



Cleanup of Contaminated Sediments Has Begun

Cleanup of contaminated sediments has begun at the Pacific Sound Resources site in West Seattle. The Port of Seattle and its contractor are removing about 700 treated wood pilings and related structures that make up several old piers. (See map, page 2)

After pilings removal is complete, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor will take these additional steps:

- ◆ Dredging about 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from an area near the shore to maintain the water depth needed for barge and tug traffic, as well as to allow the extension of an existing storm water outfall.
- ◆ Disposing of dredged material at a solid waste landfill.
- ◆ Placing a clean sediment cap over about 58 acres of contaminated sediments in Elliott Bay.

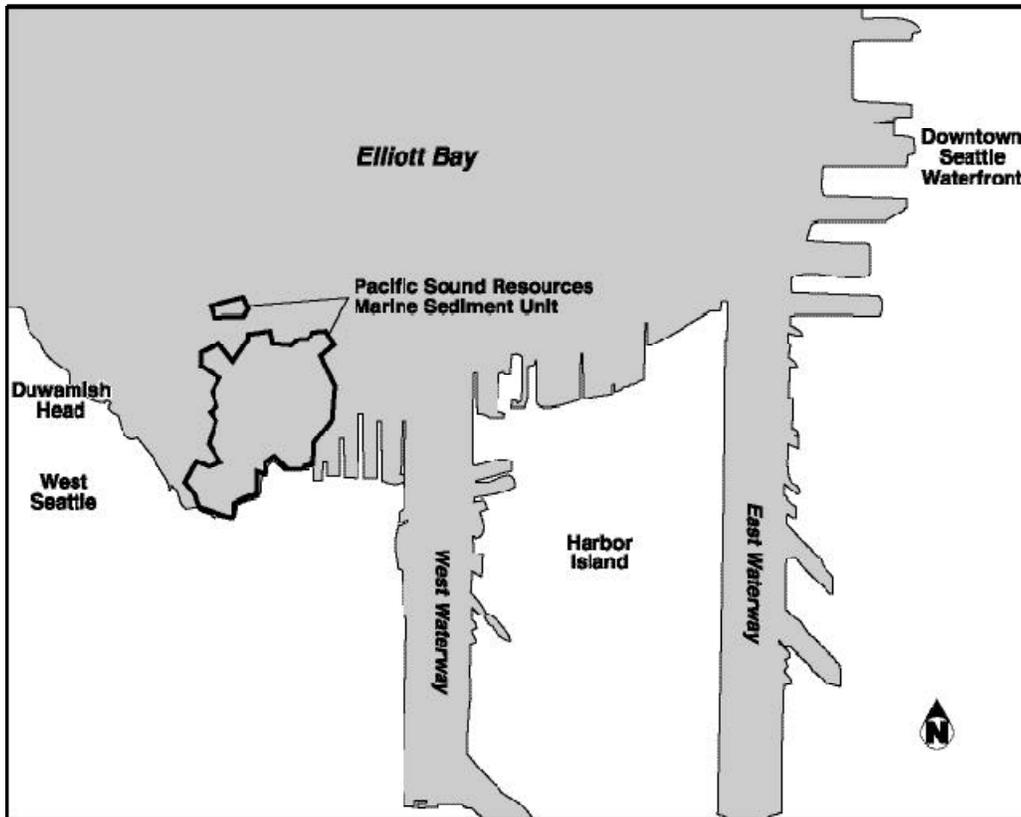
The capped area will be designated as a “no anchor zone” for commercial boats with large anchors that could disturb the cap.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee this work, which will take three to five years. The work will complete the Pacific Sound Resources cleanup, which began when the upland was cleaned up several years ago.

Public Meeting Offered

Would you like to meet to hear
and ask questions about the work at
Pacific Sound Resources? If so, please contact
Cindy Colgate Schuster at
206-553-1815 or
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A clean cap will cover contaminated sediments in the two areas outlined on this map.

How Will the Cap Be Constructed?

- Capping materials will consist mainly of sand, gravel and broken stone.
- Local river dredging projects will provide the source of materials for capping the deepest area. Sand and rocks from local quarries and projects will provide the majority of the material for most of the cap.
- Barges will bring the capping materials to the site and place them in different ways suitable for the areas being capped.
- Long-term monitoring will ensure that the cap continues to contain the contaminated sediment.

How Will the Work Affect Salmon and Habitat?

Plans include these details to protect salmon during dredging and capping, and to improve habitat for salmon and other species:

- Work is prohibited during the migration of juvenile salmon.
- The shoreline exposed between high and low tides will be capped first. Work in this intertidal area, which provides habitat for several species, is scheduled to take place from September 2003 through mid February 2004.

(continued)

Salmon and Habitat (continued)

- The cap design will increase the area that is gently sloped, a change that will benefit migrating juvenile salmon.
- Placement of at least 5 feet of clean fill in the area near shore will allow for unrestricted harvest of shellfish.
- The addition of woody debris and plants, such as beach grass and willows, along the shore will improve habitat for native species.

Work Waits For Purple Martens

Several purple martens have recently nested in houses on piers to be removed. These birds are a protected species. Work on the piers with nesting martens will wait until later this summer, when all the chicks have hatched and are able to fly.

Site Background

The Pacific Sound Resources site is on the south shore of Elliott Bay, about 0.3 miles west of the West Waterway near Harbor Island. From 1909 until 1994, the company used the site to preserve wood. Creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and various solutions of copper, arsenic and zinc were used as wood preservatives.

Daily operations and spills resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. Disposal of wood-treating wastes, erosion and runoff were the most likely sources of marine sediment contamination.

EPA's addition of the site to the National Priorities List in May 1994 made the site eligible for cleanup under the Superfund program. Shortly afterwards, the Port of Seattle purchased the property.

Under EPA's direction, the Port funded and completed much of the cleanup work for the upland area.

The Port has redeveloped the site, which is now used for container transfer. The Port will maintain an asphalt cap, and groundwater will be monitored to ensure that there is no further release of contamination from the site into Elliott Bay.

Park Closed During Construction



Due to construction, the public-access park and viewing tower, located off Harbor Avenue SW in West Seattle, will be closed from July 2003 until February 15, 2004.

SUPERFUND FACT SHEET
PACIFIC SOUND RESOURCES
West Seattle, Washington
Sediment Cleanup Has Begun

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Our Repository:

EPA Region 10 Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington
206-553-4494

Please call for an appointment to review the February 2003 Final Design Submittal and other documents about the Pacific Sound Resources site. The Final Design Submittal outlines the sediment cleanup.

Visit Our Web Site:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>
Click on Index, then "P," and then
"Pacific Sound Resources."

Call or E-mail Us:

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For people with disabilities: Please contact Cindy Schuster if you have any requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Cindy Schuster's phone number.