
In 1980, the Corps of Engineers placed 54,000 cubic meters of sand on the shoreline south of Lexington Harbor. The nourishment material was compatible with that originally on the beach. Biological data included bottom grab samples and seine catches. It was concluded that no adverse effects on the physical or biological system could be identified that were attributable to the beach nourishment project.


A laboratory study was carried out to examine sublethal effects of suspended sediments on estuarine fish. Concentrations were in the same range as occur near dredging sites and dredge disposal sites. Sediments used were natural sediment from the Patuxent River Estuary, MD and commercially available Fuller's earth. Seven species of estuarine fish were subjected to the testing program, oxygen consumption and hematoxical changes were measured. Comparisons were made between fish in the water containing suspended sediment and in filtered Patuxent River water. The sublethal suspended sediments were found to cause stress as measured by the comparisons described above.


Field studies were carried out to determine the initial impact and recovery characteristics of benthic animals to dredging and dredge disposal. The studies were carried out in Monterey Bay, CA. It was found that dredging or dredge disposal removed approximately 60% of the animals in the immediate area. After 1.5 years, the numbers of animals remained low; however, the species diversity index was higher than before the dredging activity. It was found that those organisms adapted to unstable bottoms were less affected by burial than others.