

ALASKA DREDGED MATERIAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (ADMEF)

USACE Alaska District (CEPOA)

Matthew Ferguson
Kayla Campbell

Alaska District
Civil Works Branch
Environmental Resources Section

May 8, 2024



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Alaska Dredged Material Evaluation Framework



Photos: Courtesy of USACE – Alaska District



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Prepared by:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10, and
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

May 2024



U.S. ARMY

ADMEF IMPETUS

Petersburg Navigation Improvements CAP 107 Study

- Stated intent of study: to characterize material in accordance with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Seattle District's Dredged Material Evaluation and Disposal Procedures User's Manual (DMMP UM).
- April 2018 vibracore sediment collection provided inadequate information to complete a Suitability Determination for the dredged material discharge in waters of the United States.
- Mayor of Petersburg sent a letter to the Alaska Congressional Member Delegation (CODEL).
- Region 10 (R10) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded to CODEL indicating USACE and EPA would begin discussions regarding development of a regional implementation manual.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
AND ASSESSMENT

March 15, 2018

Mr. Stephen Giesbrecht, Manager
Petersburg Borough
P.O. Box 329
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Dear Mr. Giesbrecht:

Thank you for your letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, dated February 13, 2018, regarding the authorities and acceptable specifications for the use and disposal of dredged material from South Harbor in Petersburg, Alaska. As you may know, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District is the federal lead agency for the South Harbor dredging project. As such, the Alaska District is responsible for managing the project and coordinating with other federal agencies, including the EPA. The Alaska District has a wealth of experience and expertise in harbor construction and navigational dredging and is well versed in the requirements for the evaluation and testing of dredged material, as well as the specifications for dredged material disposal sites in Alaska. I encourage you to communicate directly with the USACE on this matter. For more information about the Alaska District dredging

program,
specific



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

OCT 10 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Congressman:

Thank you for your September 18, 2019, letter. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's evaluation process for managing dredged material in Alaska. As you noted, the EPA currently looks to dredge material management plans from Washington since an Alaska-specific plan does not yet exist.





U.S. ARMY

ADMEF GENESIS

Scoping

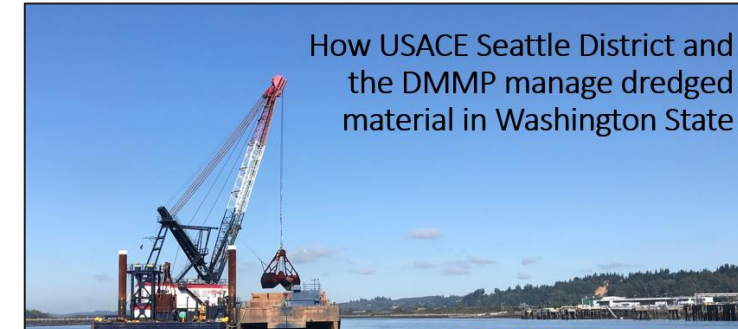
- May 2020: USACE and EPA met to develop a joint scoping process vision and a meeting schedule.
- Agreement for four agency scoping meetings.
- Resolution to develop Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) as an interim step.
- SOP developed by USACE with EPA collaboration

Contractor support

- EPA solicited a task order in 2021 to develop an initial draft of the ADMEF based on DMMP UM.
- June 2022: Initial draft ADMEF was developed.

USACE Completion

- January 2023 to February 2024: USACE Alaska District internal review and comment resolution prior to redistribution to ADMEF Agencies.



How USACE Seattle District and the DMMP manage dredged material in Washington State

Alaska District planning meeting
October 8, 2020
Heather Fourie
Dredged Material Management Office
USACE Seattle District



Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (AK-DMEF) Meeting #3 of 4

July 25, 2021 9:00 am - 11:00 am (PT) / 8:00 am - 10:00 am (AKT)

Participants: Justine Barton, Dave Croxton, Cami Grandinetti, Erika Hoffman, Bridgette McCracken, Matt Ferguson, Mike Salyer, Chris Floyd, Randy Vigil, Heather Fourie (USACE Seattle District), James McMillan (USACE Portland), David Moore and Burton Suedel (USACE ERDC), Joy Dunay (USACE Seattle District), Sylvia Ciborowski and Bianca Valdez (Kearns & West)

Alaska Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (AK-DMEF) Meeting #4 of 4

August 4, 2021 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (PT) / 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (AKT)

Participants

- EPA Region 10: Justine Barton, Dave Croxton, Erika Hoffman, Bridgette Lohrman, Betsy McCracken, Shannon Healy
- USACE Alaska District: Matt Ferguson, Chris Floyd, Mike Salyer, Jake Sweet, Ben Soiseth, Randy Vigil
- Invited Guests: Joy Dunay (USACE Seattle District), David Moore and Alan Kennedy
- Facilitation Team: Sylvia Ciborowski and Bianca Valdez (Kearns & West)



U.S. ARMY

ADMEF SUBSTANCE

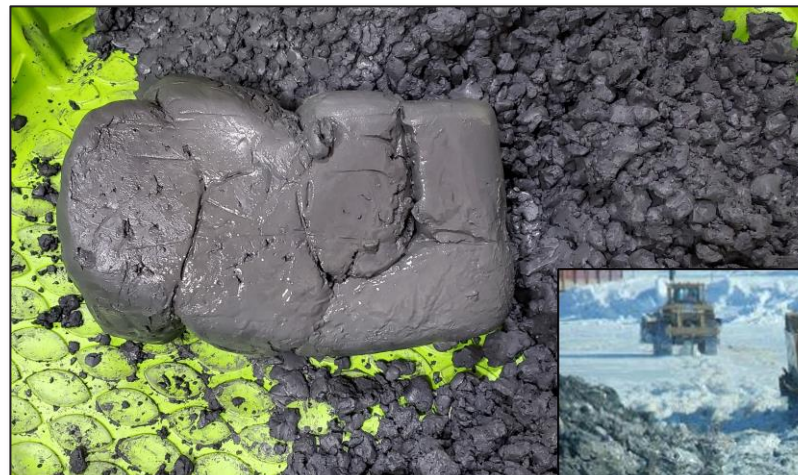
The ADMEF is a regional implementation manual based on the DMMP UM.

ADMEF Major Deviations from the DMMP UM:

- Terminology
- Agencies
- Specificity
- Unique Alaskan Considerations
- Ranking

ADMEF Content Retained from DMMP UM:

- Screening Levels
- Test Methods
- Exclusionary Criteria





U.S. ARMY

ADMEF STATUS

5



Public Review and Comment Period

- 30-Day Comment Period
- Available at:
<https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/Alaska-Dredged-Material-Evaluation-Framework/>
- Submit comments to:
public.affairs3@usace.army.mil

Final ADMEF

- Framework will be finalized after addressing public comments.
- Completion date will depend on the volume and substance of comments (Targeting Quarter 4 - June to August - of Fiscal Year 2024)

ADMEF - a living document.



Alaska District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Environmental Resources Section

Public Notice

Date _____ Identification No. ____
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

Notice of Availability for Draft Alaska Dredged Material Evaluation Framework

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) has developed, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) a draft regional implementation manual for the evaluation of dredged material proposed for discharge into waters of the United States (WOTUS). The intent of this regional implementation manual, which is called the Alaska Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (ADMEF), is to provide guidance for the USACE Alaska District Civil Work Navigation and Regulatory Programs for the evaluation, testing, and management of dredged sediment in Alaska. The ADMEF attempts to address the unique circumstances, climate, logistics, and minerology associated with many proposed dredging projects in Alaska.

The ADMEF is available for public review and comment at the following the USACE website: <https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/>. The ADMEF can be found under "Draft Alaska Dredged Material Evaluation Framework".

QUESTIONS?



Thank you!



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



U.S. ARMY

CONTACT



USACE Alaska District Public Affairs

Office Phone: 907-753-2520

Email: Public.Affairs3@usace.army.mil

Matt Ferguson

Office Phone: 907-753-2711

Email: Matthew.W.Ferguson@usace.army.mil

Kayla Campbell

Office Phone: 907-753-2757

Email: Kayla.N.Campbell@usace.army.mil

