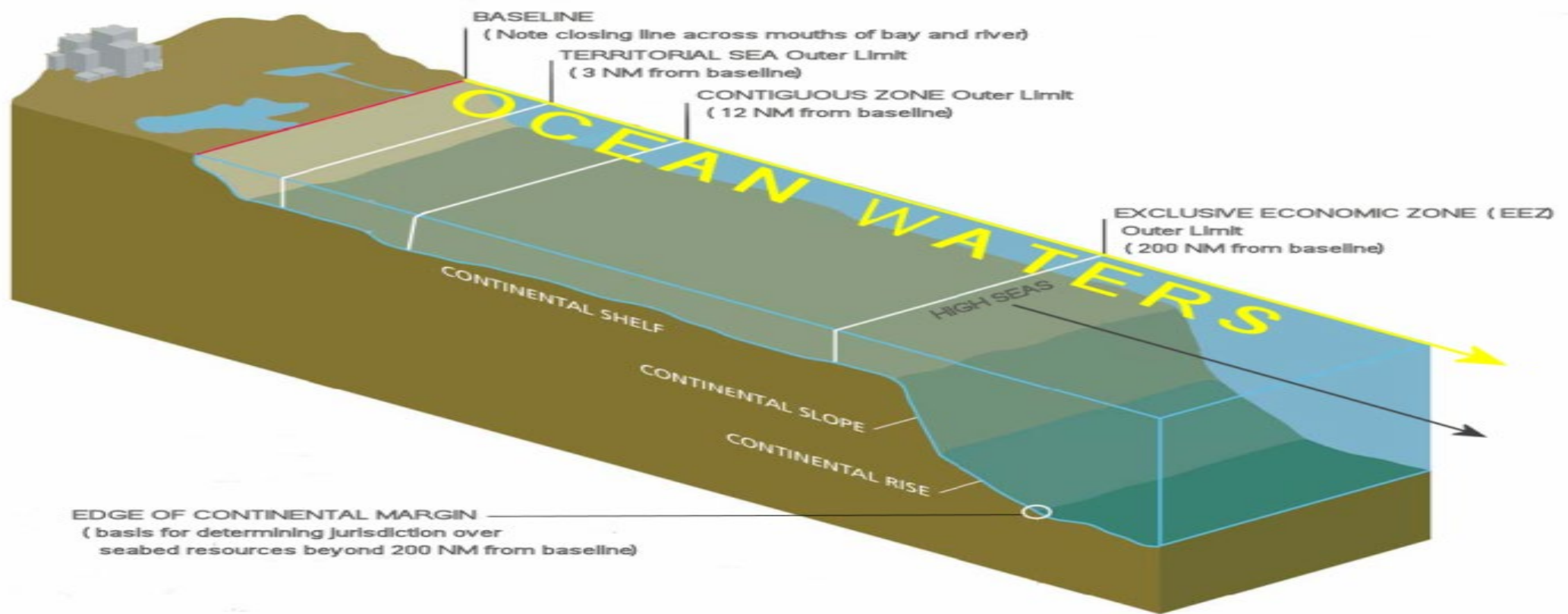


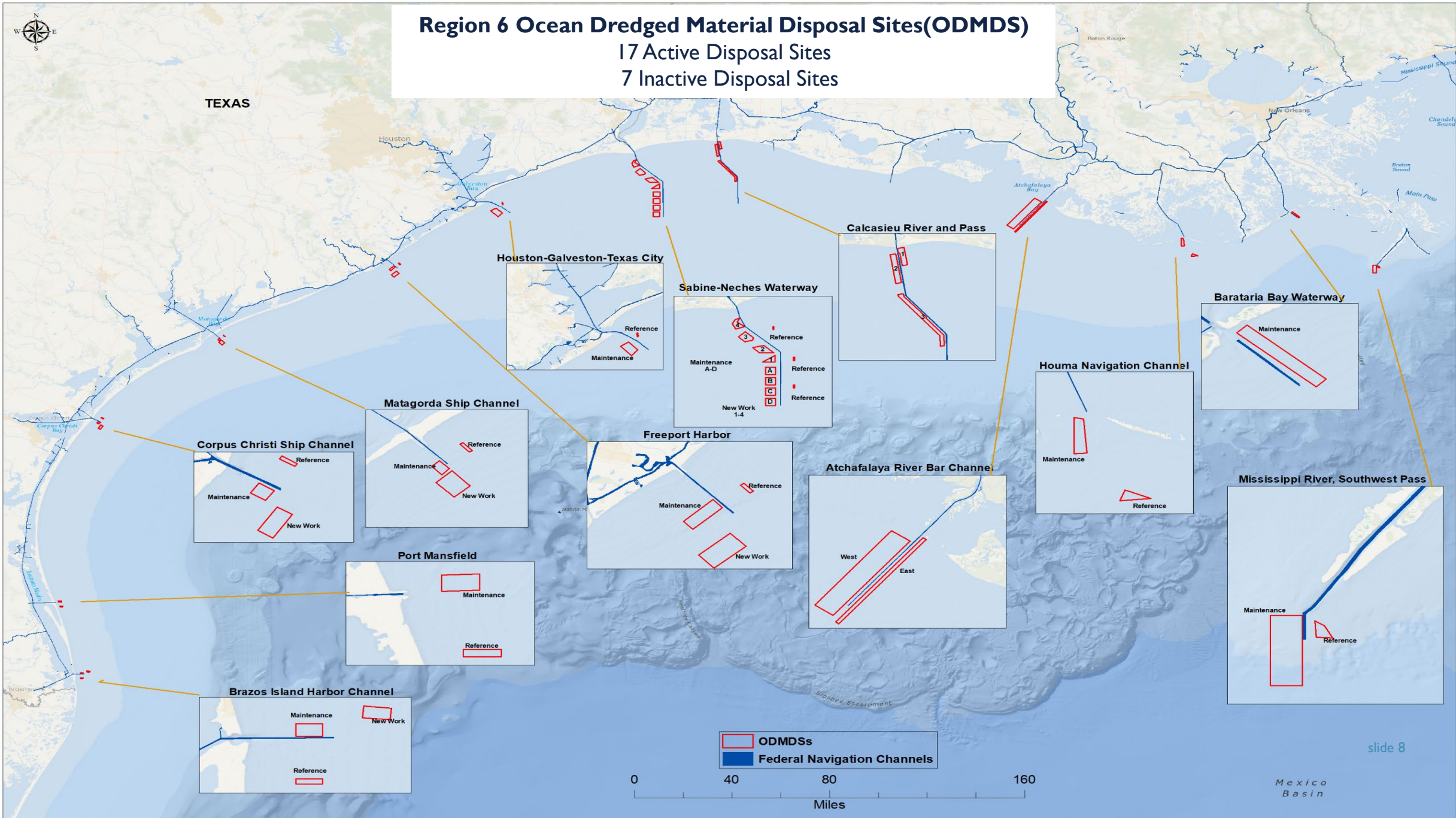
ILLUSTRATION NOT TO SCALE — DESCRIPTIONS ARE FOR PURPOSES OF OCEAN DUMPING ACT ONLY

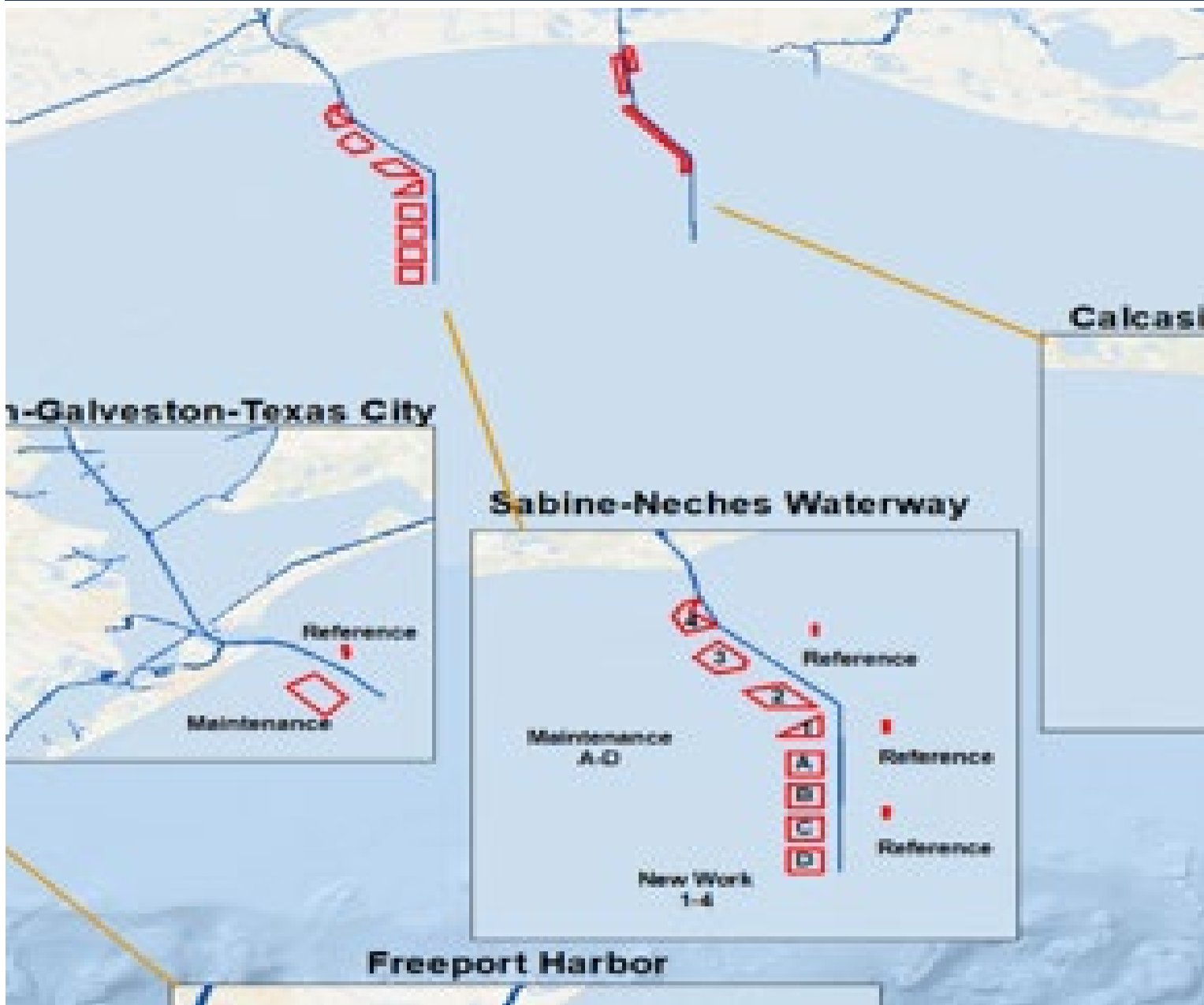
Illustration derived from: An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (Figure P.1, pg 42)

Region 6 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites(ODMDS)

17 Active Disposal Sites

7 Inactive Disposal Sites





SABINE-NECHES WATERWAY

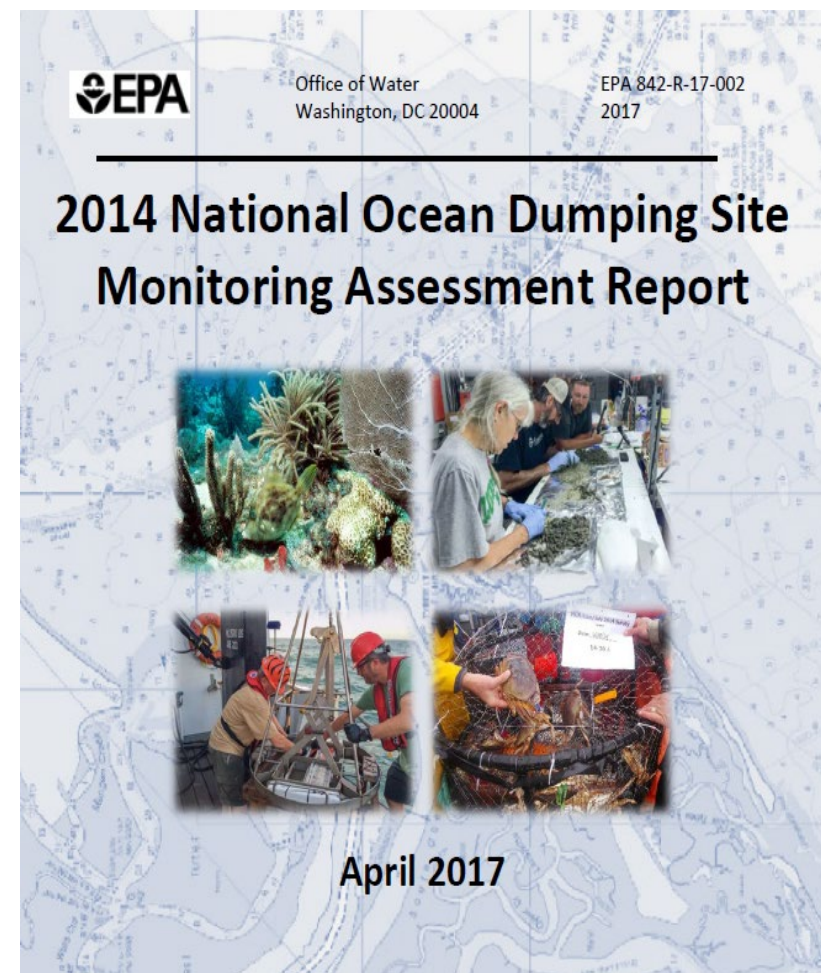
TYPES OF MONITORING



- Bathymetry (bottom topography)
- Sediment data collection using grabs and cores
 - Sediment chemistry (contaminants, e.g., PCBs, dioxin, metals)
 - Grain size analysis
- Still underwater images (e.g., Sediment Profile Imaging)
- Video studies
- Wave and current studies
- Water quality (chemical and other parameters, such as turbidity)
- Benthic trawls to collect organisms for tissue studies or assess changes in biological communities
- Individual project compliance monitoring (e.g., GPS tracking on vessels carrying material to ocean disposal site)

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS

- Operational Survey Report
 - Summary of operational reports submitted by Chief Scientists
 - Documents operational function of all surveys conducted in a given fiscal year
 - Recommends monitoring process improvements
- National Ocean Dumping Site Monitoring Assessment Report (SMART)
 - Summary of ocean dumping monitoring activities in a given fiscal year
 - Developed from survey reports submitted by EPA Regions
 - Presents objectives, activities, and results of each survey
 - Reports the recommended environmental management actions (e.g., expanding, reducing, and/or adjusting the location of a disposal site)

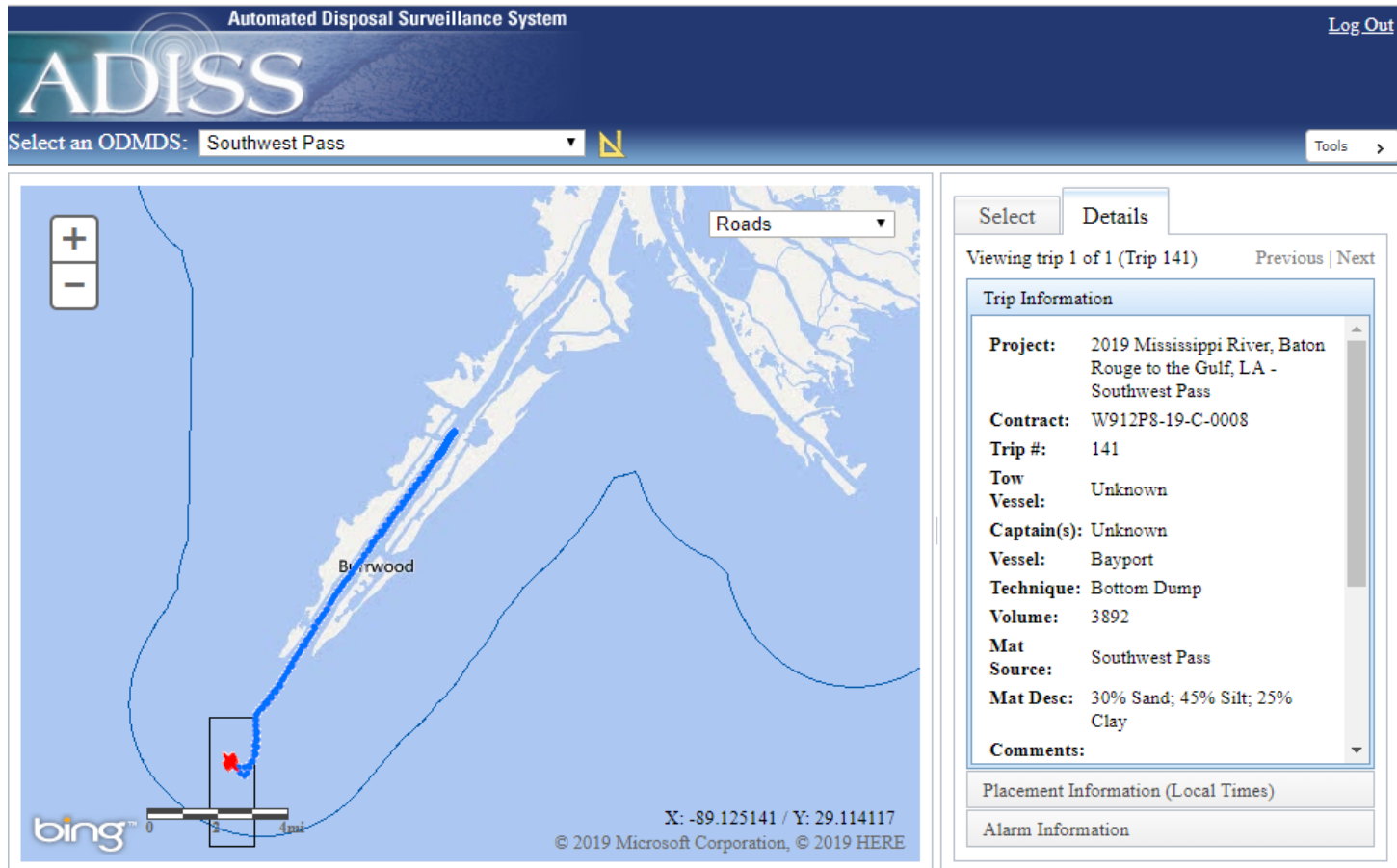


DQM – DREDGING QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Automated Disposal Surveillance System Log Out

ADISS

Select an ODMDS: Southwest Pass Tools >



Trip Information

Project:	2019 Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf, LA - Southwest Pass
Contract:	W912P8-19-C-0008
Trip #:	141
Tow:	Unknown
Vessel:	Unknown
Captain(s):	Unknown
Vessel:	Bayport
Technique:	Bottom Dump
Volume:	3892
Mat Source:	Southwest Pass
Mat Desc:	30% Sand; 45% Silt; 25% Clay
Comments:	

Placement Information (Local Times)

Alarm Information

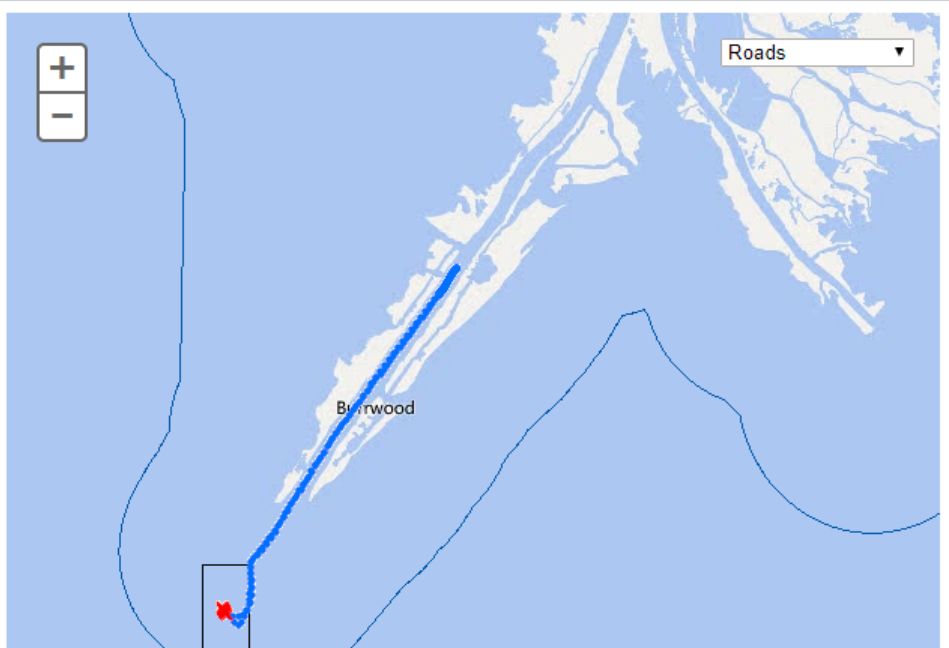
Automated dredging monitoring system and analysis tools using GPS and an online viewer to ensure the dredging vessel is meeting the criteria EPA and USACE have agreed upon

DQM – DREDGING QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Automated Disposal Surveillance System Log Out

ADISS

Select an ODMDS: Southwest Pass Tools >



Map Details:
Map: Southwest Pass
Location: Burrwood
Coordinates: X: -89.125141 / Y: 29.114117
© 2019 Microsoft Corporation, © 2019 HERE

Details Panel:

Select Details

Viewing trip 1 of 1 (Trip 141) Previous | Next

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1



Operations

2



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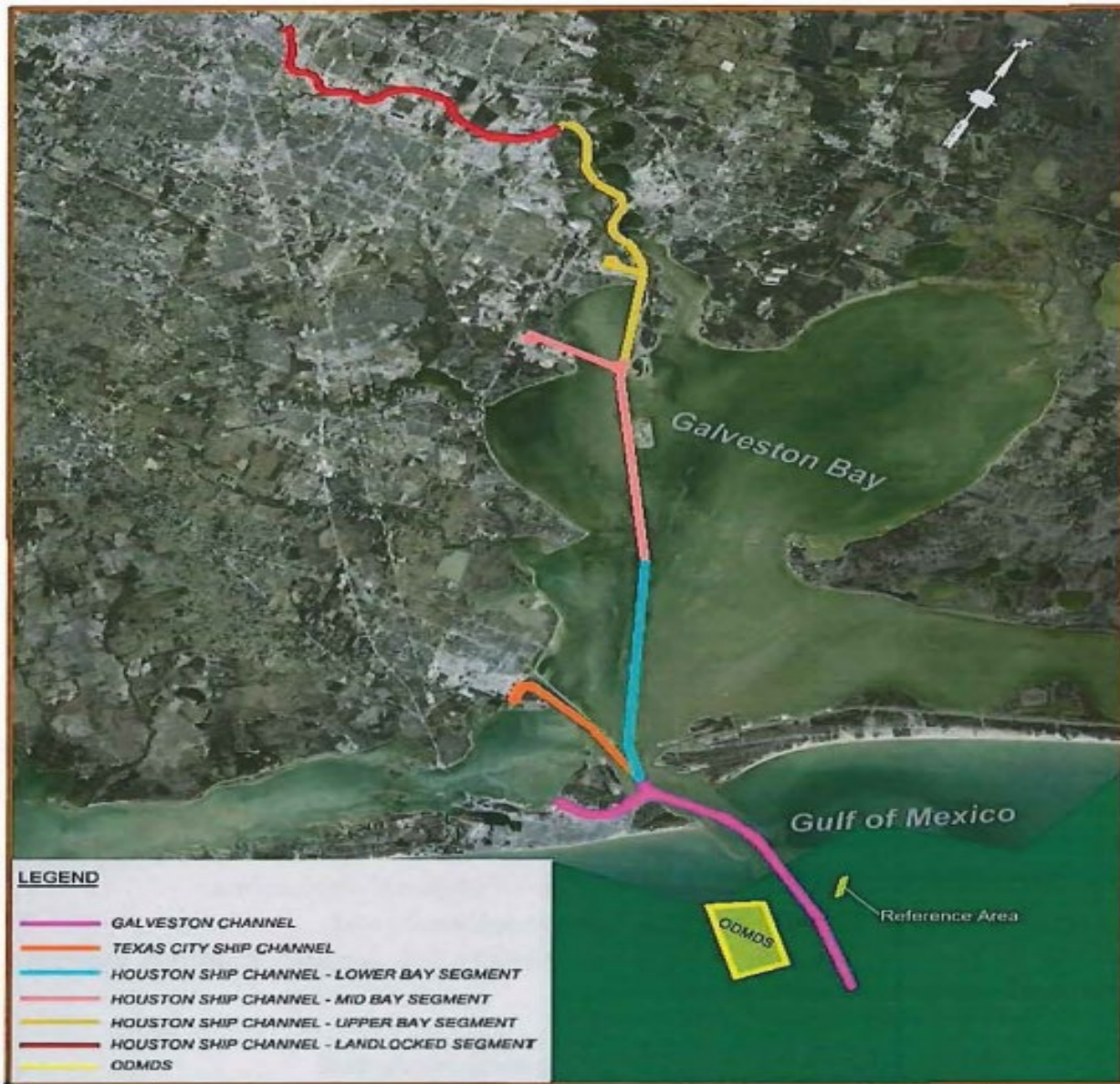
Environmental

3



Regulatory

Figure 1: Galveston Bay Complex (GBC), Texas



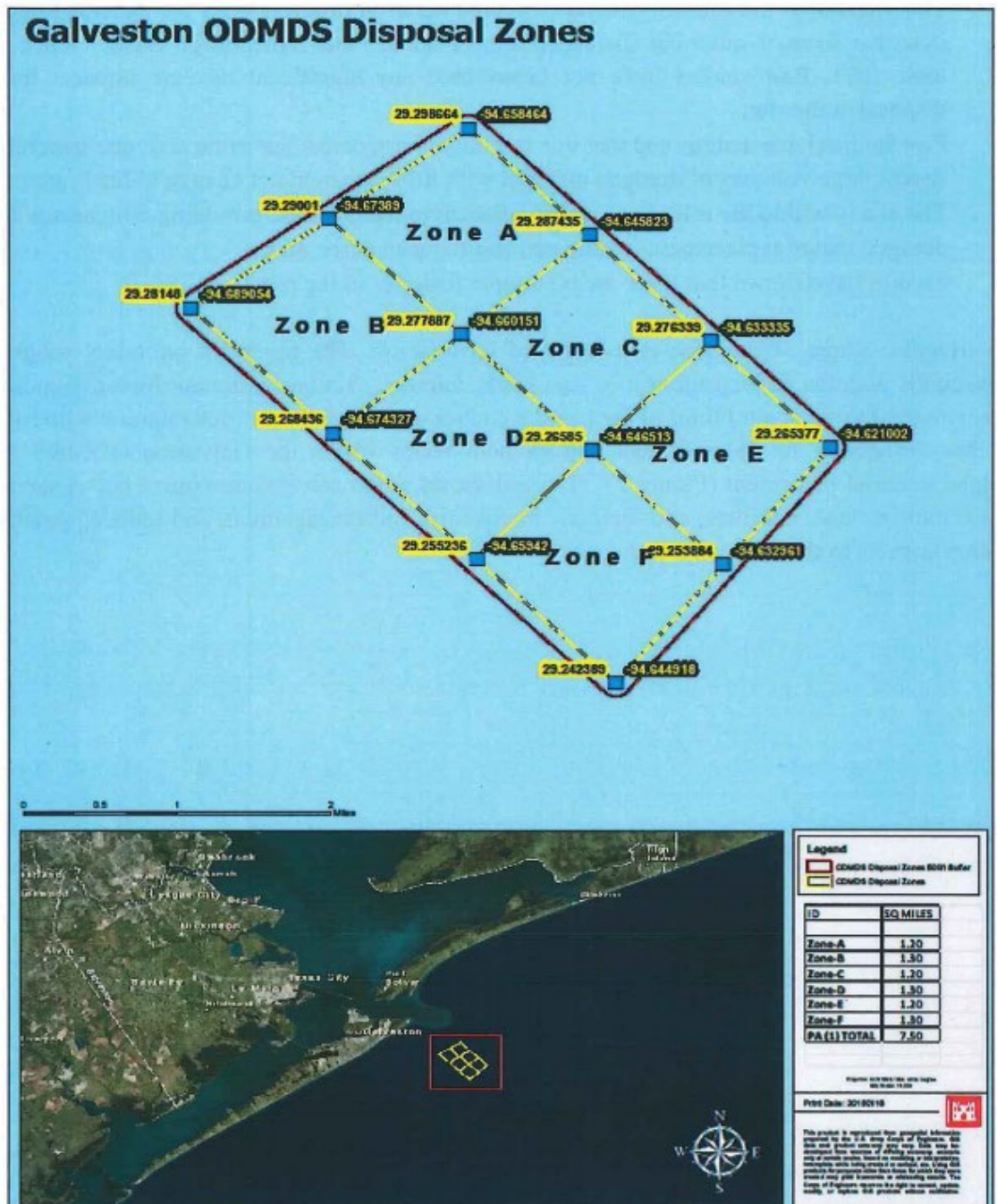
GALVESTON BAY COMPLEX, TEXAS (GBC)

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, GALVESTON DISTRICT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

Author	PAU	Date	15MM-2014	Rev.	
Checked by		Approved by	Regional Requirement		
Drawn by		Reviewed by	CHRIS/ABQ/TA		
Legend		Approved by	JOE HRAVETZ, P.E.		

Figure 1

Figure 2: Galveston ODMDS Disposal Zones



1



Operations

2



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Environmental

3



Regulatory

ENVIRONMENTAL – CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DEEPENING AND WIDENING)

Sabine-Neches Channel Improvement Project

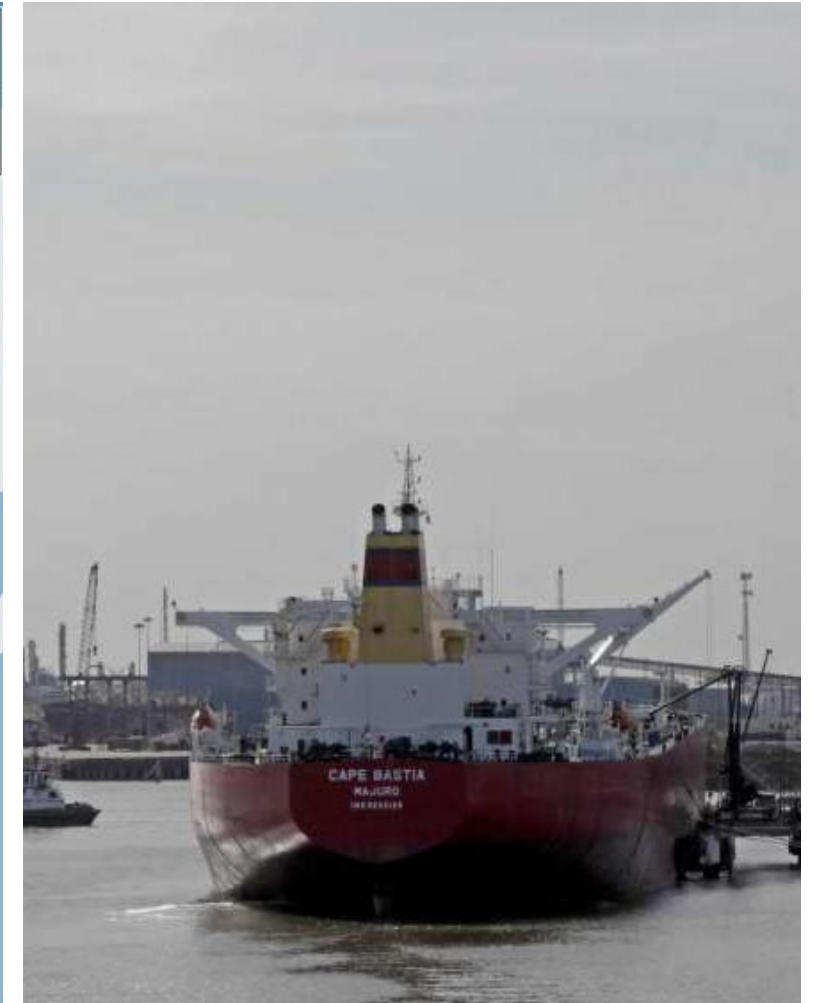
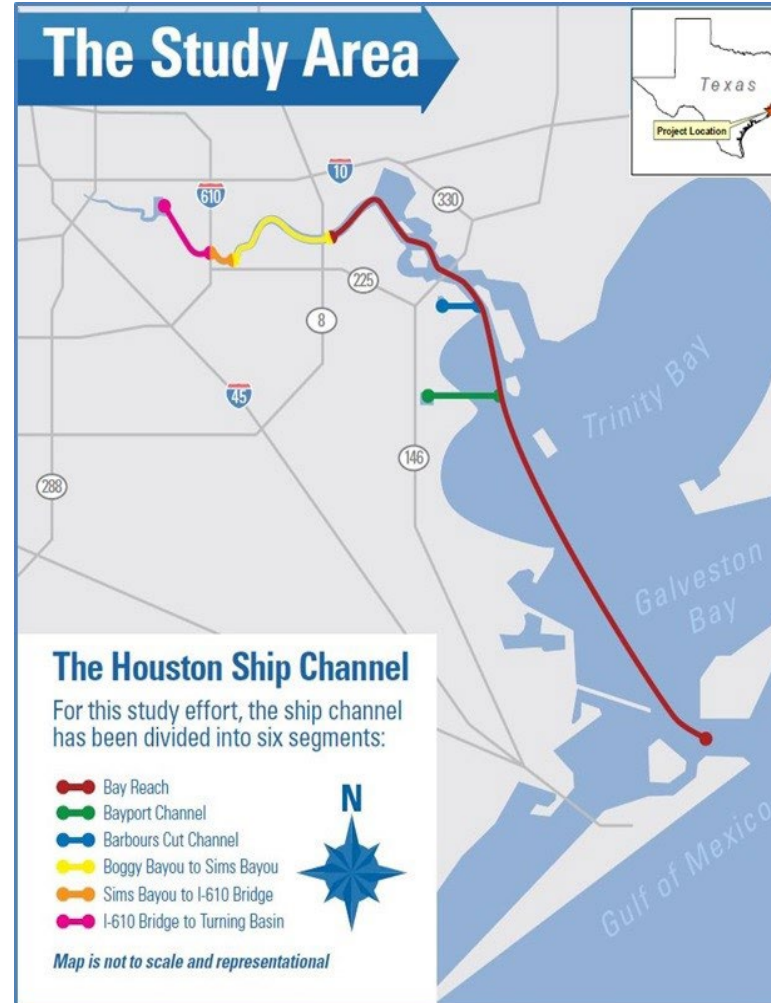
- \$1.4 B
- Deepening/Widening 48'
- In-process

Houston – Galveston Channel Improvement Project

- \$500 M
- Deepening /Widening 46'
- In-process

Christi Channel Improvement Project

- \$97.9 M
- Deepening/Widening 54'
- Completed





1



Operations

2



Environmental

3



Regulatory

REGULATORY

Regulatory Program oversees CWA 404 Permits and 3rd Party Permit Requests for Usage of R6 Ocean Disposal Sites.

Oversees Public Notices for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Meeting(s)



REGULATORY – CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DEEPENING AND WIDENING)

FAST – 41

Port of Christi Channel Deepening Project

- Deepening/Widening 72'

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

PERMITTING DASHBOARD
FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ABOUT PROJECTS RESOURCES & TOOLS FAST-41 DATA PORTAL


Home


Port of Corpus Christi Authority Channel Deepening Project


PERMITTING DASHBOARD PROJECT POSTING DATE: JUNE 18, 2019


PROJECT WEBSITE: [USACE website for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority Channel Deepening EIS Pr...](#)


All dates below are specific to the schedule of the Environmental Review and Permitting processes for this project.


 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING STATUS
IN PROGRESS

 ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING
05/17/2023




 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING PROCESSES COMPLETED

 SECTOR
Ports and Waterways


 CATEGORY
Project Category FAST-41 Covered Projects

 LEAD AGENCY
Department of the Army, US Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory

Other Agencies with Actions or Authorizations:



Coordinates



Primary Location
Coordinates
27.824019, -97.054338

Lead Agency Information:

POC Name: Jayson Hudson
POC Title: Regulatory Project Manager
POC Email: SWG201900067@usace.army.mil
Agency/Department: US Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory

Sponsor Contact Information:

Project Sponsor: Port of Corpus Christi Authority



EPA R6 FEBRUARY 2020 SURVEY

- Surveyed 3 sites for Site Capacity Expansions
- EPA Headquarters funding allocations \$650,000
- 3rd Party Applicants / Permittee
 - Corpus Christi ODMDS
 - Matagorda ODMDS
 - Brazos Island Harbor ODMDS







THANK YOU

REGION 6 OCEAN DUMPING CONTACTS

-
- Wendy Jacques, Ocean Dumping Coordinator
 - Lisa Rickards, Ocean Dumping Assistant Coordinator
 - Michael Daniels, DQM and Burial-at-Sea Coordinator
 - Karen McCormick, Section Chief