

Mobile Bay Disposal Plan

October 2012

WEDA 2012
Miami, Florida



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Pre - 1990

- Cutterhead dredging
- Adjacent to channel disposal
- Few restrictions on disposal
- Dredge cost \$.50/cy
- Environmental Opposition
- Authorization for new channel changed disposal methods



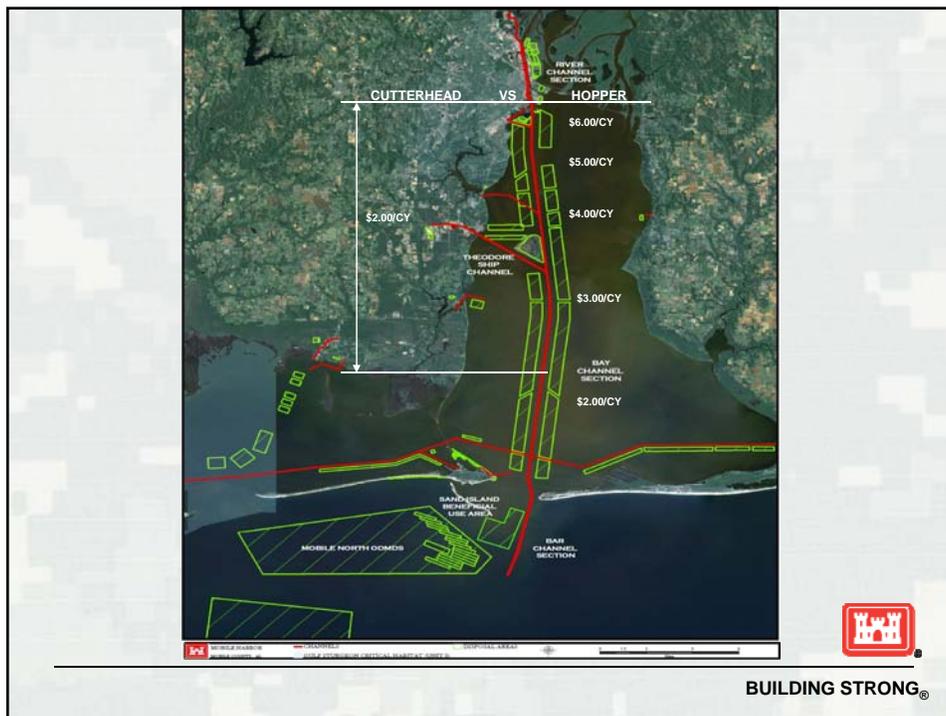
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Mobile Bay Channel Disposal

- WRDA 1986
 - ▶ Authorization for widening and deepening
 - ▶ “except that, for reasons of environmental quality, dredged material from such project shall be disposed of in open water in the Gulf of Mexico.”
- WRDA 1996
 - ▶ May consider alternatives to disposal of dredged material in the Gulf of Mexico, including environmental acceptable alternatives for beneficial uses of dredged material and environmental restoration



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In-Bay Disposal Considerations

- Removing 4 Mcy annually from the Bay sediment budget was NOT the smart thing to do.

- Open water disposal has been recently conducted
 - ▶ 1998 – Hurricane Georges
 - ▶ 2004/5 – Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina

- Mobile Bay is a well studied system with numerous investigations regarding the affects of thin layer disposal showing minimal impacts

- Sediment budget shows that Gulf disposal is removing virtually all the sediment that enters the system

- System should be a pro-grading delta – but is neutral



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Short Term Plan

- Fill Brookley Hole

- Emergency Dredging of Bay with thin layer disposal

- Modeling of sediment movement from disposal areas

- Commitment to move forward with development of a beneficial use site



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Long Term Plan

- Develop large sponsor owned site
- Permanent pipeline dredging with thin layer disposal
- Possible hopper dredge of lower bay
- Pursue other beneficial use opportunities



BU sites as refined and prioritized from the April

LA Meeting



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Status

- Near completion of short term phase including Brookley hole and thin layer channel restoration
- Modeling thin layer sediment movement
- Bug group evaluated location options for bene use site



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Bug - Path forward

- Finalize bene use site location and feasibility level design
- Permit site (State is permit applicant)
- Finalize design and construct with Restore Act funds
- Revise Mobile Harbor Water Quality Certificate to include use of the new site and thin layer open water disposal



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