



Definitions used in the HELCOM reporting on handling of dredged material at sea.

A. Dredging for water-based infrastructure, includes:

- Capital (or new-work) dredging for navigation involves enlarging or deepening existing channel and port areas or creating new ones; and for engineering purposes includes constructing trenches for pipes, cables, immersed tube tunnels, and removal of material unsuitable for foundations or for aggregate extraction, and for hydraulic purposes this involves increasing the flow capacity of the waterway;
- Maintenance dredging to maintain channels, berths or construction works, etc. at their designed dimensions (i.e. to counteract sedimentation and changes in morphology);
- Dredging for coastal protection: use of sediments for such activities as beach nourishment and construction of levees, dykes, jetties, etc.

B. Dredging for the purposes of ecosystem enhancement:

- Environmental dredging to remove contaminated sediment for the purpose of reducing risks to the environment and to human health;
- Restoration dredging to restore or create environmental features or habitats to establish ecosystem functions, benefits, and services; e.g., wetlands creation, island habitat construction/nourishment, construction of offshore reefs and topographic features for fisheries enhancement, etc.; and
- Dredging to support local and regional sediment processes retaining sediment within the natural sediment system to support sediment-based habitats, shorelines, and infrastructure.

Other definitions

Beneficial use of dredged material is management option implying utilization of sediments as a valuable natural resource, including retaining sediments that meet national assessment criteria within freshwater, estuarine, and marine systems to support sediment-based habitats, shorelines, and infrastructure.

Dredged material management: Is an overarching term describing a variety of handling methods of dredged materials including, inter alia: dumping (deliberate disposal), re-use, beneficial use, re-location, placement and treatment.

Deposit: Any deposit into the maritime area of dredged materials, independently of whether it is considered as “dumping” or “placement”.

Dumping: Any deliberate disposal at sea or into the seabed of dredged material; subject to a prior special permit issued by the appropriate national authority in accordance with the provisions of Annex V of the 1992 Helsinki Convention (Article 2 (4ai), 11 (2)).

Placement: Placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of the present Convention (Article 2 (4bii) of the 1992 Helsinki Convention).