

**MOUTH OF COLUMBIA RIVER RSMP  
May 10, 2018 SCIENCE-POLICY WORKSHOP**

**Summary of Actions Identified**

**Overall Direction for Group's Work**

- The question is not whether nearshore or on-shore disposal is beneficial, but rather how beneficial.
- The group's work needs to be marketed up and down the West Coast.
- Pooling of resources needs to be continually explored.

**Sediment Supply -- South Side**

- Relatively positive picture, with accretion generally. The exception is erosion at the root portion of the South Jetty. The Corps will address this in 2019 as part of a South Jetty reconstruction project.
- Sand accumulation on the south side may or may not be related to disposal activities.
- As identified at the 2016 Science-Policy workshop, the potential remains for breaching of Clatsop Spit's foredunes with a series of severe storms.

**Sediment Supply -- North Side**

- Significant change in the sediment supply is occurring, with a very strong erosion trend south of the North Head, while overall a trend of accretion north of North Head. The localized erosion trend south of North Head needs to be closely tracked and its cause(s) understood.
- A major concern is erosion moving north up the coast.

**Lower Columbia River**

- The group recommends the use of Lower Columbia River dredged materials for nearshore beneficial uses rather than for Deep Water site disposal.

**South Jetty Site**

- Five + disposal projects demonstrate that thin layer disposal causes no significant adverse effects to crabs.
- Cumulative effects to crabs and direct and cumulative effects on other species remain to be assessed.
- There is support for continued monitoring, focused on cumulative effects, as proposed by Curtis Roegner, NOAA Fisheries. Monitoring during a larger dump event (at both the South Jetty and North Head sites) to be a proxy for cumulative effects.
- The group expressed support for disposal of 400,000 cubic yards in 2018, with a buildout to 500,000 cubic yards occurring next year.

**North Head Site**

- There is a significant difference between the north and south portions of the North Head area in terms of benthic fauna density (north = greater numbers) and diversity (south = greater).
- The group supports the pilot project proposed by Corps/WDOE as an effort to measure dispersion of material deposited in the North Head area. The pilot project will consist of thin-

layer placement along 1 transect (dump alignment) for 6-10 dumps. Each dump to be placed 2-3 hours apart. Successive placement will span about 24 hours. The pilot will be adaptively managed to ensure that two feet of mounding of dredged material in 35-50 ft. water depth will not affect wave action.

- Coordination with the crab fleet is needed to avoid impacts with gear. The earlier in the summer that the pilot is conducted, the fewer the impacts to the crab fleet.
- Recognizing the difference between the two sections of the North Head site, separate simultaneous or successive projects for the north and south portions are supported if/when feasible.
- Project details are deferred to the Technical Team.

#### **On-Shore Disposal**

- No clear direction was provided on how to proceed, other than to recognize that there are a number of issues to explore, including the Corps' least cost standard.

#### **Program Going Forward**

- There is strong support for continuing annual science-policy workshops, with a Fall check-in following this summer's work at the North Head and South Jetty sites.
- Jim Owens is assigned to assist the LCSG in developing a workplan for 2018-2019 and identify potential funding strategies for the work.
- A Steering Committee in lieu of Management and Technical teams should be explored.
- Legislative staffers should be briefed on the project.