

# Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together

August 29-31, 2006, Portland, OR.

**Breakout Session 8-C Report out:  
Developing Regional Plans**

# *Interests of Mid-South Atlantic Region*

- Interests ranged from county-level private dredging to the creation of a coalition of federal, state, and local stakeholders to manage sediments in watersheds.
- General agreement about the need to manage sediments in the context of watersheds rather than by project.
- Challenges in defining a manageable scale of regional coordination.

# Potential Actions for Regional Coordination

- Congressional Bill mandating coordination
- Organizing Federal agencies with Congressional interests to coordinate resources (pilot projects)
  - Build social capital/networks and identify stakeholders
  - First time manager meetings to establish lines of communication
- Establish need, goal, and strategy of action
- Identifying common economic and environmental interests and challenges
- Need a trustworthy leader with good people skills
- Leadership council or coalition, including all relevant resource agencies
- A goal statement stemming from a Congressional mandate
- Conceptualization skills to visualize solutions to problems
- Establish generic guidelines to develop pilot projects with realistic time tables
- Management plans must be synched to identify common knowledge, solutions, lessons learned, etc.

# What is needed?

- Build a coalition to improve sediment management along the Atlantic coast.
- Objectives:
  - Have appropriate leadership
    - Because of federal authorities and regional mandates, federal agencies have the opportunity to initiate action
  - Include a full range of stakeholders
  - Reflect common and individual goals and challenges
  - Exchange information about current activities and responsibilities
  - Discuss scale issues related to regional coordination
  - Establish communication mechanism
  - Test ideas of regional coordination through pilot projects

# Pilot Projects

- Establish guidelines for projects.
- Develop individual test projects.
- Establish realistic timetables.
- Identify funding sources.
- Get 'on the ground' results.
- Use lessons learned to improve understanding of sediment management.

# Next steps and actions

- EPA/Corps will convene an organizational kick-off meeting.
  - Use the framework of RDTs and RSM teams.
- Meeting logistics:
  - November 2006 meeting.
  - Organized by SAD and EPA Region 4.
  - Preliminary coordination at upcoming NEP and Corps meetings in September and October 2006.