



# New Bedford Harbor Site

## New Bedford, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

### SITE HISTORY

The 18,000-acre New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site is an urban tidal estuary with sediments which were highly contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals. Over 100,000 people live within 3 miles of the site. Active remediation within the harbor/river is ongoing and scheduled to be completed in 2025, with the removal of over 1 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment. However, bioaccumulation of PCBs within the marine food chain results in certain areas remaining closed to consumption of lobster, shellfish, and certain finfish; in other areas the frequency of fish and shellfish meals are subject to advisories. In 2024, updated signs warning the public of the continued risks of locally caught seafood consumption were placed throughout the site.

### UPPER HARBOR DREDGING WORK

EPA is scheduled to begin final pass removal of PCB contaminated sediment in the upper harbor area North of Wood Street in July 2024. This remediation is a continuation of similar dredging work performed throughout the New Bedford Harbor. The map included shows the areas to be remediated in this final pass dredging work, as well as the staging area. In this case, temporary equipment access roads will be constructed from the Acushnet shoreline, running east-west to allow equipment access to the contaminated sediments to be removed.

The dredging is being performed pursuant to the 1998 Record of Decision for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, which can be found online at <https://www.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor/harbor-cleanup-plans-and-legal-administrative-records>.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

EPA is communicating directly with residents whose properties are located nearby the summer 2024 dredging and staging area. The dredge work hours are Monday – Friday from 6:00AM – 6:00PM, excluding federal holidays. Monitoring of water quality and air quality will continue to be performed in conjunction with the work to make sure it is being done safely. Air and turbidity monitoring results are updated regularly on our website at <https://www.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor/new-bedford-harbor-cleanup-plans-technical-documents-and-environmental-data#EnvironmentalMonitoringData>.

### KEY CONTACTS

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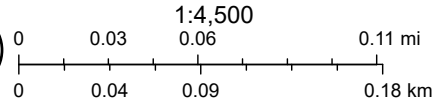


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# Summer 2024 Final Pass Dredging



May 2024



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA