



# Environmental Windows in Duluth Harbor, MN, USA

## ERDC Dredging Operations Technical Support Program (DOTS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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### Response Summary:

To provide technical support to the USACE Detroit district concerning environmental windows (EW) for dredging and in-water construction in the Duluth/Superior Estuary and Harbor.

### Period of Performance:

Start: May 5, 2018; End: August 1, 2018

### Benefits of the Response to the USACE Dredging/Navigation Program:

To strengthen stakeholder relationships and provide a science-based review of proposed EWs to help determine the effectiveness of this management practice.

### Deliverable:

Attend Meeting to support the USACE-Detroit District.

On May 30, 2018, the ERDC-EL, USACE-Detroit district, USEPA, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR and other stakeholders conducted a science-based review of environmental windows for dredging and in-water construction in the Duluth/Superior Estuary and Harbor scoping meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen stakeholder relationships and to understand the application of environmental windows; to facilitate appropriate science-based solutions for increased EW resilience; and to seek opportunities to learn more about stakeholder concerns. This was the first EW meeting.

The engagement among stakeholders produced productive dialogue and ultimately resulted in identification of high-priority EW needs including the need for environmental data from various stakeholders to better understand the EW management decision process. Knowledge gaps were identified which increased the uncertainty of the EW practice. Coordination with local natural resource agencies, ERDC-EL, and Detroit District staff was identified as a route to address the knowledge gaps. Relevant ERDC generated journal articles covering the topic on the effects of dredge plumes on aquatic resources were provided to the group in follow up emails.

To continue developing a more science-based EW and to continue the dialogue between stakeholders, a second meeting was recommended to address the EW knowledge gaps.



Providing environmental and engineering technical support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Operations and Maintenance navigation and dredging missions

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