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# Water Injection Dredging (WID) in the US, Challenges & Solutions

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Port of Wilmington, Turning Basin

## Outline

- Traditional Dredging Methods
- Hydrodynamic Dredging
  - Agitation & Plow
    - Tiamat Harwich Haven Authority (HHA)
  - Water Injection Dredge (WID)
    - Environmental Considerations
    - Economic Benefits
- Case Study

 North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)

The Future

o NCSPA Federal Turning Basin

 USACE-NAO (Norfolk District & Virginia Port Authority (VPA)

Kansas Water Office (KWO)



Hydraulic Cutter Suction Dredge

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CS0 450

**Courtesy Damen** 

Mechanical Backhoe Dredge

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Courtesy Boskalis

# **Comparison of Dredging Techniques**



#### Hydraulic & Mechanical Dredging

are *traditional dredging* techniques that hydraulically or mechanically remove sediments from a waterbody  $\mathcal{S}$ 

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

Water Injection Dredge, Damen, Netherlands

Dredging Methods - Hydrodynamic Dredges

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### **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

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Boskalis Terra Plana Plough Dredge

Hydrodynamic Dredges – Agitation & Plow Dredging

Boskalis

TERRA PLANA

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CALL BOOM

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# **Hydrodynamic Dredging - Agitation & Plow**



#### Agitation & Plow Dredging require:

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



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)



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

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Osprey WID, IHC-America, NCSPA

Hydrodynamic Dredges – Water Injection Dredges

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## 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



**Density Current Demo** 

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Water Injection Dredging (WID)

Courtesy Van Oord

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## **Environmental Considerations**



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

- Contaminated resuspension
- Suspended solids effects
- Site specific impacts



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



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

#### **Economic Benefits**



#### Traditionally dredged sediments

require more costly transportation, using pipelines, buckets, hoppers, barges, etc.



#### Traditional dredged sediments

require acquiring placement or disposal areas for the storage



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



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)

- Overall US dredging volumes decreased:
  - USACE CY has decreased by ~277%

 $_{\odot}$  Industry CY has decreased by ~25%

 $_{\odot}$  Overall, CY has decreased by ~70%

- Overall US dredging costs (adjusted for inflation) increased:
  - $_{\odot}$  USACE \$/CY has increased by ~78%

 $_{\odot}$  Industry \$/CY has increased by ~150%

 $_{\odot}$  Overall \$/CY has increased by ~155%

Overall US dredging volumes by type have decreased:

New Work CY has decreased by ~673%

Maintenance CY has decreased by ~21%

 Overall US maintenance dredging responsibility has shifted to Industry:

 $_{\odot}$  USACE portion has decreased by ~17%

 $_{\odot}$  Industry portion has increased by ~43%

#### Water Injection Dredge (WID)

North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)

> NORTH CAROLINA PORTS









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#### 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





#### **USACE-ERDC Monitoring Event**

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- Since June 2021
  - Dredged ~270,000 cubic yards (CY)
  - Approximately 90 hours
  - Production rate of around 3,000 CY/hr.
- NCSPA costs include:
  - Annual depreciation of the vessel
  - Annual insurance costs
  - Dredging operations costs
  - Fuel
  - Other O&M costs (repairs, parts, contract services, expendables, training not related to a dredging event, etc.)
  - Pre- & post-dredging surveying
- Estimated \$1M/YR in cost savings

Vessel	
Length Overall (ft)	88
Beam Overall (ft)	28.75
Draft (ft)	3
Max Dredging Depth (ft)	55
Sailing Speed (kts)	6
Dredge System	
Dredging Speed (kts)	1.5
WID Manifold Width (ft)	27.5
Nozzles (Number)	41
Nozzle Diameter I.D (in)	2
Max Rated Pump Pressure (PSI)	35
Max Rated Flow Rate (gal/min)	20,000
Production – January 20	22
Volume Dredged (cu yd)	70,990
Dredging Time (Hrs)	29
Production Rate (cu yd/hr)	2,448
Production – Oct/Nov 20	21
Volume Dredged (cu yd)	113,646
Dredging Time (Hrs)	32.5
Production Rate (cu yd/hr)	3,497

#### Osprey with jet bar deployed



Osprey with jet bar above water



#### **Pre-Dredging & Post-Dredging Survey Results**



Vicinity of Surveyed Area Before Dredging Survey

After Dredging Survey

MIN. ELEVATION (ft)	MAX. ELEVATION (ft)	COLOR
-50.0	-46.0	
-46.0	-45.0	
-45.0	-44.0	
-44.0	-43.0	
-43.0	-42.0	
-42.0	-41.0	
-41.0	-40.0	
-40.0	-39.0	
-39.0	-37.0	
-37.0	-35.0	
-35.0	-33.0	
-33.0	-29.0	
-29.0	-22.0	
-22.0	-15.0	
-15.0	-5.0	
-5.0	-3.0	

WID Channel Dredging above the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

#### Virginia Port Authority (VPA)





# **Chesapeake Bay's Federal Waterways**

#### USACE District:

Norfolk - NAO

USACE Channel:

Channel ID:

#### Survey Date Range:

Predefined Custom Date Range

All Surveys



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# **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel**

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Use any combination to drill down to



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#### VPA FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

- Norfolk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT)
- Preconstruction engineering & design efforts raised concerns about risks to the tunnel structure
- WID \ID the chosen alternative dredging method
- US Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District (USACE-NOA) was responsible for preparing the SEA
- Non-federal sponsor (VPA) providing input on the technical aspects of the proposed project



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Water Injection Dredge (WID) in Reservoirs

Kansas Water Office (KWO)

**Tuttle Creek Lake** 





#### WID Kansas Water Office (KWO) Tuttle Creek Lake

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#### WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)





#### WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)





#### Tuttle Creek Lake: 2010



# WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)

#### 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.)



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#### Summary – Case Studies, Scopes, & Conversations

- North Carolina State Ports Authority
- Port Tampa Bay
- Kansas Water Office
- New York City DEP
- Virginial Port Authority
- Port of Morgan City

- Georgia Ports Authority
- Kinder Morgan LNG, Savannah
- South Carolina Ports Authority
- Maryland Port Administration
- Alabama State Port Authority
- USACE Mobile & Wilmington Districts



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

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#### Water Injection Dredge (WID)

#### Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA)





## **ASPA Waterways**

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#### Mobile Bay Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Strategy

- Mobile Bay Ship Channel was primarily the 45-feet-deep & 400-feet-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



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- Channel Deepening: 50 feet Bay/ 52 feet Bar
- Channel Widening: 3 mi. long, 100 ft wide' (2)
- Turning Basin Modification ()
- Bar Channel Bend Easing ()



#### FULLY FUNDED COSTS: \$365.7M

*Federal Share:	\$274.3M
*Non-Federal Share:	\$91.4M



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			

## **Mobile Harbor Deepening Project**



#### Dredging Efficiencies Investigation

### Port Tampa Bay (PTB)





## Tampa Bay's Federal Waterways

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USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro



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## **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



## **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



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#### Water Injection Dredge (WID)

## Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)





# Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP)



## **GPA Waterways – Savannah Harbor**

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## **Savannah Harbor (West)**



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## Savannah Harbor (East)



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#### Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) General Reevaluation 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**



## **Brunswick Harbor**



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#### 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 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



## **Cooper River & HLT**

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#### 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)

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USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro



## **MPA Waterways (Central)**

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# **MPA Waterways (Southern)**

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USACE Hydrographic Surveys – eHydro www.navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro



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## **Port of Baltimore**



#### **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

Water Injection Dredge (WID) in Reservoirs

Kansas Water Office (KWO)

**Tuttle Creek Lake** 





#### WID Kansas Water Office (KWO) Tuttle Creek Lake

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#### WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)





#### WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)





#### Tuttle Creek Lake: 2010



### WID KWO – Tuttle Creek Lake (Cont.)

#### 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.)



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## USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020) https://publibrary.planusace.us/#/series/Dredging%20Information

	CORPS OF ENGINEERS											
	DOLLARS			C	UBIC YARD	S	<u>2020 \$\$/CY</u>					
	MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	TO TAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	WEIGHTED AVG.			
<b>First Ten Years</b>	\$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%	966667%	377%	184%	135%	178%			

	INDUSTRY										
	DOLLARS			CUBIC YARDS			<u>2020 \$\$/CY</u>				
	MAINT	NEW WORK	TOTAL	MAINT	NEW WORK	TO TAL	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%	<b>667</b> %	125%	262%	558%	250%		

	USACE & INDUSTRY										
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<b>First Ten Years</b>	\$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%	<b>773</b> %	170%	256%	578%	255%		



## USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020)

- 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



#### USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020)

- 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

 $\circ$  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%

 $_{\odot}$  Industry portion has increased by ~43%

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## USACE NDC Dredging Costs (1963-2020) https://publibrary.planusace.us/#/series/Dredging%20Information

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	DOLLARS			C	UBIC YARD	S	<u>2020 \$\$/CY</u>				
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				121%	<b>773</b> %	170%	256%	<b>578</b> %	255%		

### **Project Approach**

- NCSPA 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)
  - **O** Dredging related electronic newsletters
  - Trade publications
  - **•** Trade show membership & attendance
  - OAnnual 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



