

A sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. In the foreground, there are dark, thin reeds or grasses that create a complex, crisscrossing pattern across the view.

# New England Regional Dredging Team

National Dredging Team  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC  
October 12, 2005

## **The N.E. Situation**

**Dredging projects require the resolution of agencies' conflicting mandates. Finding acceptable solutions to mandate conflicts requires biologists, chemists, engineers & economists to find common ground. In New England finding common ground was facilitated by the Corps developing interagency cooperation agreements (shared responsibilities).**

# New England Regional Dredging Team Structure

- Mid-Level Managers Group
- Sudbury Group
- Local Planning Groups
  - state activities
  - project-specific work groups



## Mid-Level Managers Group

- Federal Agencies (USACE, EPA, FWS, NOAA)
- Meets 1-2 times per year since 1996
- Directs technical issues to Sudbury Group for discussion and resolution
- Endorses Sudbury Group technical decisions
- Resolves policy issues

# Sudbury Group

- Federal and State Agencies
  - USACE, EPA, NMFS, FWS, CT DEP, RI CRMC, MA CZM, MA DMF, ME SPO, NH DES
- Co-chaired by EPA, USACE, and NMFS
- Has met regularly since 1995

# Sudbury Group

- Address technical issues as directed by MLM
  - Regional Implementation Manual (RIM)
  - environmental windows
  - over-depth dredging
  - sediment testing and “adequate characterization”
  - disposal site management and monitoring (DAMOS)
- Refers policy issues to MLM



# State Participants

- CT DEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs (CZM)
- RI CRMC (CZM)
- MA CZM, DEP, and DMF
- NH Dredge Management Task Force
- Maine ME SPO (CZM), DEP, DOT, DMR, DOC



# Project-specific work groups

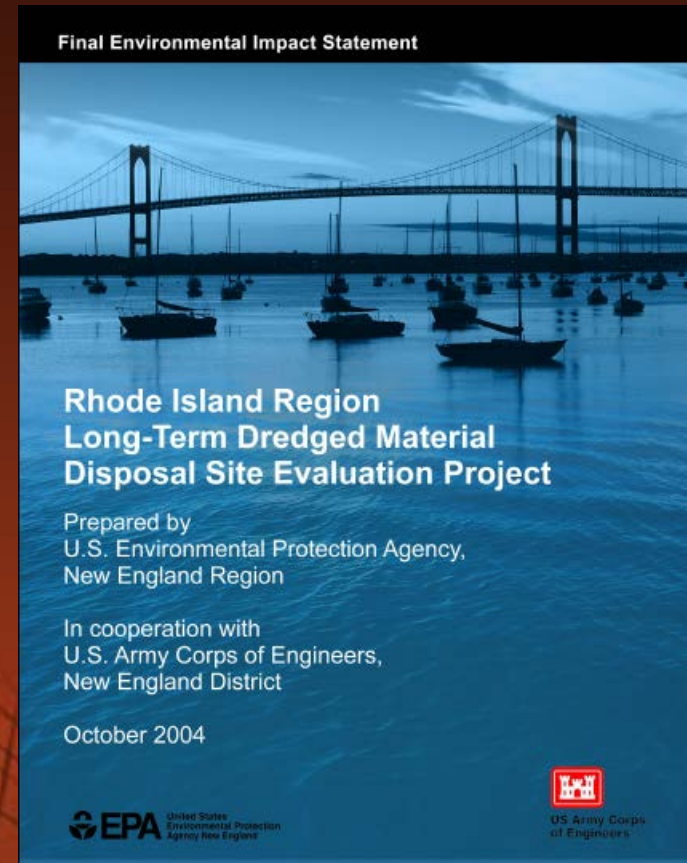
- Membership includes federal, state, and local government agencies and the public
- Dredged Material Management Plans
  - regional (LIS, Massachusetts)
  - navigation projects
  - beneficial uses





# Project-specific work groups (cont.)

- Disposal Site Designations/Site Management and Monitoring Plans
  - Long Island Sound
  - Rhode Island Region
  - Massachusetts Bay
  - Portland
- Disposal Site Selections
  - Providence River and Harbor Navigation Project



# Summary

- Current structure works for New England
  - agencies deal with broader issues, public gets involved at regional and local level
  - collegial atmosphere at Sudbury Group has helped agency staff build relationships and trust
  - allowed us to discuss and resolve a lot of issues absent project-specific urgency
  - need to alternate meeting locations to facilitate greater participation by all states
  - need to pursue more outreach