

Dredged Material Disposal in Norton Sound from the proposed Deep Draft Arctic Ports System

The Corp of Engineers, Alaska District, is currently conducting a feasibility study and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement as part of a project to expand the deep draft capacity for shipping and resource development in the Arctic. Potential project locations, dimensions, and quantities have not been formally decided upon. Studies to date indicate that the most likely alternatives include expansion of the Port of Nome and development of marine infrastructure at Point Spencer in Port Clarence. As part of the potential expansion in Nome, there could be a need to dispose of up to approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material; a quantity too large to use as beach nourishment or upland fill. To accommodate this material, the Corps initiated preliminary field studies in late August 2014 focusing on crabs and benthic fish as a first step in working with EPA to designate an ocean disposal site. The results of this work will be presented and suggestions are welcomed on how we can improve the data collection for next summer.