



## **Additional Project Information: Proposed Dredge Material Management Site at Sandy Cove East, Digby County, Nova Scotia**

As the common service provider for the federal government, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) – Environmental Services group is working on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada– Small Craft Harbours (DFO-SCH) to facilitate the environmental assessment process for the proposed development of a dredge material management site. This site is located on a parcel of federal land located in Sandy Cove, NS (PID #30269542).

Dredging is required to ensure safe navigability and berthage of vessels at Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Small Craft Harbours (SCH) facilities. Like many harbours, dredging is required at Centreville SCH, Sandy Cove East SCH, Little River SCH and East Ferry SCH periodically to support the fishing industry and provide harbour access. In Nova Scotia, SCH is subject to provincial regulations and standards to dispose of dredge materials from harbour basins and channels. DFO-SCH is working closely with the Province of Nova Scotia on options to dispose of dredged materials in accordance with federal and provincial regulations. These options include finding alternate disposal or uses for the material being dredged such as disposal at sea, beach nourishment, as well as building dredge management sites on DFO-SCH's properties.

Several alternative disposal options were considered when determining the most technically and economically feasible option for managing dredged sediment resulting from maintenance dredging activities at Small Craft Harbours located on Digby Neck, such as:

- Disposal on private property – Historically, dredged sediment from Centreville and other local harbours was transported and disposed of on various private properties located in close proximity to the harbour. In NS, DFO is subject to provincial regulations and standards established in 2013/2014 with regards to disposal of dredge materials from harbour basins and channels that no longer permits disposal on private lands. As such, this option is no longer available as it does not adhere to provincial legislation.
- Disposal at sea – Disposal at sea is regulated by Environment and Climate Change Canada under Schedule 6 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. To be suitable for disposal at sea and in adherence with permit conditions, the material must meet specific criteria with regards to physical and chemical properties, which is verified through periodic sampling and analytical testing. Sample results have indicated that the physical and chemical composition of sediment may not meet permit criteria and costs associated with obtaining the required permits are prohibitive given the relatively small dredge volumes. Therefore, disposal at sea is not a viable option for the material resulting from maintenance dredging at the nearby Small Craft Harbours.
- Construct land-based management site on another property – Alternative properties were considered during selection of the proposed dredge material management site. However the site in Sandy Cove was selected for its central location within Digby Neck, availability for purchase, located along the coast, topographical suitability, and distance from sensitive ecological areas.

The proposed property is intended to be used for long-term storage of sediment primarily originating from the Centreville Small Craft Harbour located in Trout Cove however the site could also receive material from a number of surrounding SCH wharves based on site specific dredging requirements including, Sandy Cove East, Little River and East Ferry. Options for reuse of this dredge material will be explored such that a portion of the material may be stored on site temporarily, however, it is anticipated that the majority of the material will be managed on site over the long-term.

The Centreville Harbour historically is typically dredged every 5 to 10 years and a small quantity is dredged from Little River SCH every 2-3 years, so for the majority of the time the management site at Sandy Cove will be essentially inactive. Sandy Cove East and East Ferry are dredged on an as-needed, irregular, longer interval basis. The number of trucks per dredge event from Centreville and Little River would range depending on the actual dredge quantities and the size of the trucks being used, however on average approximately 500-600 m<sup>3</sup> of material is dredged per event which would translate to roughly 80 truckloads. In terms of the length of time per dredge event, this would depend on the dredge quantity but would typically occur over a 2-3 week period (on average, every 2-3 years). During larger



dredge projects, this time frame may increase to 4-6 weeks depending on the actual quantity, however these events would occur on a much lesser frequency (on average every 10 years or more). The site will be designed to receive material from multiple dredging events while the harbours in the area remain in operation. Transportation of material to the site will utilize existing highways and roads leading from the harbours to the proposed site including highway 217, Sandy Cove Road, and Old Post Road.

Site works will involve the construction of an access road/driveway within the proposed property from Old Post Road to the portion of the property that will be utilized for dredge material containment. Improvements to the old Post Road will also take place in order to facilitate transporting the material to the proposed site. Soil at the management site may be reworked to create berms and ditches that will contain the dredge material and control surface water runoff. The material will be managed within the central portion of the property, which will provide a treed buffer around the containment area that will minimize the view from adjacent properties as well as from Old Post Road.

As a component of the environmental assessment process, a Site Specific Risk Assessment is currently being conducted to determine the level of potential ecological and human health effects associated with the proposed project. This assessment will also identify associated mitigation, monitoring and risk management measures designed to mitigate the potential impacts of project-related contaminants and other changes to the environment on human and ecological health. A site management plan will also be developed and incorporate the mitigation measures identified in the risk assessment to provide details on the proper handling, storage and long term monitoring of dredge material on site. This plan will also include measures for the proper and safe transportation of the material from the originating harbours to the site. The site management plan as well as the impact assessment document can be made available to members of the public upon request.