

A sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. In the foreground, there are dark, thin reeds or grasses that create a complex, crisscrossing pattern over the scene. The overall color palette is dominated by warm oranges, yellows, and browns.

New England Regional Dredging Team

National Dredging Team
Steering Committee Meeting
Washington, DC
October 12, 2005

The N.E. Situation

Dredging projects require the resolution of agencies' conflicting mandates. Finding acceptable solutions to mandate conflicts requires biologists, chemists, engineers & economists to find common ground. In New England finding common ground was facilitated by the Corps developing interagency cooperation agreements (shared responsibilities).

New England Regional Dredging Team Structure

- Mid-Level Managers Group
- Sudbury Group
- Local Planning Groups
 - state activities
 - project-specific work groups



Mid-Level Managers Group

- Federal Agencies (USACE, EPA, FWS, NOAA)
- Meets 1-2 times per year since 1996
- Directs technical issues to Sudbury Group for discussion and resolution
- Endorses Sudbury Group technical decisions
- Resolves policy issues

Sudbury Group

- Federal and State Agencies
 - USACE, EPA, NMFS, FWS, CT DEP, RI CRMC, MA CZM, MA DMF, ME SPO, NH DES
- Co-chaired by EPA, USACE, and NMFS
- Has met regularly since 1995

Sudbury Group

- Address technical issues as directed by MLM
 - Regional Implementation Manual (RIM)
 - environmental windows
 - over-depth dredging
 - sediment testing and “adequate characterization”
 - disposal site management and monitoring (DAMOS)
- Refers policy issues to MLM

State Participants

- CT DEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs (CZM)
- RI CRMC (CZM)
- MA CZM, DEP, and DMF
- NH Dredge Management Task Force
- Maine ME SPO (CZM), DEP, DOT, DMR, DOC



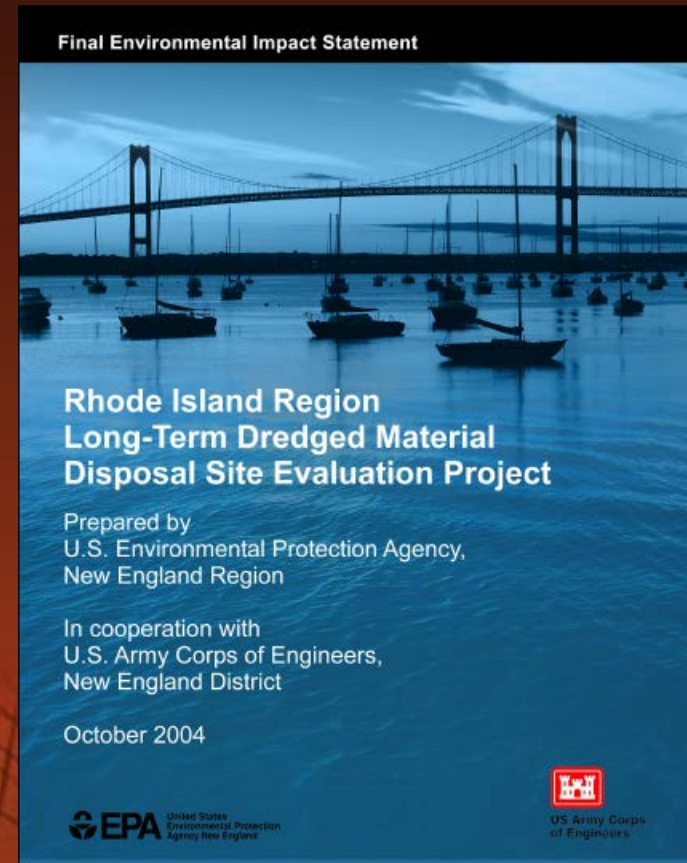
Project-specific work groups

- Membership includes federal, state, and local government agencies and the public
- Dredged Material Management Plans
 - regional (LIS, Massachusetts)
 - navigation projects
 - beneficial uses



Project-specific work groups (cont.)

- Disposal Site Designations/Site Management and Monitoring Plans
 - Long Island Sound
 - Rhode Island Region
 - Massachusetts Bay
 - Portland
- Disposal Site Selections
 - Providence River and Harbor Navigation Project



Summary

- Current structure works for New England
 - agencies deal with broader issues, public gets involved at regional and local level
 - collegial atmosphere at Sudbury Group has helped agency staff build relationships and trust
 - allowed us to discuss and resolve a lot of issues absent project-specific urgency
 - need to alternate meeting locations to facilitate greater participation by all states
 - need to pursue more outreach