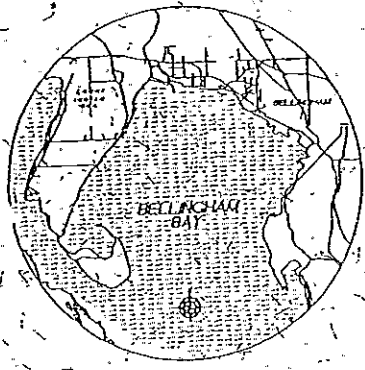


# Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot

February 2003	Project Overview	Mission
<p><b>Pilot Work Group</b></p> <p>Port of Bellingham</p> <p>City of Bellingham</p> <p>Whatcom County</p> <p>Lummi Nation</p> <p>Nooksack Tribe</p> <p>Washington Department of Ecology</p> <p>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>Washington Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team</p> <p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p> <p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellingham Bay was selected in 1996 by state and federal agencies as the location for a demonstration pilot to explore new ways to clean up contaminated sediments in urban bays of Puget Sound.</li> <li>• The Pilot was initiated by a grant from Ecology and has been augmented with additional public and private resources.</li> <li>• The Pilot brings together a cooperative partnership of agencies, tribes, local business and the public – all with a stake in a clean and productive bay.</li> <li>• The Work Group published a “<b>Comprehensive Strategy</b>” for the Bay in a final EIS (October 2000) which addresses:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sediment Cleanup</b> – address contaminated marine sediments at sites throughout the bay.</li> <li>• <b>Habitat Restoration</b> – restore habitat for fish, birds and other aquatic resources.</li> <li>• <b>Source Control</b> – stop ongoing sources of pollution at the source.</li> <li>• <b>Landuse</b> – plan for future aquatic and shoreline uses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A new sediment disposal site was proposed in a Supplemental EIS (March 2002). The Work Group is currently taking steps to implement the strategy.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“A new cooperative approach to expedite source control, sediment cleanup and associated habitat restoration in Bellingham Bay”</b></p> <p><b>Available Reference Info:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Project Background</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Comprehensive Strategy</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sediment Cleanup and Source Control Sites</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sediment Cleanup Techniques</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Habitat and Natural Resources in the Bay</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Aquatic Landuse</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Implementing Documents</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Public Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contacts:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Lucy McInerney (Ecology) (425) 649-7272</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Jessica Paige (Ecology) 738-6280</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mike Stoner (Port) 676-2500</p>

(Updated excerpts from Pilot fact sheets for handout to Waterfront Futures Group)



# Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot -

## Background

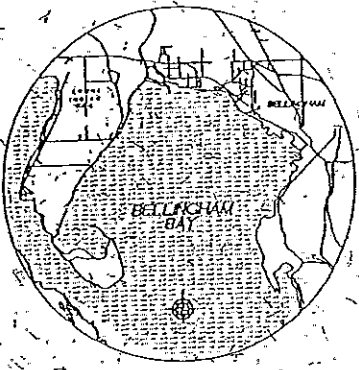
Bellingham Bay provides an abundance of natural resources, recreational opportunities, and an economic base to the Bellingham area. Historically, diverse habitat for fish, wildlife and other aquatic animals was more extensive than it is today. In addition, past waterfront activities such as boat repair, garbage disposal, and pulp, paper, and chemical facilities have resulted in the need to clean up sediments in portions of the bay. The map on the reverse side indicates the project boundaries for the Pilot. The Pilot Study Area includes all of Bellingham Bay. The inner bay is illustrated in more detail to provide an indication of where the known and potential sediment cleanup sites are located.

## Pilot Approach

Bellingham Bay was selected by federal and state agencies as a pilot project and potential model for comprehensive environmental actions in urban bays. The Pilot is funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology and co-managed by Ecology and the Port of Bellingham.

The Pilot team developed consensus goals (see box) that led to the identification of five project elements – sediment cleanup, sediment disposal siting, source control, habitat restoration, and aquatic land use. A comprehensive strategy that articulates the collective vision of the Pilot team integrates these elements. Priorities within the elements are identified in the strategy to be acted on in the near-term. The environmental consequences of the strategy, including the near-term actions, are described in a Final EIS (October 2000) and a Supplemental EIS (March 2002).

<i>Pilot Goals</i>	
<b>Human Health and Safety</b>	<i>Enhance the protection of human health</i>
<b>Ecological Health</b>	<i>Protect and improve the ecological health of the bay</i>
<b>Protect and Restore Ecosystems</b>	<i>Protect, restore, or enhance habitat components making up the bay's ecosystem</i>
<b>Social and Cultural Uses</b>	<i>Implement actions that are consistent with or enhance cultural and social uses in the bay and surrounding vicinity</i>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<i>Maximize material re-use in implementing sediment cleanup actions, minimize the use of nonrenewable resources and take advantage of existing infrastructure.</i>
<b>Faster, Better, Cheaper</b>	<i>Implement actions that are more expedient and more cost-effective through approaches that achieve the multiple objectives of the Pilot.</i>
<b>Economic Vitality</b>	<i>Enhance water-dependent uses of commercial shoreline property.</i>



# Comprehensive Strategy

The Comprehensive Strategy represents a systematic plan of action to achieve the goals of the Pilot and encompasses near-term and long-term actions. The Pilot Team examined actions from the standpoint of four main project elements:

## *Sediment Cleanup and Source Control*

- Remove or isolate contaminated materials to achieve human and ecological health goals.
- Encourage efforts to control sources that are currently being developed by watershed efforts, DNR outfall policy, local controls, Ecology's TMDLs. Develop contingency plans if, by cleanup action date, the issue of recontamination has not been satisfactorily addressed.
- Encourage the local government and the Tribes to develop stormwater treatment plans where absent.
- Address current and future sources of contamination, with particular attention to upland land use as potential source.

## *Disposal Siting*

- Consider disposal of contaminated sediments on aquatic lands in the bay if such an action meets the goals of the Pilot and is consistent with the Comprehensive Strategy.
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of near-term actions to address impacts and unintended consequences.
- Ensure the technical feasibility and long-term function of habitat enhancements proposed on top of containment facilities.

## *Habitat*

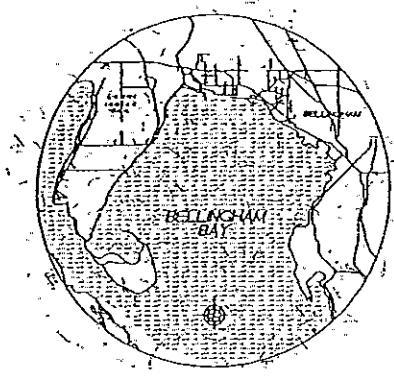
- Protect existing habitat and the natural processes that sustain them.
- Restore estuary habitat functions and area through implementing projects recommended by subcommittee and/or similar efforts.
- Provide guidance for achieving no net loss and net gain through the mitigation framework.
- Promote long-term gains in habitat area and function.
- Link the Pilot effort to watershed efforts to ensure healthy, sustainable ecosystems.
- Promote City's SMP designation of critical habitat areas in the Bay.
- Evaluate harbor area configuration to consider excluding areas that are sensitive, such as West and South Bay.

## *Land Use*

- Focus human impacts, commerce and navigation in the federal waterways and away from the Nooksack Delta, and other highly productive areas as noted in the Subarea Strategies.
- Provide opportunities for water-dependent uses where consistent with Subarea Strategies.
- Promote innovative design of public access and other public waterfront facilities to avoid, protect and enhance nearshore habitat.
- Through planning and permitting, control point and nonpoint sources that derive from upland uses.
- Enable current and future navigational uses where consistent with current infrastructure and future conditions recommended by the Pilot Team.
- Integrate new information and adaptive management techniques into land use decisions.

The Comprehensive Strategy summarizes the recommended actions to improve environmental health throughout Bellingham Bay, and then provides greater detail on the following:

- Recommended actions designed to address more site-specific areas are contained in the Subarea Strategies.
- Integrated Near-Term Actions (which include cleanup, habitat restoration projects, public access projects, etc.).



# Near-Term Remedial Actions (Contaminated Sites)

Project	Description	Next Milestone
Near-Term Remedial Action	Integrated cleanup of priority sites per Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy (October 2000 FEIS)	Finalize site investigations, feasibility studies, and cleanup plans for sites as described below
Whatcom Waterway	Mercury contamination in marine sediments associated with past pulping practices	Site investigation and feasibility studies are complete. Proposed cleanup plan is being drafted
Holly Street Landfill	Inactive municipal landfill in Old Town	Cleanup plan is complete, project design documents are being drafted
Harris Avenue Shipyard	Metals contamination in marine sediment associated with past shipyard practices	Site investigation is complete, draft feasibility study is being prepared for public review and comment
Weldcraft Steel and Marine	Metals contamination in marine sediments associated with past boatyard practices	Design documents for an interim cleanup action are being prepared for agency and public review
Marine Services Northwest	Metals contamination in marine sediments associated with past boatlift operations	Site investigation is complete, draft feasibility study is being prepared for public review and comment
Taylor Avenue Dock	Insure construction activities do not release contamination from past bulk petroleum storage	Post construction sediment sampling through DNR lease conditions
Roeder Avenue Landfill	Inactive municipal and woodwaste landfill in Central Waterfront area	Site investigation is complete, draft feasibility study is being prepared for public review and comment
Chevron	Upland contamination associated with inactive bulk petroleum facility on Whatcom Waterway	Remedial activities are proceeding under Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program
Colony Wharf	Upland contamination associated with past practices at active boatyard on Whatcom Waterway	Remedial activities are proceeding under Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program
Olivine Property	Upland and sediment contamination from past waterfront practices	Upland investigation complete, sediment investigation underway.
Cornwall Avenue Landfill	Inactive municipal landfill at the foot of Cornwall Avenue	Site investigation is complete, draft feasibility study is being prepared for public review and comment
R.G. Haley	Contamination of upland and marine sediments associated with past practices of inactive wood treatment facility	Site investigation and draft feasibility studies are being prepared for agency review

## Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot – Reference List

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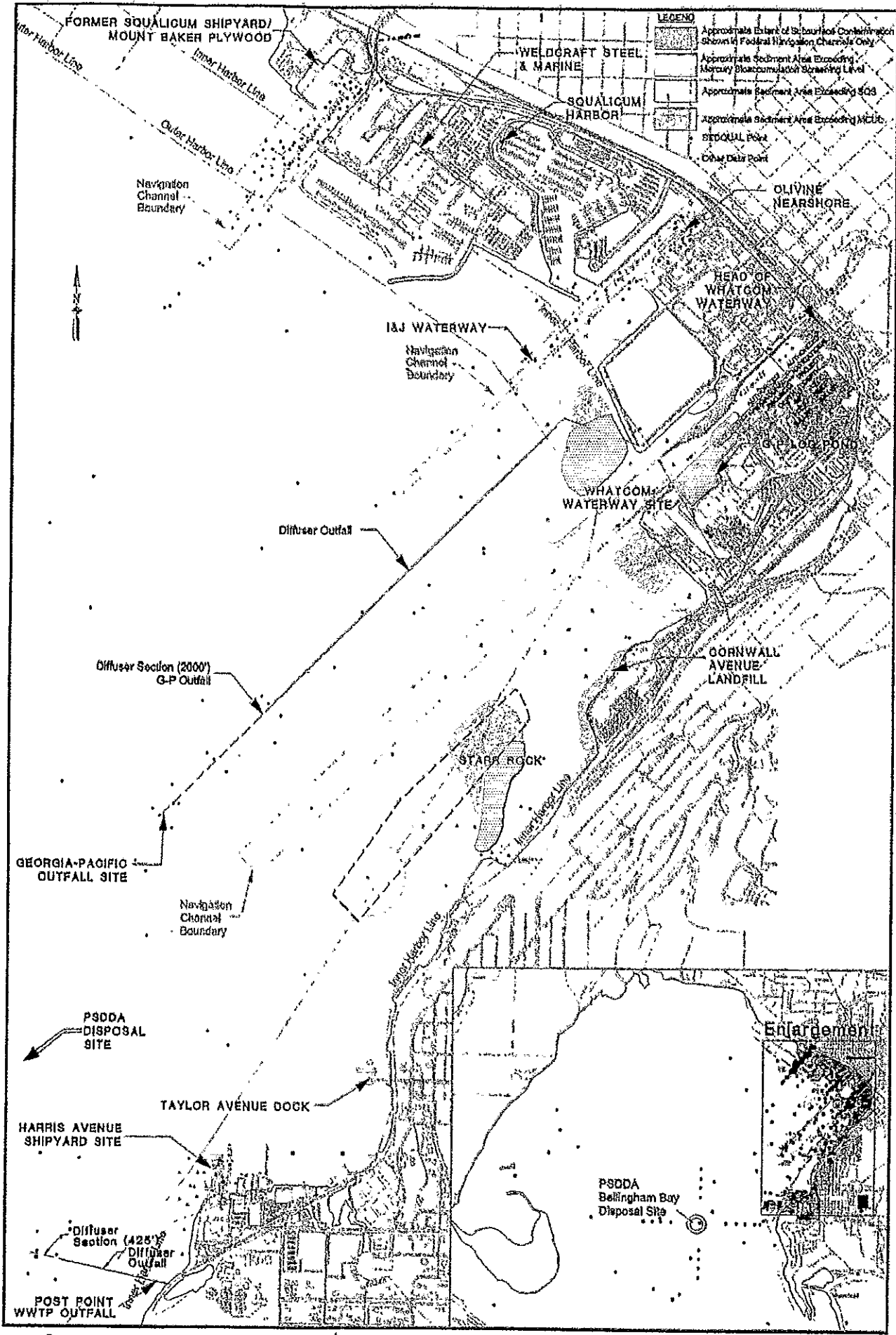
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**Figure 2.2-3**  
Sediment Contamination Areas

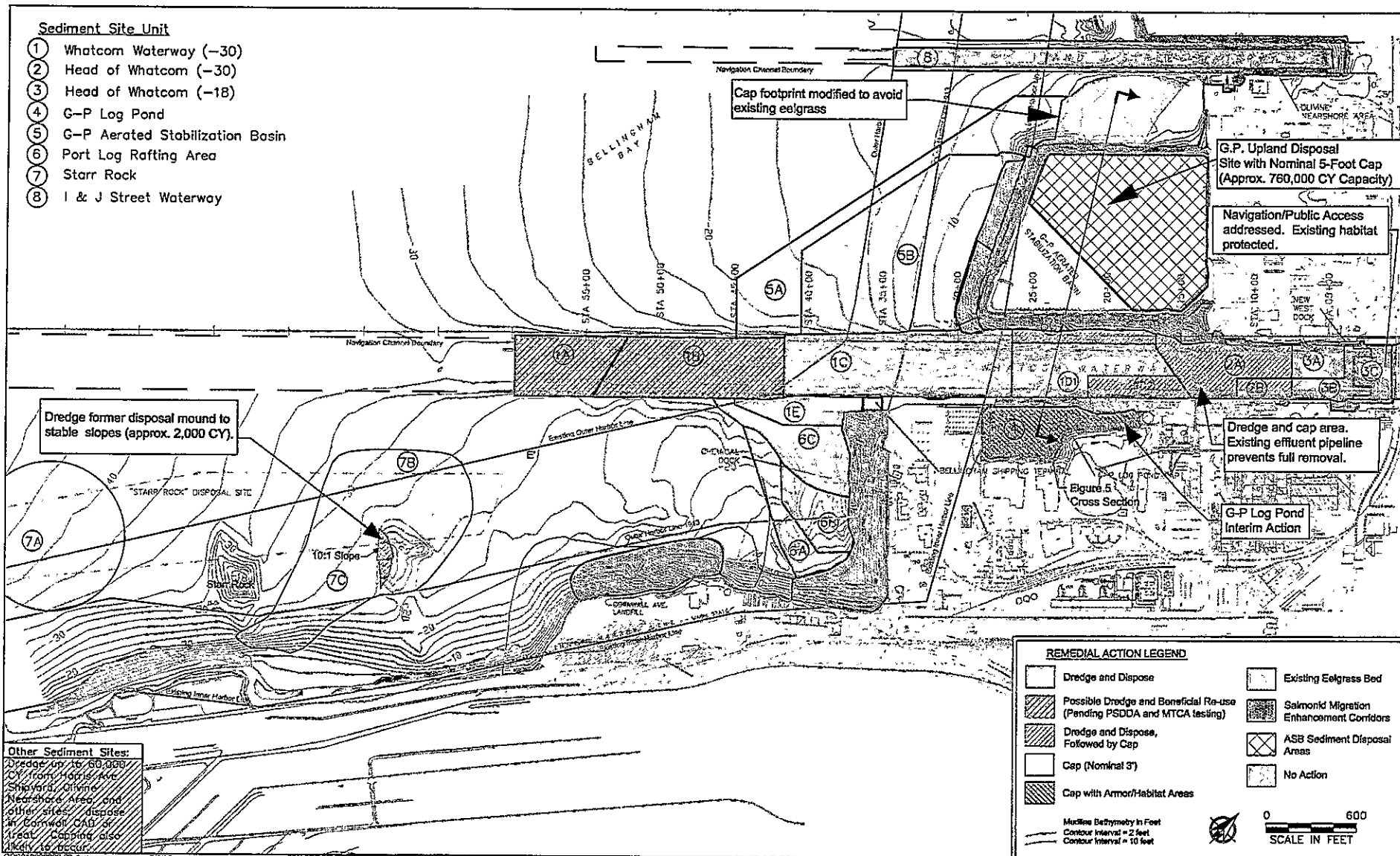


Figure 4  
 Modified Preferred Integrated Near-Term Remedial Alternative  
 Draft Supplemental EIS - Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy