



SCIENTIFIC GROUP - 29th Meeting  
5 - 9 June 2006  
Agenda item 11

LC/SG 29/INF.19  
17 May 2006  
ENGLISH ONLY

## **GUIDELINES, MANUALS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

### **Conference on Managing Sediments in the Watershed: *Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together***

**Submitted by the United States**

#### **SUMMARY**

**Executive summary:** Effective dredged material planning and sediment management require open and early communication among Federal and State dredged material regulators, watershed planners, and other interested parties so that: (1) sources and fates of sediment (and sources of contamination carried by sediment) can be addressed; (2) the broadest range of beneficial use and disposal alternatives for dredged material can be evaluated; and (3) adequate funding for dredged material use or disposal can be secured.

The National Dredging Team recognizes the need to ensure that sediment management is done in the context of watershed management, and that watershed management plans incorporate both private and Federal dredging. In response to this need, the National Dredging Team will hold a "Conference on Managing Sediment in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together" in Portland, Oregon, from the 29 to 31 August 2006. This conference will also be sponsored by the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR).

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 4

**Related documents:** None

#### **Introduction**

1 The United States established a National Dredging Team in 1995 to implement the United States National Dredging Policy, to promote national and regional consistency on dredging issues, and to provide a mechanism for issue resolution and information exchange among Federal, State, and local agencies and stakeholders.

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2 Dredged material and sediment management planning often occur outside the context of watershed management plans, and watershed management plans often do not address dredged material management or sediment system considerations. This practice can miss potential opportunities to improve navigation, flood and storm damage reduction efforts, and environmental quality in water resource projects; it may also overlook the notion of sediment as a resource.

3 The National Dredging Team will sponsor a *Conference on Managing the Sediments: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together* in August 2006 in recognition of the importance of early communication among Federal and State dredged material regulators and watershed planners. The objectives of this conference are to identify steps needed to include dredged material and sediment management in watershed plans, and to include a broader watershed perspective in dredged material management planning.

#### **Action requested of the Scientific Group**

4 The Scientific Group is invited to take note of this conference and of the additional information contained in the annex of this document.

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## ANNEX

**CONFERENCE ON MANAGING SEDIMENTS IN THE WATERSHED:  
*BRINGING DREDGED MATERIAL AND WATERSHED MANAGERS TOGETHER***

1 The United States established a National Dredging Team in 1995 to implement the United States National Dredging Policy, to promote national and regional consistency on dredging issues, and to provide a mechanism for issue resolution and information exchange among Federal, State, and local agencies and stakeholders. It is the vision of the NDT that dredging of United States harbours and channels is conducted in a timely and cost-effective manner while meeting environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement goals.

2 The National Dredging Team is a federal interagency group composed of agency managers, decision-makers, and technical experts. It is guided by a Steering Committee composed of senior-level executives.

3 In 2001, the National Dredging Team sponsored a workshop to discuss and develop an action agenda to address issues facing dredging and sediment managers. *The Action Agenda for the Next Decade* was developed from this workshop and provides 22 recommended actions. 12 of these recommended actions are focused on sediment management and beneficial use of dredged material. Included among these actions is the recommendation that the National Dredging Team, in coordination with existing Regional Dredging Teams and Local Planning/Project Groups, ensure that sediment management is accomplished in the context of watershed management, and that watershed management plans incorporate both private and federal dredging.

4 Effective dredged material planning and sediment management require open and early communication among federal and state dredged material regulators, watershed planners, and other interested parties so that: (1) sources and fates of sediment (and sources of contamination carried by sediment) can be addressed; (2) the broadest range of beneficial use and disposal alternatives for dredged material can be evaluated; and (3) adequate funding for dredged material use or disposal can be secured.

5 The National Dredging Team is organizing a “Conference on Managing Sediments in the Watershed: *Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together*” in order to promote better communication among dredged material and watershed stakeholders. The conference will be held 29-31 August 2006 in Portland, Oregon.

6 Dredged material and sediment management planning often occur outside the context of watershed management plans, and watershed management plans often do not address dredged material management or sediment system considerations. This practice misses potential opportunities to improve navigation, flood and storm damage reduction efforts, and environmental quality in water resource projects; it may also overlook the notion of sediment as a resource. The objectives of this conference are to identify steps needed to include dredged material and sediment management in watershed plans, and to include a broader watershed perspective in dredged material management planning.

7 The conference will be co-sponsored by the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR). SIMOR is one of the interagency groups formed as part of the United States Ocean Action Plan to improve coordination among federal agencies and also work closely with state, local, and tribal governments. In addition to the main conference, SIMOR will host a workshop on the afternoon of August 31st to provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to learn about, and provide feedback on, implementation of the United States Ocean Action Plan.

8 By bringing together dredged material and watershed stakeholders, the NDT and SIMOR hope to identify: (1) the current responsibilities and interests in dredged material management in the watershed; (2) areas of technical and planning intersection; and (3) gaps in knowledge or management of sediment in the watershed. A successful conference will improve the understanding of beneficial use and disposal alternatives for dredged material, as well as lay the groundwork for continued coordination among dredged material managers and watershed stakeholders at the regional and local levels in developing and implementing regional sediment management strategies. Additional topics will include the Corps of Engineers' initiative on Regional Sediment Management, erosion control, habitat restoration, reduction at source, and coastal management issues.

9 Additional information can be found at:

[www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/ndt/managingsediments.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/ndt/managingsediments.html)