

San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee
Port of Oakland

September 10, 2009

Dredge Issues Work Group Report

The official name of the Dredge Issues Work Group is "Dredge Issues Group"
"DIG".

The work group met twice since the last Harbor Safety Committee meeting, August 6 and August 31.

The DIG discussed hydrographic surveys and the ACE's migration from single beam to multibeam survey technology. ACE acquired multibeam survey equipment and is in the process of calibrating it before publishing surveys with the new technology. NOAA Response Team 6 (NRT6) presently has this technology in the bay and offered up their boat and equipment to work in concert with ACE while they test and prepare to implement it.

At the first meeting LTC Don Davis, ACE, requested that DIG determine which channels be surveyed first with the multibeam technology. ACE intends to work with the marine community to resolve how we use the new data and work through concerns that may arise between the old and new systems. This work has not yet been completed.

The group requested that ACE develop a list of surveyed channels so that each channel could be reviewed for frequency of surveys and better utilize ACE's equipment going forward.

Rob Lawrence, ACE, was tasked with developing flow charts in order for the group to better understand the process required for annual maintenance dredging from cradle to grave.

DIG reviewed the authorized navigation channels in the Bay to determine if realignment of existing channels is warranted in order to take advantage of naturally deep water and reduce the amount of dredge maintenance. At the August 31 meeting we met in Hercules and reviewed San Bruno Shoal, Redwood City, Oakland, Southhampton Shoal, Richmond, North Ship, Pinole Shoal, Bulls Head and Avon to NY Point, channels and identified a number of areas for improvement.

The next step in the process for eventual realignment and maintenance is a letter to LTC Farrell, the district commander, requesting ACE to review the channels.

Respectfully,
Marc Bayer