



Public Consultation Summary

Project Title: Proposed Dredge Material Management Site, Sandy Cove, Digby, Nova Scotia
Proponent: Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours

The following (**Table 1**) provides a summary of comments received during the public consultation period (listed by subject/item of concern). It is important to note that all public comments received in relation to the proposed project have been considered during the assessment of significant environmental effects in accordance with the *Canadian Impact Assessment Act*.

Table 1: Summary of Public Concerns with Regards to the Proposed Dredge Material Management Site at Sandy Cove, Digby County, Nova Scotia

Issue/Concern	Number of Comments Received	Comments Addressed in SEED
Potential aesthetic impacts/ and concerns related to site design such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the site look like? • Concerns that the site will effect the natural beauty of the area • Concerns that there will be Impacts on current views of the water and landscape 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A surrounding buffer of existing trees will be left to minimize visual aesthetics from surrounding properties and Old Post Road. Further, vegetated berms will be created to contain the dredged sediment. These berms will be designed to reduce the visual impacts of the site within the existing landscape. • Dredged sediment will be placed at the site prior to periods of higher nearby land use by full and part-time residents and tourists to the area, when possible. • A site management and monitoring plan will be developed to include measures to minimize noise, odour, and dust. • The site management and monitoring plan will incorporate design criteria to further reduce visual impacts of the site, such as establishing optimal berm height and design, re-vegetation measures and site access measures.
Concerns related to proximity to community /public areas/residential areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential health risks to adjacent residences and community of Sandy Cove • Impacts on quality of life of adjacent residences and tourists visiting area 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A surrounding buffer of existing trees will be left to minimize visual aesthetics from surrounding properties and the Old Post Road. Further, vegetated berms will be created to contain the dredged sediment. These berms will be designed to reduce the visual impacts of the site within the existing landscape.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site activity at the DMMS property will be of a relatively low frequency (once every 2-3 years) as such the majority of the time the site will be inactive.• Dredged sediment will be placed at the site prior to periods of higher nearby land use by full and part-time residents and tourists to the area, when possible.• Measures outlined in the site management and monitoring plan will be established to minimize the off-site impacts of the proposed dredge material management site. This will include design procedures to minimize the impacts to soil, surface water, and groundwater quality over the lifetime of the site as well as mitigation to address potential air quality impacts associated with odour, noise, dust, and emissions resulting from site activities.• A groundwater monitoring plan will be implemented to confirm and monitor possible variations over time in the groundwater quality conditions at the site following sediment disposal activities. Should monitoring indicate potential issues, an adaptive management approach (e.g., removal of material, remediation of site, soil treatment) will be followed, and additional mitigation measures will be implemented.
<p>Concerns related to increased truck traffic and condition of roads such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns related to impacts of truck traffic through village of Sandy Cove• Damage to the already poorly maintained road• Potential to create a mess on roads during wet material transport• Speed vehicles travel on narrow road pose safety concerns• Concerns related to long term maintenance/management of Old Post Road• Safety concerns with regards to pedestrians and children present on the local roads• Safety concerns with truck traffic conflicting with public use of Old Post Road as a hiking trail	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site activity at the DMMS property will be of a relatively low frequency (once every 2-3 years) as such the majority of the time the site will be inactive.• On average dredging activities would require approximately 80 truckloads over a 2 - 3 week period at an anticipated frequency of every 2 - 3 years. During larger dredge projects, this time frame may increase to 4 - 6 weeks, depending on the actual quantity. These events, however, would occur at a much lower frequency (on average every 10 years or more).• During transportation of the material to the site, signage will be placed at appropriate locations on Highway 217, Sandy Cove Road and Old Post Road to warn motorists and pedestrians of trucks entering the highway and slow-moving vehicles.• Proper handling procedures will be in place (e.g., use water tight boxes, do not overfill loads, etc.) during dredging and



		transport to the site to minimize spills of material onto the local roads.
<p>Potential soil/surface water/groundwater/well contamination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What measures are in place to ensure surrounding wells will not be contaminated/impacted• How will the groundwater be monitored• Concerns with material spilling out of trucks into fresh water and wells• Concerns of the potential contaminants present in material	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The containment cell will be constructed, and the site management and monitoring plan will be developed to avoid off-site surface water / groundwater impacts. As a component of the site management and monitoring plan, a long-term monitoring program will be developed to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and ensure off-site impacts are avoided.• The containment cell berms will be lined with an impermeable layer that will prevent water and leachate from the dredged sediment from migrating to groundwater over time. Ditching surrounding the access road and containment cell/areas will manage water flow to direct surface flow away from adjacent properties.• The groundwater monitoring plan will be implemented to confirm and monitor possible variations in groundwater quality over time following sediment disposal activities. Should monitoring indicate potential issues, an adaptive management approach (e.g., removal of material, remediation of site, etc.) will be followed, and additional mitigation measures will be implemented.• Best management practices and mitigation measures will be implemented to prevent releases of contaminated material and spills (e.g., proper maintenance and use of equipment on-site), and response measures will be developed in the event of an accident/malfunction.
<p>Concerns related to the timing and extent of consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns with the timing of public consultation• Concerns with scope of public consultation (i.e. concerns with who received letters and who did not)• Requests to extend the public comment period• Concerns with why public consultation was not initiated prior to purchasing property	11	<p>Under section 82 of the IAA, DFO-SCH must determine whether the proposed DMMS is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. To help inform this decision, the following consultations were completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project posted to Canadian Impact Assessment Registry on January 25, 2022 for public comment.• Notification letters (prepared in both official languages) were mailed to 25 property owners located along Sandy Cove Road and Old Post Road on January 25, 2022.• Notifications were published in the Chronicle Herald and Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse, informing the public of the project on February 25, 2022.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a follow-up to initial community feedback received, a public meeting was held at the North Shore & District Fire Hall on March 1, 2022. The meeting was also accessible virtually.
<p>Concerns related to odour, noise and air emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns related to how odours will be managed• How long will odours persist• Concerns related to noise and dust from truck traffic and site operations	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where possible dredged sediment will be placed at the site prior to periods of higher nearby land use by full and part-time residents and tourists to the area.• A site management and monitoring plan will be developed to minimize noise, odour, and dust.• Site activity at the DMMS property will be of a relatively low frequency (once every 2-3 years) as such the majority of the time the site will be inactive.• On average dredging activities would require approximately 80 truckloads over a 2 - 3 week period at an anticipated frequency of every 2 - 3 years. During larger dredge projects, this time frame may increase to 4 - 6 weeks, depending on the actual quantity. These events, however, would occur at a much lower frequency (on average every 10 years or more).• Heavy equipment on-site will be limited to the time necessary to spread the material.• Construction activities will be carried out during hours agreed upon with the project manager and times acceptable to local authorities to mitigate disturbance to residents.• Dust suppression by the application of water will be employed when required. Waste oil must not be used for dust control under any circumstances.• It is anticipated that due to the organic content of the material, odours are expected to occur during placement of dredged material at the site and immediately after which may persist for a short period of time following completion of placement. If odours persist, methods will be established to address odour, dust, and noise from site activities (i.e., contact SCH Area Office in Yarmouth). Additional mitigation measures may be utilized (e.g., cover material, hydroseeding, etc.).
Potential negative impacts on property values in the area	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A surrounding buffer of existing trees will be left to minimize visual aesthetics from surrounding properties and Old Post



		<p>Road. Further, vegetated berms will be created to contain the dredged sediment. These berms will be designed to reduce the visual impacts of the site within the existing landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential impacts to socio-economic factors such as tourism, recreation, and impacts on surrounding residential properties were assessed during the impact assessment process in the context of how potential off-site effects to the environment resulting from the project may impact these factors (tourism, recreation, etc.).• Site activity at the DMMS property will be of a relatively low frequency (once every 2-3 years) as such the majority of the time the site will be inactive.• Site mitigation measures developed during the impact assessment as well as the associated site management and monitoring plan will also address potential off-site impacts that could impact surrounding property values.
<p>Concerns related to alternative options considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions with regards to why the proposed site was selected• Questions with regards to what other options were considered• Questions with regards to why disposal at sea is not an option for this material	<p>9</p>	<p>Several alternative disposal options were assessed based on environmental, technical and economical factors when determining the preferred option for managing dredged sediment resulting from maintenance dredging at harbours on Digby Neck:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Disposal on private property</u> - Historically, dredged sediment from Centreville and other local harbours has been transported and disposed 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.• <u>Disposal at sea</u> - Disposal at sea (DAS) is regulated by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) under Schedule 6 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), 1999. To be suitable for DAS 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



		<p>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 SCHs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative properties were considered during selection of the proposed dredge material management site. The site in Sandy Cove, however, was selected for its centralized location within Digby Neck, availability for purchase, location along the coast, and being topographically downgradient from residential properties.• Establishing a dredge material management site on the property located in Sandy Cove, Digby County, NS was determined to be the most feasible option to manage dredged sediment resulting from maintenance dredging at SCH located on Digby Neck. This option would result in relatively shorter trucking distances providing environmental benefits related to reduced greenhouse gas, noise, and dust emissions as well as economic benefits of reduced trucking costs. The site will also provide flexibility in terms of providing a management option of dredge material to accommodate dredging in time sensitive periods (e.g., following a storm) where access to the harbour may be impeded by accumulated sediment and would require immediate dredging.
<p>Concerns related to impacts on socioeconomic, tourism and recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many seasonal residents that may be negatively impacted by the project• Area is a popular tourist location• Old Post Road is a popular hiking and walking trail and is used to access TR Falls hiking trail.• Concerns related to potential impacts to TR Falls from site operations	<p>12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A surrounding buffer of existing trees will be left to minimize visual aesthetics from surrounding properties and the Old Post Road. Further, vegetated berms will be created to contain the dredged sediment. These berms will be designed to reduce the visual impacts of the site within the existing landscape.• Site activity at the DMMS property will be of a relatively low frequency (once every 2-3 years) as such the majority of the time the site will be inactive.• Where possible dredged sediment will be placed at the site outside periods of higher nearby land use by full and part-time residents and tourists visiting the area.• Measures outlined in the site management and monitoring plan will be established to minimize the off-site impacts of the proposed dredge material management site. This will



		include design procedures to minimize the impacts to soil, surface water, and groundwater quality over the lifetime of the site as well as mitigation to address potential air quality impacts associated with odour, noise, dust, and emissions resulting from site activities.
Concerns of municipal and construction waste and other hazardous materials disposed of at the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Concerns with other material potentially brought to the site (e.g. garbage, construction waste, etc.)	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The purpose of the proposed dredge material management site is to receive and manage sediment originating from maintenance dredging activities conducted at Small Craft Harbour located on Digby Neck and is not intended to receive waste material from other sources.The site management and monitoring plan will include measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized disposal of material within the site which will be achieved through measures such as erecting signage, restricting site access, monitoring for unauthorized material disposal, etc.