



# Innovative & Beneficial Reuse

DREDGED MATERIAL AS A VALUABLE RENEWABLE RESOURCE

## Quick Facts

- Five million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment are dredged annually from Maryland shipping channels in the Chesapeake Bay — an amount that would fill the Ravens' stadium 2.6 times.
- 1.5 mcy of sediment is dredged from the Baltimore Harbor each year.
- The goal is to recycle 500,000 cy of material annually.
- Many options are available to safely use dredged material, including:
  - Mine reclamation
  - Restoration of eroded islands and wetlands
  - Roadway and construction materials
  - Manufactured topsoil
  - Land restoration
- An interagency regulatory workgroup is underway.

Dredging maintains safe passage for vessels making their way through the shipping channels of the Port of Baltimore and supports a key economic driver for waterborne commerce in Maryland. Removing sediment annually from the channels not only ensures the safety of our marine highway, but helps business at the Port of Baltimore continue to thrive.

Innovative reuse is the recycling of dredged material in place of (or in combination with) other raw materials for manufacturing, construction and reclamation projects. Beneficial use of dredged material can benefit the environment by restoring wetlands and eroded shorelines and islands, with the potential to mitigate the effects of sea level rise. Innovative and beneficial use can spur innovation, benefit the environment, and contribute to the growth of Maryland's economy.

Currently, dredged sediment is transported to dredged material placement sites or used for beneficial projects like the restoration of Poplar Island. All of these activities are permitted by environmental regulatory agencies, such as the Maryland Department of the Environment. Years of testing and sampling data demonstrate no adverse impacts.

## New Solutions Needed

The Port of Baltimore is in critical need of placement capacity for dredged material. It is difficult to find locations for new placement sites because property adjacent to the port is densely populated and developed. New approaches to the management of dredged material are needed, so the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (MPA) is looking for innovative solutions to recycle dredged sediment.

## Making Innovative & Beneficial Use a Reality

The MPA has set a long-term goal to recycle 500,000 cy of dredged material each year. The MPA has also recently convened an interagency workgroup to recommend policy changes that will establish a clear and transparent regulatory framework that will enable opportunities for the successful reuse of dredged material in a variety of ways. Close coordination with key partners will help to ensure that projects are safe to human health and the environment. Private sector, local governments, citizens and industry leaders are providing important feedback throughout this process, helping to promote the safe and economic use of dredged material.

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