

DRAFT RSET ISSUE PAPER #29 – Frequency of Dredging Guideline

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Issue: Frequency of Dredging Guideline. Is exclusion of routine, annual dredging projects from sediment sampling and testing still an acceptable practice? If modifications should be made, what are they? How frequently are site rankings evaluated and can revisions of projects rankings be made. Should our efforts at gathering information and evaluating sediment quality be placed on those projects most likely to impact the environment?

DISCUSSION: Dredging projects that occur on an annual basis (or at most, every two to three years) may be eligible for multiple dredgings between testing events. These projects generally occur in areas of rapid shoaling with relatively homogeneous sediments. The quality of the sediment on these projects tends to remain the same, barring any significant change upstream or up-current of the site.

In order to be considered under the frequency of dredging guideline, a project must undergo two full sediment characterizations. The sediment must be found suitable for unconfined aquatic disposal in both sediment characterizations. Once a dredging project has met this standard, it can be considered for multiple dredgings between testing under the frequency guideline. This consideration is time-limited, and additional testing will be required at the end of the designated time period (based on project ranking – see below).

REFERENCES: DMEF 1998, Section 5.3.4

RECOMMENDATION: Specific text and table revision to appropriate sections of SEF.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGES: Insert the following table in the SEF to clarify the frequency guideline.

Project Ranking	Frequency Guideline (Number of years between testing events)
High	Two years
Moderate	Five years
Low-moderate	Six years
Low	Seven years

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