

Great Lakes Dredging

Impacts of GLLA and GLRI

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- Visions of Section 123, PL 91-611 and GL Water Quality Agreement being fulfilled
- Sediments in navigation channels rapidly becoming clean enough that confined disposal is no longer required
- Corps, EPA, States, and Locals having to re-think long-term disposal options for dredged material at many harbors
- Future success relies on shared responsibilities for dredged material management



Bad News

- Competition for federal funding for navigation dredging is more intense than 20 year ago
- CDFs in Great Lakes are at capacity or approaching it rapidly
- New CDFs must be cost-shared and actions to increase capacity at existing CDF are often viewed as a new CDF
- USACE looking to return all filled CDFs to non-federal partners ASAP



Good News

- Sediments dredged from navigation channels are much cleaner than 20 years ago
- Most sediments may be suitable for unconfined upland placement or beneficial use
- Some sediments now suitable for open water placement
- Funding for “strategic” dredging and beneficial use available through GLRI for navigation projects within AOCs



How Did We Get Here ?

- Source control
 - CWA point and non-point controls
- Cleanup hot spots
 - Superfund actions
 - Enforcement actions
 - GLLA projects
- Remove residual contaminants
 - Maintenance dredging
 - GLLA projects
 - GLRI projects



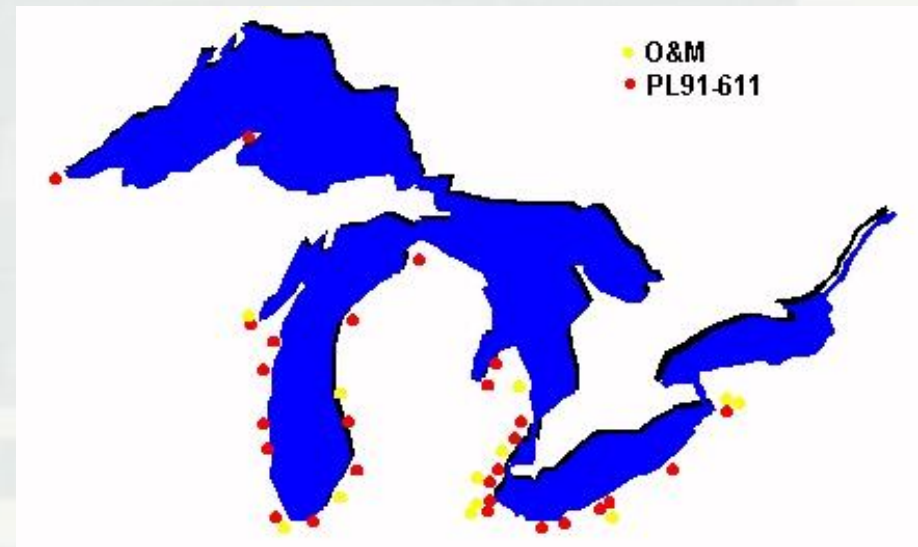
Historical Perspective

- 1960 Grassy Island CDF on Detroit River
- 1967-68 Pilot Program evaluated options for managing contaminated sediments
- 1970 Great Lakes CDFs (PL 91-611, Sec 123)
- 1987 AOCs defined in GLWQA amendments
- 1996 National CDF authority (WRDA, Sec 201)
- 1998 GL Dredged Material Testing Manual
- 2002 GLLA authorized (CWA, Sec 118)
- 2010 GLRI authorized (Interior/EPA Approps)



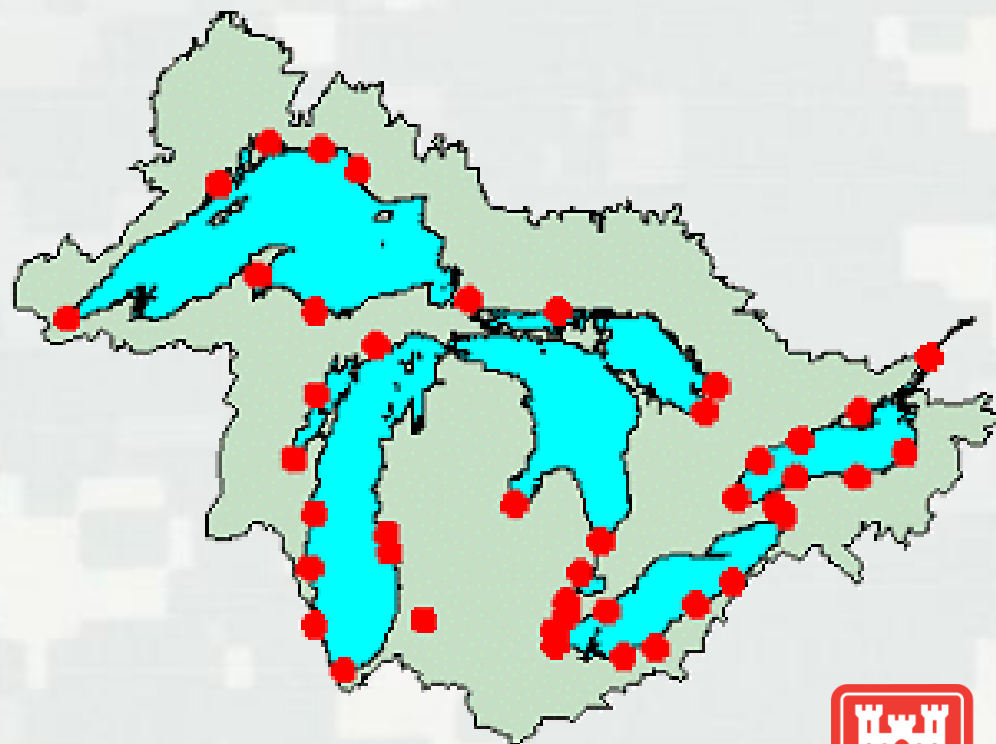
Drivers for Change

- Over 120 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments confined at 48 Great Lakes CDFs
 - Cost-sharing waived for Section 123 CDFs if CWA plan in place
 - Capacity intended to last only 10 years
 - Only a few built under national authority
 - CDFs used for GLLA and GLRI dredging



Drivers for Change

- Restrictions on Dredging Activities a critical BUI at most of AOCs
 - AOC funding limited first 15 years
 - Superfund a double-edged sword
 - GLLA picked up pace
 - GLRI enabled AOC delisting to move into high gear



Actions Required

- AOC Delisting and Elimination of Dredging Restriction BUI
 - Consistent interpretation of what it means to remove dredging restrictions
 - Comprehensive plan for removal of contaminated sediments from AOC
 - Long-term plans for managing dredged material from former AOCs



- Removal of Contaminated Sediments at AOC Harbors
 - Exhaust all Superfund and Enforcement options to remove hot spots
 - Legacy Act removal of residual contaminated sediments outside navigation channel
 - Removal of contaminated sediments inside navigation channel through combination of O&M dredging and “Strategic” navigation dredging



Actions Required

- Use and Closure of Existing CDF(s)
 - Use existing CDFs to manage residual contaminated sediments from AOC
 - Plan for CDF closure and ultimate use
 - Plan for satisfying maintenance and monitoring requirements



Actions Required

- Maximize Beneficial Use
 - Clarity and consistency in state policies on upland disposal of dredged material
 - Understanding and developing local markets for dredged material
 - Building partnerships to deliver the necessary real estate and money



- Changing common misperceptions
 - *sediments are a pollutant created by dredging*
 - *all sediments will be contaminated forever and need to be placed in CDFs*
 - *CDFs have unlimited capacity and will always be needed*
 - *dredged material management is entirely a USACE responsibility*





Questions?