



Regional Sediment Management Program

MCR Adaptive Management for Nearshore Beneficial Use of Dredged Material



Description

Portland District is in the process of selecting 3 new nearshore placement areas at the Mouth of the Columbia River. Two sites have been selected north of MCR, the North Head Nearshore and Benson Beach sites. The South Jetty Nearshore Site is south of the MCR South Jetty. These sites will keep dredged material from MCR within the littoral cell. Placement in the South Jetty Nearshore Site is anticipated to start in August of 2012. Up to 300,000 CY are expected to be placed by the dredge ESSAYONS. This material is expected to slow the erosion near the jetty root, and have benefits biologically as the area has been continually eroding.



Location Map

Issue/Challenges

The sites are still being evaluated in an Environmental Assessment and have state water quality certificates pending in both Oregon and Washington. Once all clearances are obtained, placement in the South Jetty Nearshore Site will be limited to Aug 15-Sept 31 each year to avoid conflicts with the crab fishing fleet. The sites will have limited capacities as impacts are evaluated during the initial placement in the site. The North Head Nearshore and South Jetty Nearshore Sites are also going to have limited use due to severe weather at MCR.

Expected Products

- RSM strategy to take action and optimize use of sediments within the littoral zone.
- Implementation of MCR RSM Plan framework principles.
- Technical Note summarizing biological monitoring activities.
- Optimization of federal, state, local, and private study and monitoring dollars.
- Additional nearshore beneficial use sites.
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Potential Users

Regional, federal, state, and local partners; other Corps districts facing similar biological challenges associated with nearshore placement.



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Projected Benefits

Nearshore beneficial use of the material will reduce the erosion rate of the jetty system and help protect our investment in the jetty system. It will also keep material within the littoral cell that would otherwise be 'lost' to off-shore placement. It is estimated that over 1mcy total could be placed in these 3 new sites.

Leveraging Opportunities

Funding will be transferred to NOAA via MIPR to allow them to conduct monitoring activities at the South Jetty Nearshore Site this summer. NOAA will be conducting a study on Dungeness crab movement and abundance in the site, and monitor the effect that placement in the site has on them. Funding from the Portland District will allow others to contribute time and resources to help further the monitoring activities. Others will be dedicating vessel time, camera use, and time to help support the project.

Points of Contact

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Participating Partners

EPA, NOAA, USFWS, ODFW, WDFW, WDOE, ODEQ, WDNR, ODLCD, ODSL, Columbia River Crab Fisher's Association, Clatsop County, Pacific County, Port of Astoria, and Port of Ilwaco