



Potential Projects

FOR DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

Quick Facts

- The MPA is required to have a 20-year plan for managing dredged material and is always looking for new options.
- Placement capacity is needed for at least five million cubic yards of dredged material every year.
- The MPA is exploring the potential for Confined Aquatic Disposal, Innovative and Beneficial Reuse, and Mid-Bay Island Restoration.

Every year, approximately five million cubic yards of sediment are dredged from the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore Harbor to maintain the current 50-foot depth of shipping channels. And every year, the dredged material must be moved to a new location.

Finding sites with enough capacity for this volume of dredged material is an on-going challenge. Anticipated growth in both the volume of cargo and the size of the ships expected to call on the Port of Baltimore in the future has added pressure to the task. The Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (MPA) is exploring the following options:

- **Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD):** A demonstration project near the Masonville dredged material placement site is testing a technique called Confined Aquatic Disposal. The project involves dredging clean sand from an underwater site and moving it to a staging area for reuse. The resulting underwater cavity will be filled with dredged material. The underlying layer of clay serves as a barrier that prevents deposited sediments from spreading to adjacent water or aquifers. Extensive monitoring will identify potential impacts to water quality and determine the practicality of using this technique in the future.
- **Innovative and Beneficial Reuse:** The MPA is exploring technologies that could recycle dredged material. Examples include using dredged material to serve as construction fill, bricks, or blocks; mitigate mined-out sand and gravel pits; provide landfill cover; and cap brownfields. The MPA is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to develop technical screening criteria and a guidance document to assist with recycling of dredged material through innovative and beneficial uses.
- **Mid-Bay Island Restoration:** This project would use dredged material to restore Barren and James Islands in the mid-Chesapeake Bay. More than 10,000 acres of the bay's island habitat has been lost over time; this project would restore approximately 2,000 acres of both wetland and upland habitat. Completion of design work is expected in 2019.

The MPA also considered the development of a placement site at Coke Point, located on Sparrows Point in Baltimore County. The property owners currently have other plans for the site; however, if those plans change, the MPA would be interested in exploring its potential.

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