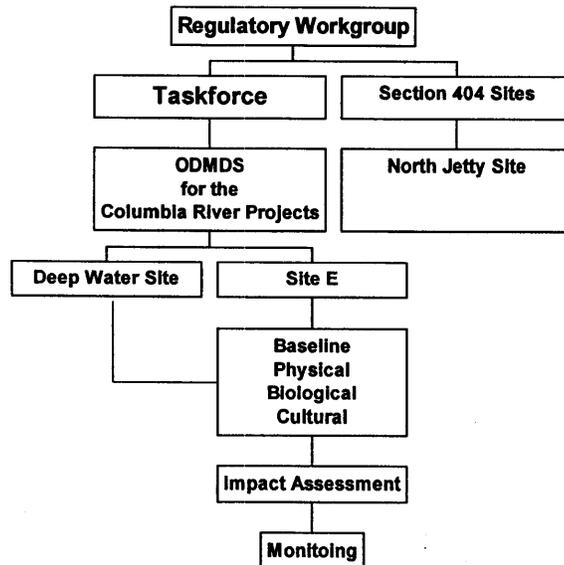
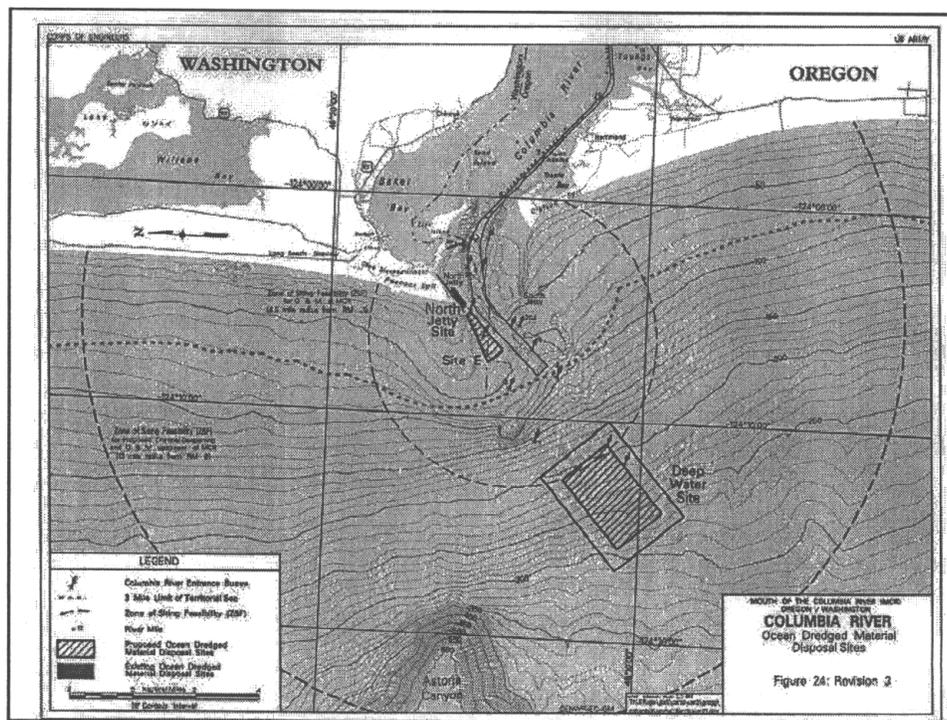
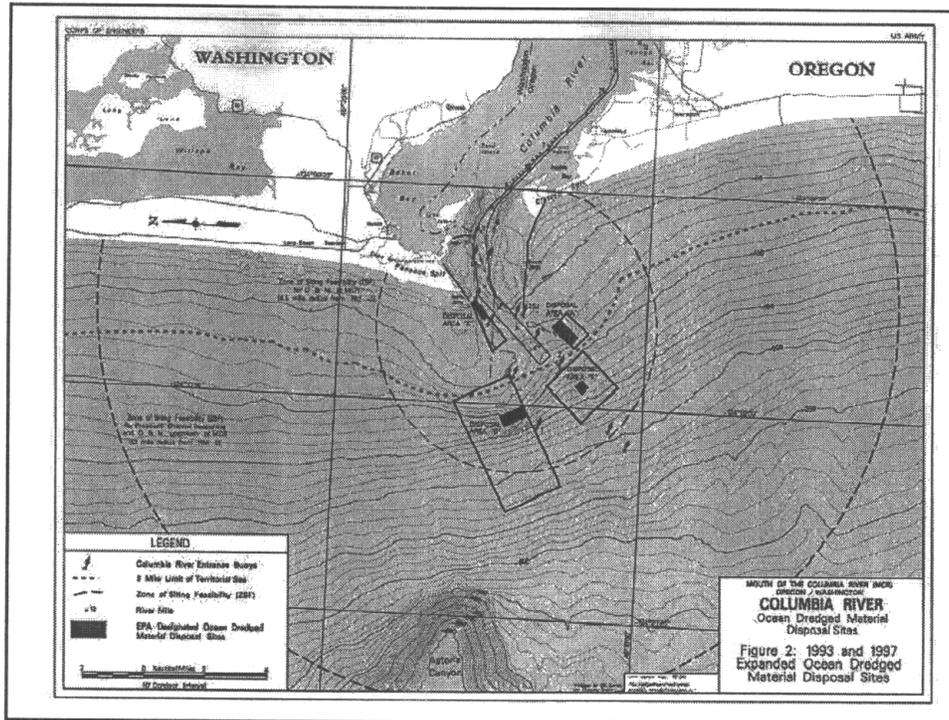


Columbia River Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites Management and Monitoring Taskforce





SITE DESIGNATION PROCESS

EPA publishes Draft Rule in *Federal Register* (min 45-day public review).

Responses to Public Comments prepared (time indeterminate).

**EPA publishes Final Rule in *Federal Register* (30-day no-action).
Designation is effective 30-days after Final Rule publication .**

DISPOSAL SITE MONITORING

The monitoring program, if deemed necessary by the Regional Administrator or the District Engineer, as appropriate, may include baseline or trend assessment surveys [by the government], ... special studies by permittees, and the analysis and interpretation of data from remote or automatic sampling and/or sensing devices. *The primary purpose of the monitoring program is to evaluate the impact of disposal on the marine environment by referencing the monitoring results to a set of baseline conditions.* (emphasis added.) When disposal sites are being used on a continuing basis, such programs may consist of the following components:

- (1) Trend assessment surveys conducted at intervals frequent enough to assess the extent and trends of environmental impact. ... These surveys shall be the responsibility of the Federal government.**
- (2) Special studies conducted by the permittee to identify immediate and short-term impacts of disposal operations.**

... EPA will require the full participation of permittees, and encourage the full participation of other Federal and State and local agencies in the development of disposal site monitoring programs.... [40 CFR 228.9]

DEFINITIONS

The term *baseline or trend assessment survey* means the planned sampling or measurement of parameters at set stations or in set areas in and near disposal sites for a period of time sufficient to provide synoptic data for determining water quality, benthic, or biological conditions as a result of ocean disposal operations. The minimum requirements for such surveys are given in §228.13. [40 CFR 228.2(b)]

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Management involves...

Monitoring is...

Baseline Condition is...

*Pre-construction/Post-construction
Assessment Studies* are...

Special Studies are...

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Management involves (1) regulating times, quantities, and physical/chemical characteristic (i.e., quality) of dredged material dumped at the site, and (2) establishing disposal controls, conditions, and requirements to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts.

Monitoring is a management activity that includes collection and interpretation of site information to verify that unanticipated or significant adverse effects are not occurring from past or continued use of the disposal site and that permit terms are met. [Significant adverse effects means: will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, the marine environment or economic potentialities per MPRSA §103(a).]

Baseline Condition is the condition of the site (includes important physical, chemical, and biological components) against which subsequent monitoring results are compared to determine whether and/or what changes have occurred as the result of use of the site (i.e., dredged material disposal). Typically the baseline condition would represent the site prior to any disposal.

Pre-construction/Post-construction Assessment Studies: Monitoring activities equivalent to baseline or trend assessment surveys defined by the Regulations. The distinction is when they are performed: before or after construction. [Primarily important for budget planning/justification purposes by the Federal government.]

Special Studies: In addition to referring to studies not performed by the Federal government (40 CFR 228.9), "special studies" include any studies performed by the Federal government that are not for the primary purpose of disposal site monitoring, and/or not envisioned in the original baseline condition, but will aid the Federal government in management of the site or surrounding environs.

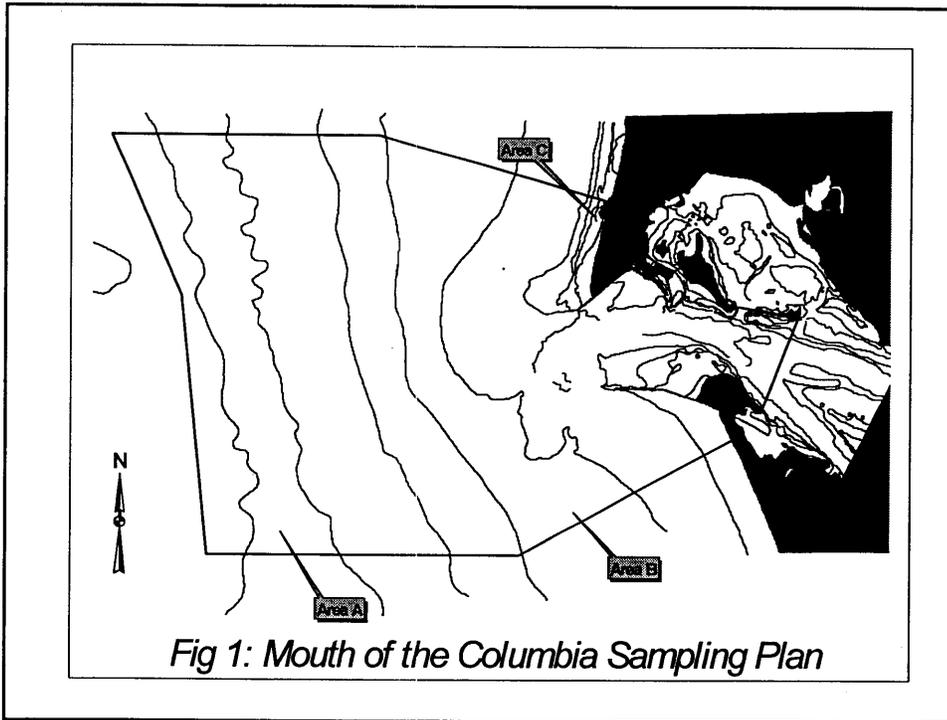


Fig 1: Mouth of the Columbia Sampling Plan