



TES Protective Measures for New Dredge Type for CE New Orleans District

ERDC Dredging Operations Technical Support Program (DOTS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Response Summary:

As part of its Dredging/Navigation Program, the USACE provides permit and approval to outside independent parties for plans to develop new dredges or dredging equipment. An outside party submitted plans for the development of a new dredge to the USACE New Orleans District for permitting and approval. This is the first effort for a new type of dredge design in over 25 years. Due to the known and documented potential dredging impacts to various TES species such as sea turtles, sturgeon, and marine mammals, concerns were raised as to the potential impacts this new dredge design might pose for these vulnerable and protected species. The USACE New Orleans District requested assistance from Ms. Dena Dickerson who is the subject matter expert and world authority on dredging impacts on TES species such as sea turtles, sturgeon, and marine mammals. District personnel requested assistance in evaluating the proposed dredge design drawings and documents to identify potential areas of concern for issues with TES species, particularly sea turtles and sturgeon. Additionally, the District personnel requested assistance with drafting documents to NMFS concerning the proposed new dredge and participate in subsequent meetings between USACE and NMFS to facilitate better communication on this subject between all parties. Ms. Dickerson provided this assistance for the request.

Period of Performance:

March through June 2019

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

The results of this DOTS Response provided proactive evaluations of potential sea turtle and sturgeon environmental issues with the new dredge design and provided recommendations for corrections or alternative measures to implement. This proactive approach to evaluating environmental protection or enhancement when designing a new dredge type is unique and should influence future efforts when developing other dredges or other types of dredging equipment. This DOTS Response provided assistance and technical expertise unavailable within the USACE New Orleans District.

Deliverable:

Ms. Dickerson provided document reviews, consultation and expert opinion for personnel with USACE New Orleans District and NMFS, and participated in collaborative meeting with all parties.

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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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