

# VA Bay Enhancement Working Group (VA BEWG), Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

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Regional Environmental Committee

December 3, 2020

# The issue

- Dredged portion of the Baltimore Channel in VA
- Secretary Strickler requested a thorough reevaluation of dredge placement and the beneficial use of dredge material opportunities
- Spans Maryland, Virginia, and Federal authorities

Coordinating Committee = MD Port Administration, MD Department of Transportation, MD Environmental Service, VMRC, & USACE Baltimore District

# Schedule to-date

1981 - 2019

- VA letter authorizing MD to overboard dredge material in VA waters
- Threats to crab and fishery habitats observed from overboarding material

2019

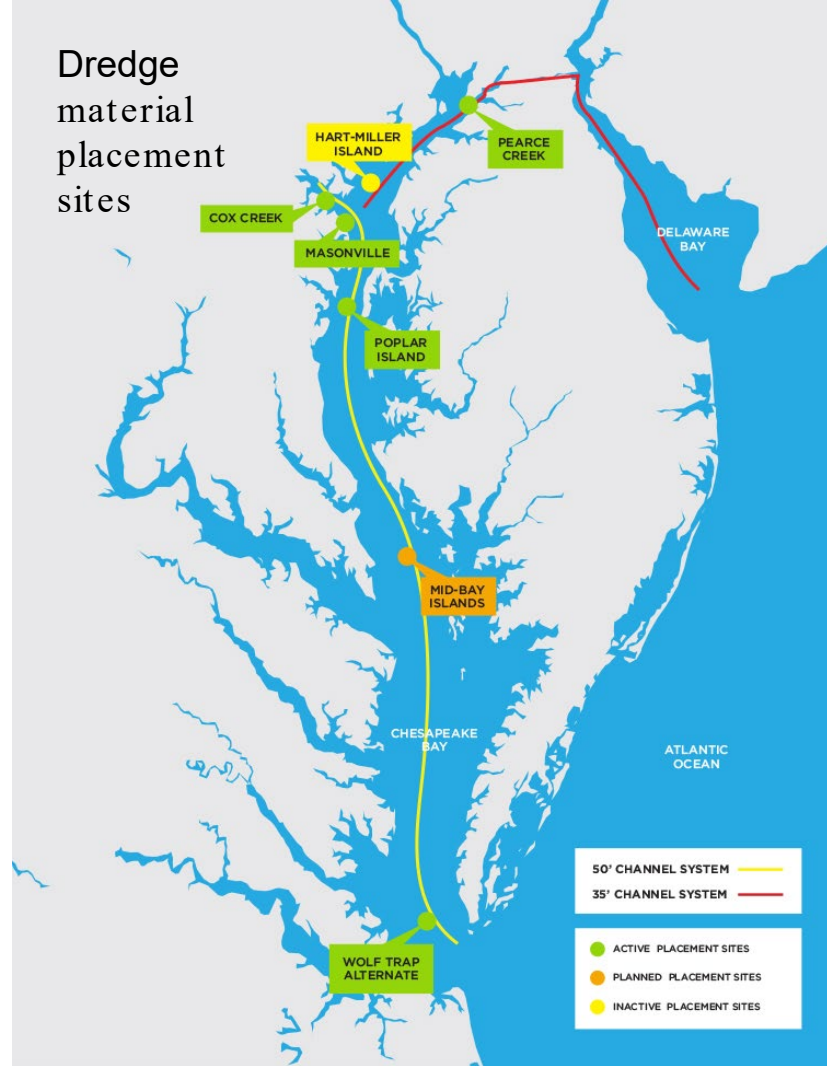
- VA letter from SNR Strickler asking to establish group to review beneficial use of dredge materials from maintenance dredging and widening efforts

2020 - 2021

- VA Bay Enhancement Working Group established, looking at alternatives to propose
- Modeled after MD BEWG
- Meetings: Oct. 21, Dec. 17, TBD 2021



## Dredge material placement sites



# VA Bay portion of approach channels

- Currently overboarding at Wolf Trap and Rappahannock
- Possible geographic extent from Tangier to Hampton Roads



# Coordination

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**MD:** Port Administration, DOT, Environmental Service, University of MD Center for Environmental Science

**VA:** Marine Resources Commission, DCR, DEQ, HRPDC, MPPDC, ANPDC, NNPDC, Port Administration, Pilots Association

**Federal:** Army Corp of Engineers Baltimore & Norfolk Districts, NOAA, US Coast Guard, US Navy, US Fish & Wildlife

**Other:** The Nature Conservancy, CBF, Duck's Unlimited, Working Watermen, consultants

**Meeting #1:** History of MD dredging program, dredging 101, current situation assessment, review of successful beneficial use stories, i.e. Poplar Island, Barren Island, discuss options

**Meeting #2:** December 17, 2020

# Challenges

- Cost-effective, need to consider travel time, material quality, cost/benefit analysis
- Competing interests, how to evaluate the many needs of coastal communities
- Must plan 20-30 years out

May need to account for/place +12 million cubic yards of material in 20-year capacity estimate



# Alternatives

- Beneficial Use
- Innovative re-use
- Upland sites
- Expansion of existing facilities
- Seeking input and ideas to vet