Mitigating Geological Risks Using Enhanced Geophysical Methods

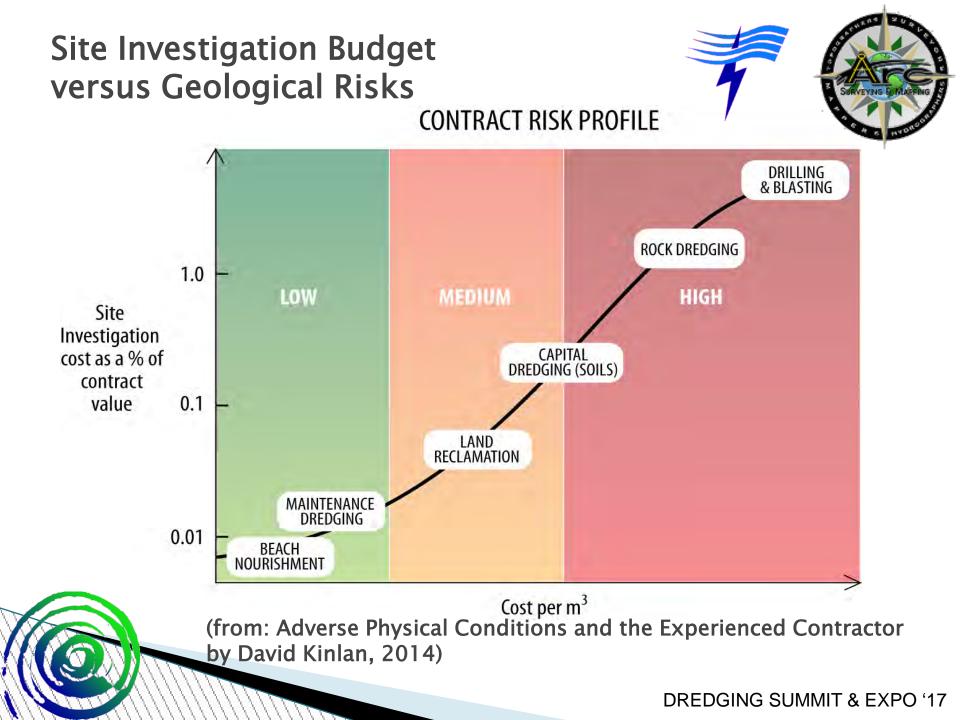








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Site investigation quality versus claim value

Type of Information provided to contractors	Average Claim Value / Contract Value
Minimal investigation no samples or test results	15-25%
Sparse information (1980's standard) borelogs with limited interpretative content	10-12%
Comprehensive investigation/design information & test results, no geotechnical model	2 - 2.5%
Comprehensive investigation/design information, detailed geotechnical model	<0.1%

Source : Roads & Traffic Authority, NSW





Site investigation methods



Geophysics

- Defining horizontal and vertical extents of geological structures
- Define dredge volumes
- Relatively fast and economical

Drilling + testing

- Focussed on geophysical structures defined geophysically
- Defining geotechnical parameters
- Expensive and time consuming







Site investigation sequence

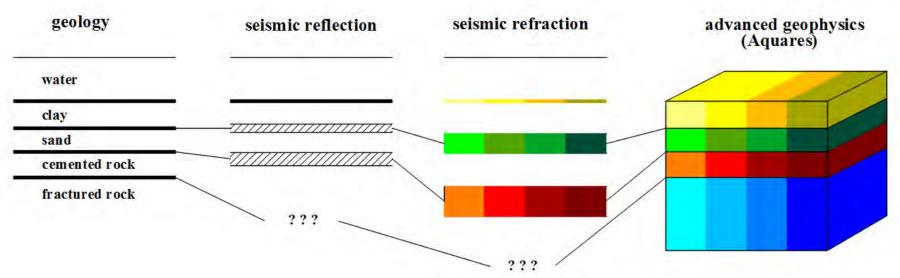
- Define extent of geological structures
- Select borehole locations based on geophysical information. Random boreholes are not effective.
- Combining geophysical and borehole results in a robust ground truthed 4D model
- This 4D model is the base information for: design selection of dredging equipment environmental control cost estimates



Enhanced (advanced) geophysics



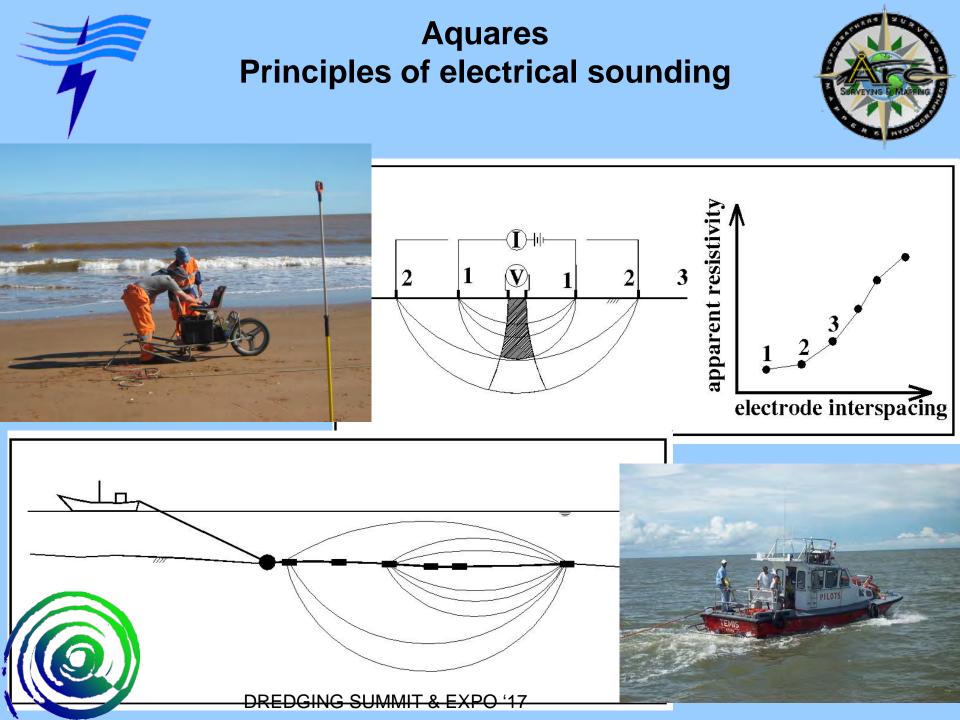
High quality geophysical methods generating accurate quantitative as well as qualitative information in a georeferenced 4D model



Aquares:

- Seabed towed cables -> high quality
- Accuracy: no acoustic velocity information required
- Quantitative: depths and thicknesses
- Qualitative: resistivity value distinguishes between different rock and sediment qualities
- 4D model: every point in space has a resistivity value attached to it DREDGING SUMMIT & EXPO '17







Applications



- Dredging projects
- Port design

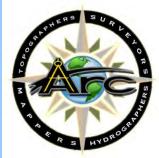
- Alluvial mining exploration (gravel / sand / gold / diamonds)
- Pipe / cable route surveys





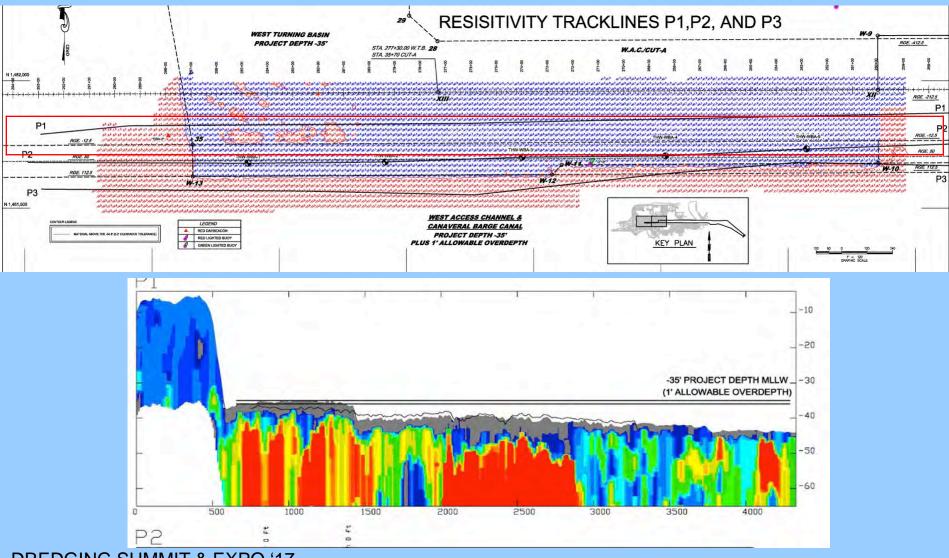


Port Canaveral

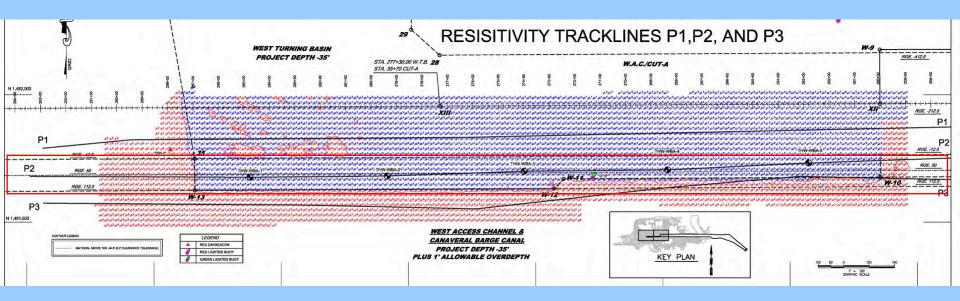


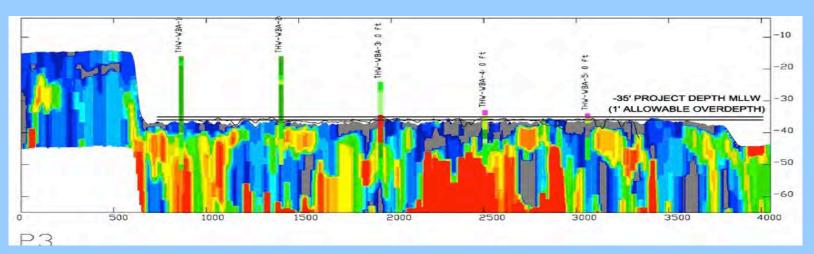


Resistivity Profile line 1.

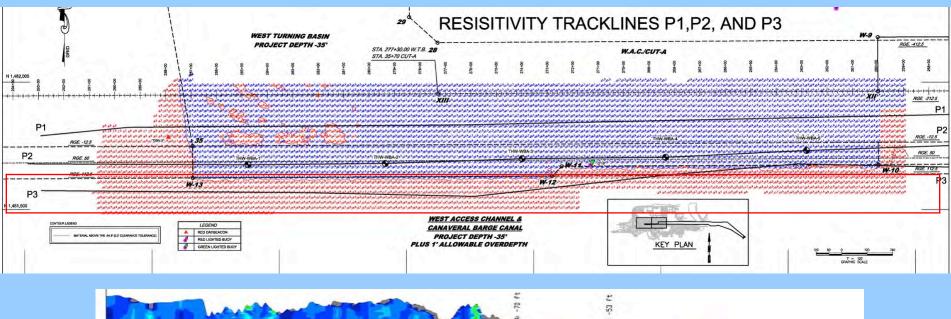


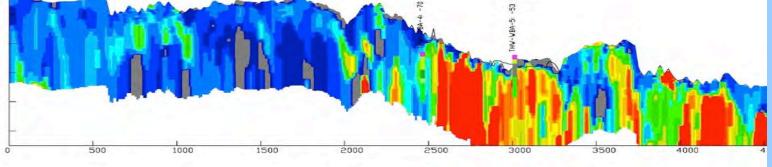
Resistivity Profile line 2.

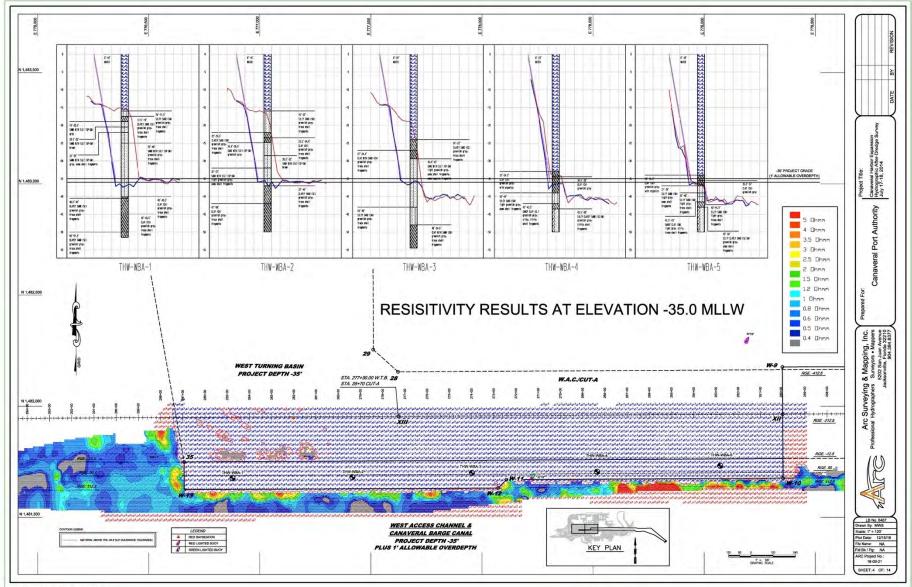




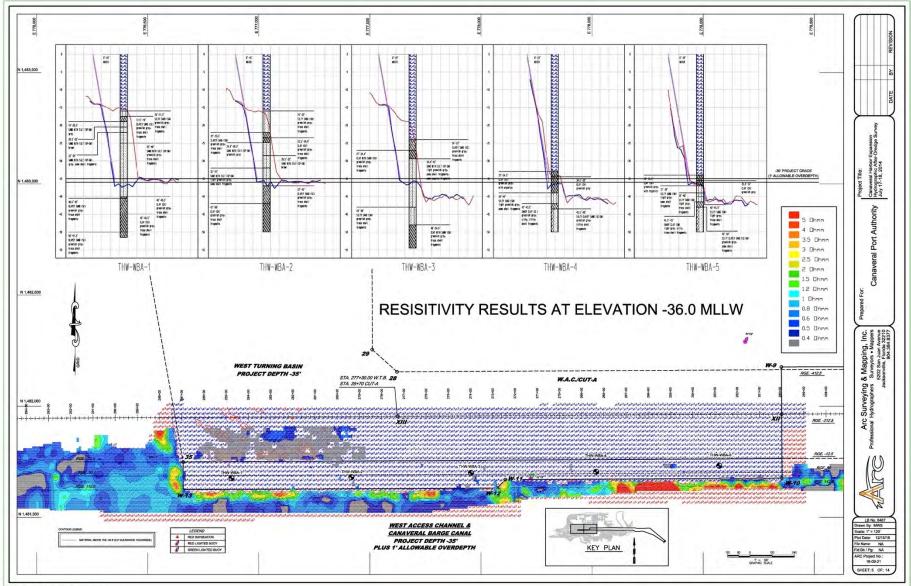
Resistivity Profile line 3.



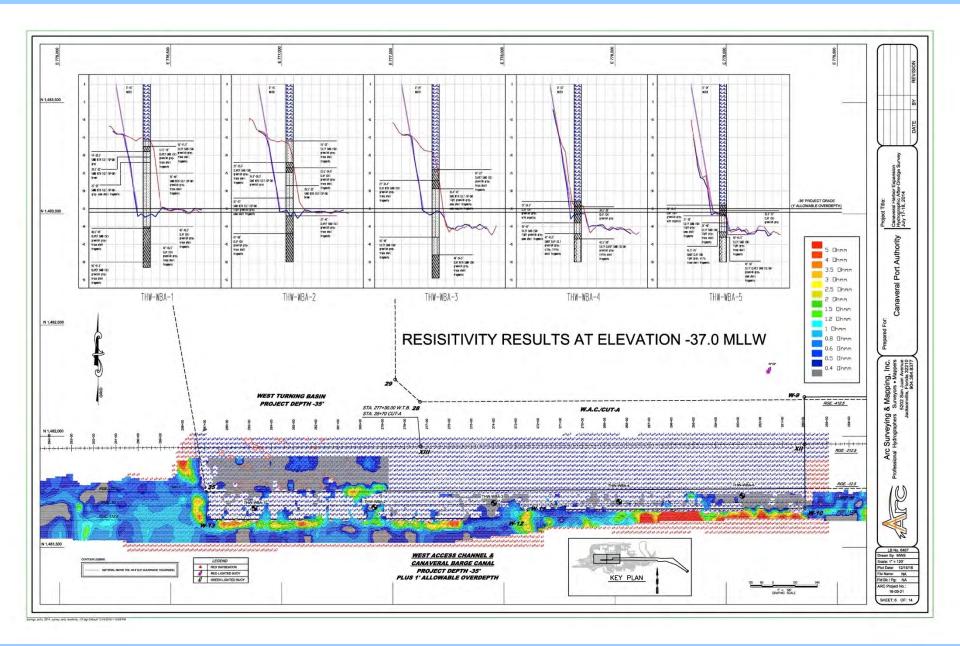


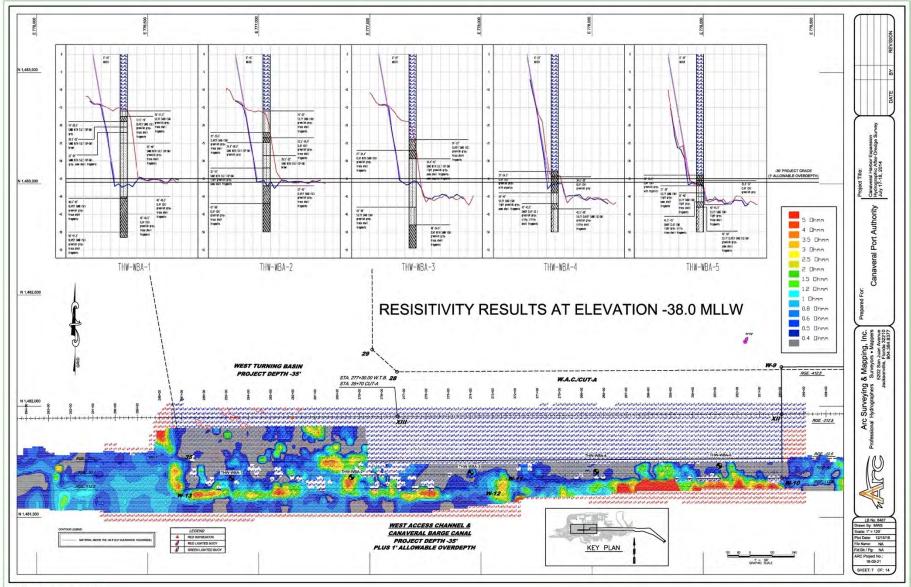


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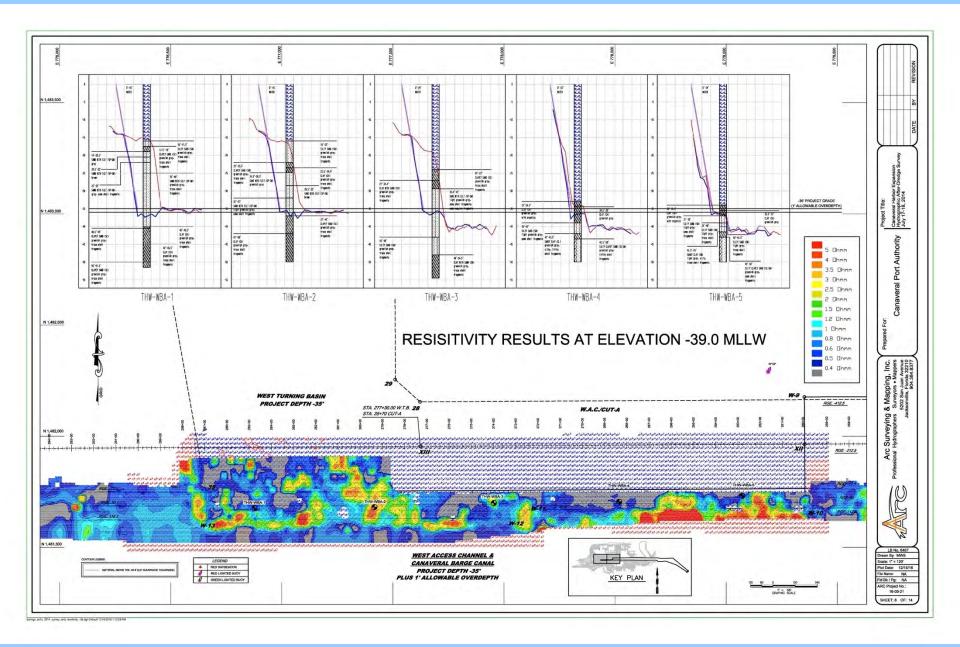


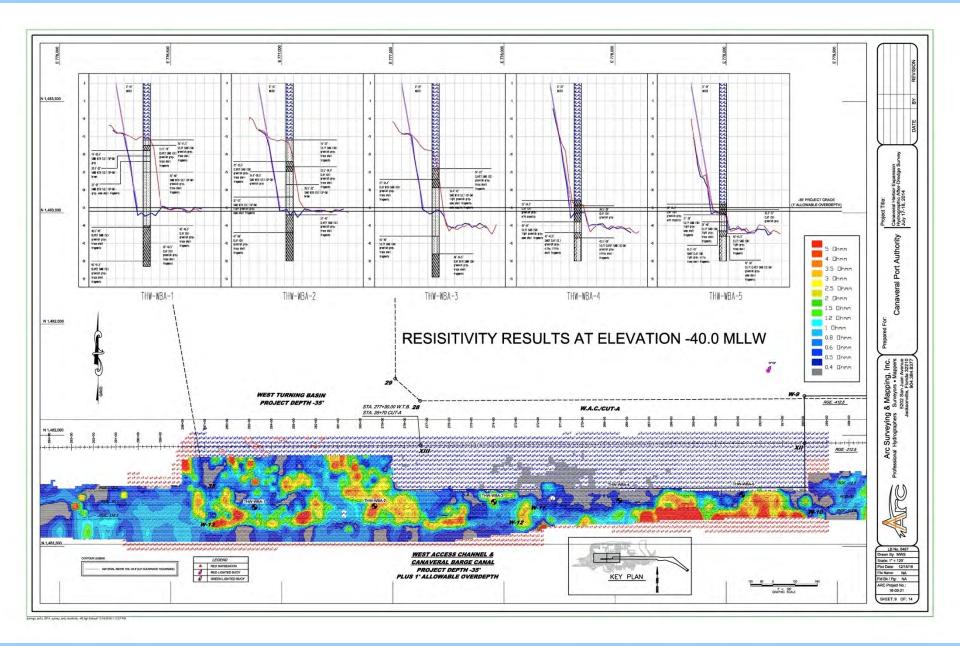
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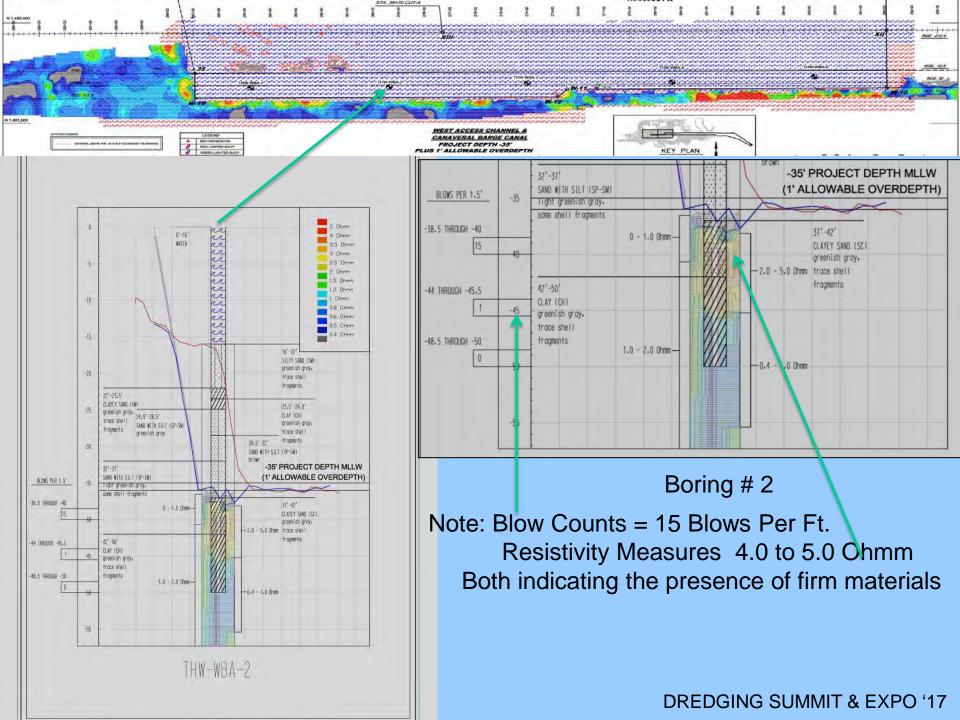




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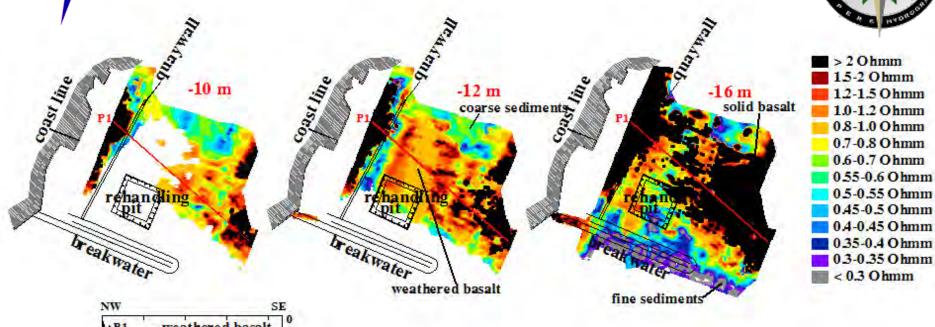


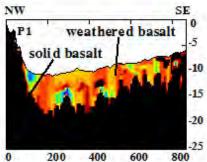




Port of Limbe, Cameroon

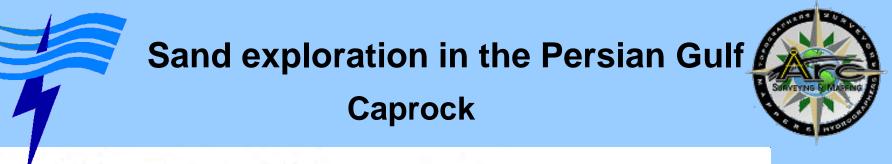


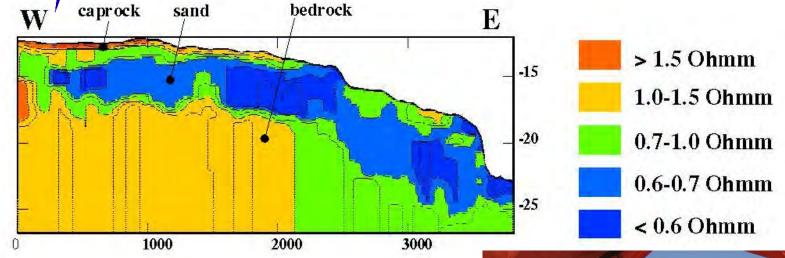








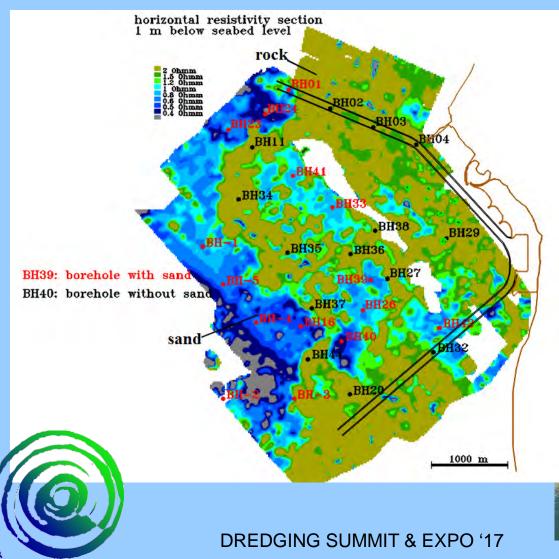






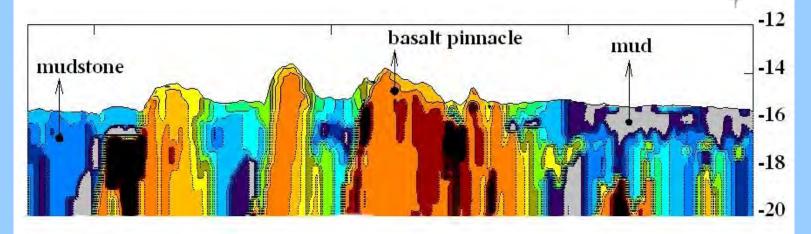
Hawar Sand search













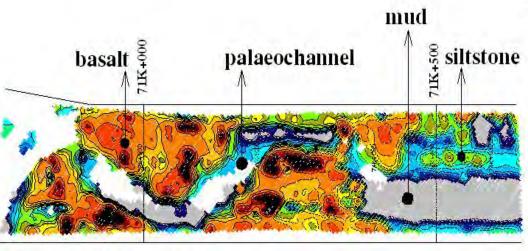
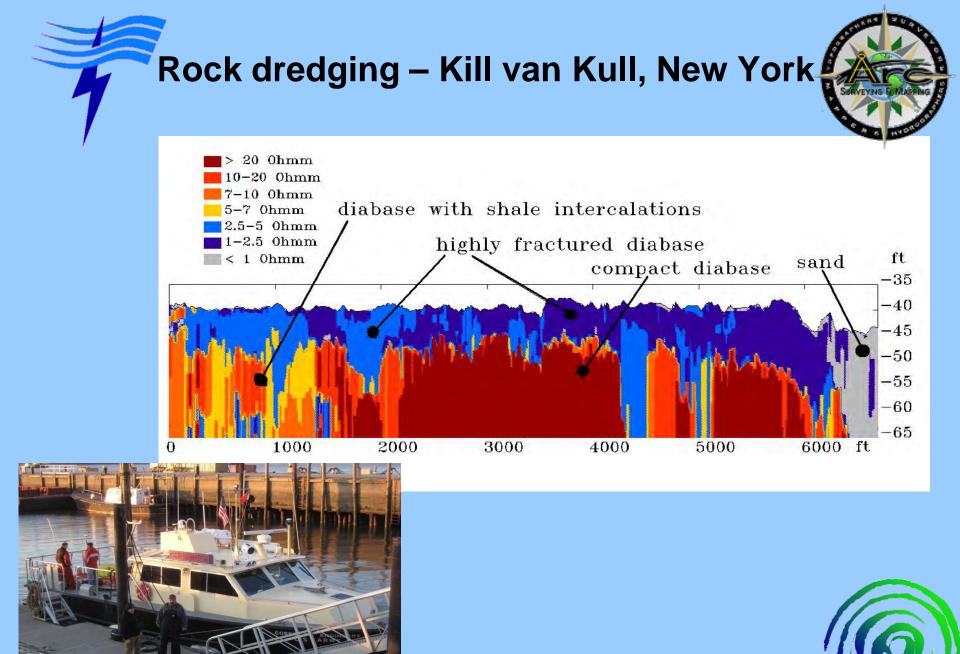
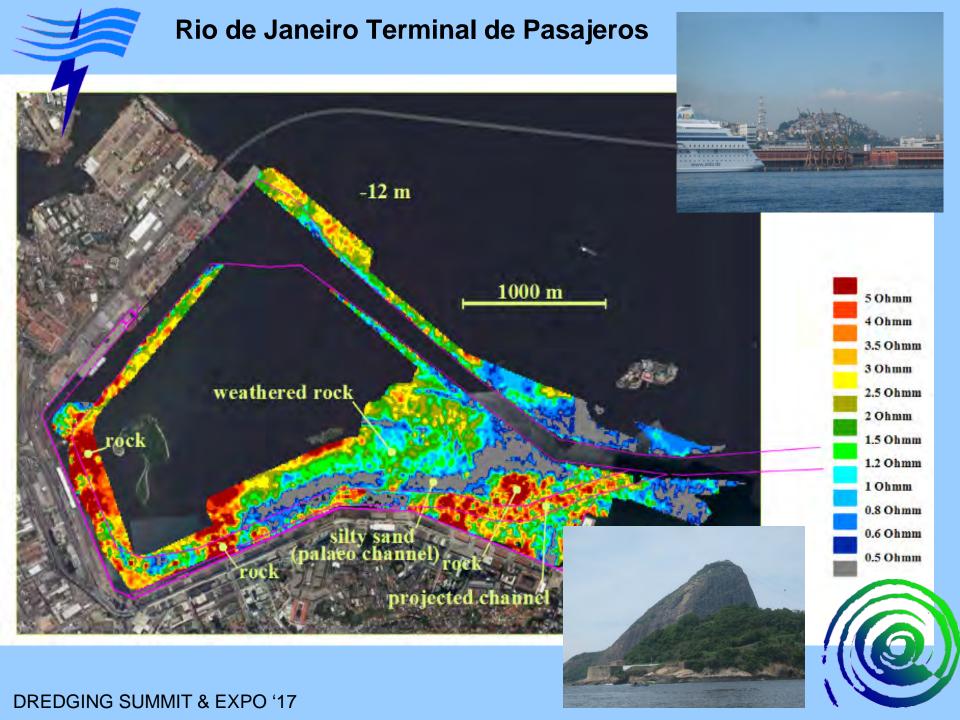
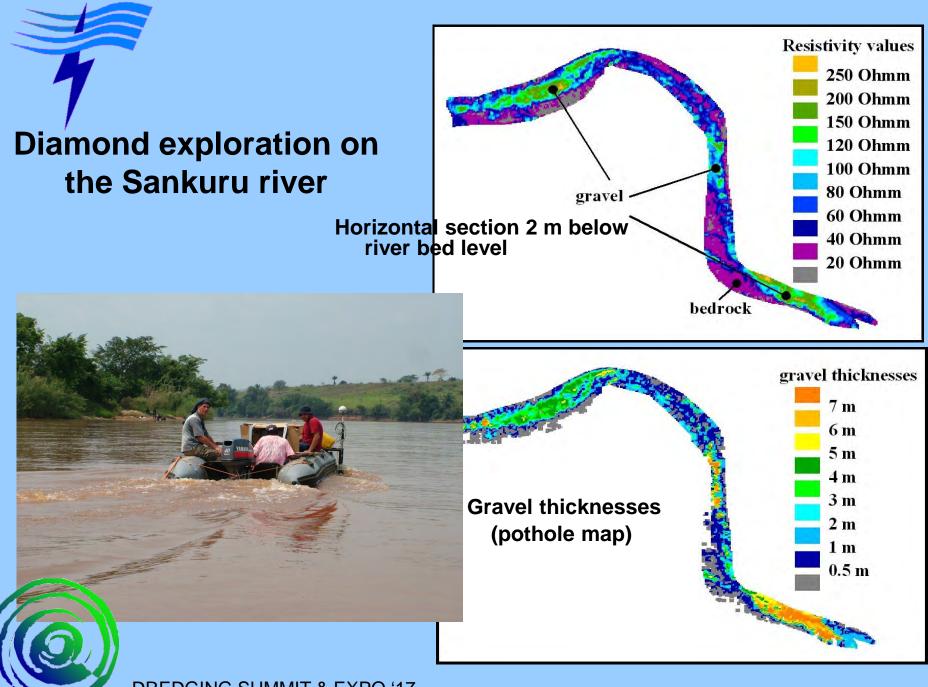


Chart Datum -14.8 m

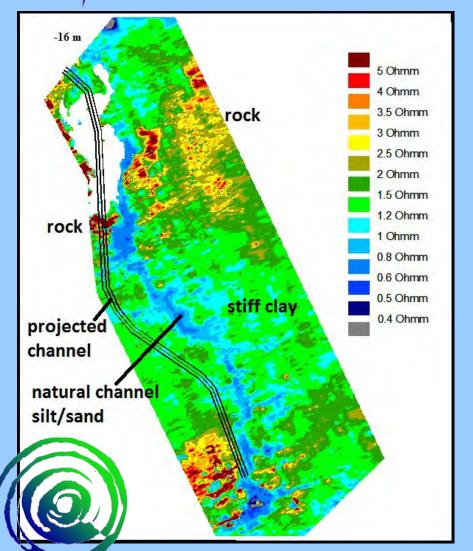






Papua New Guinea Port Darú





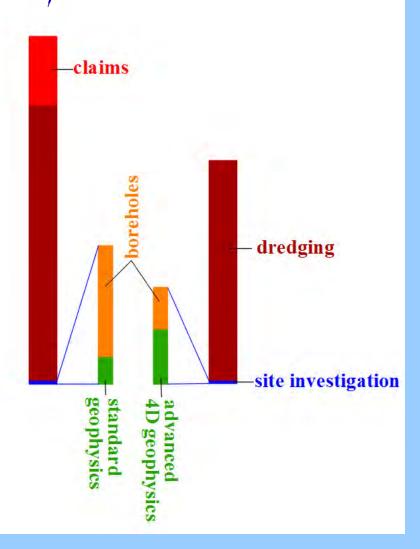
Previous investigations:

- seismic reflection
- 77 vibrocores and 116 random boreholes
- 12 milliones de dollar exploration costs
- no sand
- undefined dredging risks
- uncertainty regarding project viability



Economics of enhanced geophysics on dredging contracts





Higher geophysical costs Lower drilling costs

- significant reduccion of boreholes
- boreholes only for sampling known geophysical structures
- no requirement for boreholes to locate geological structures
- Lower dredging costs
 - more economical design
 - lower geological risks
- **Avoiding claims**
 - linked to geological uncertainties





Why is enhanced geophysics not systematically being used everywhere?



Economical interests >< high quality geophysics

- Diminished income from lucrative claims linked to poor geological information
- Diminished income from lucrative geotechnical / drilling contract

Client should control the site investigation!

Poorly defined tender specifications

- Imposing irrelevant geophysical methods instead of specifying desired results
- Price motivation rather than quality motivation

Specify aims rather than methods!

Selection criteria based on price rather than technical aspects

- The cheapest is not the best: ref. Lake Gatun case
- Survey cost included in consultancy fee -> Price motivated selection

Selection based on technical criteria! Separate geophysical budget from consultancy budget and from geotechnical (drilling) budget!





Questions?

Arc Surveyors & Mapping – booth 37

