

Dredging Procedures and Issues

Several Harbour residents with large, deep draft sailboats have expressed concern about the shoaling in our inlet. The Dredging, Marina, and Inlet Committee met with George Wood, our Environmental Engineer, on May 8, 2025, for guidance.

George Wood explained that our spring meeting with the Coastal Area Management Authority (CAMA) about dredging hit some roadblocks. CAMA is the agency that makes sure we are in compliance with our permit. We may only dredge from mid-October to mid-February and dredging is limited to a maximum of six feet from designated pin (not dependent on wind driven water levels). We can't dredge past our allowed area between the jetties even if that area is shoaled. The soundings are on the Colington Harbor website here: <https://colingtonharbour.net/soundings/>

The dredged sand must be pumped into a large dewatering area for 24 hours before the sand may be removed and, in our case, spread on the beach. Think of this area as a large pit with a porous bag that the wet sand is pumped into. When CAMA was here earlier this spring, they evaluated the previously designated dewatering area on our permit which is the beach area of the park. This area must be a minimum of 30 feet from the water.

Due to beach erosion there is no longer enough distance from that mark to the trees for a large pit. We asked about designating a new area; however, that that request would have to be approved by several government agencies and would take longer than our next permit window (mid-October 2025 – mid-February 2026) would allow. George indicated an emergency permit would have little chance of success.

The committee reviewed options, and we believe that we have located a dewatering area on the other side of the park by the blue swings that will be good to use for years to come. While moving to this location will incur a one-time expenditure for additional pipe, future dredging operations should be able to continue without interruption.

Please email chaboard@colingtonharbour.net if you have any questions

Richard Hess
CHA Board rep to the Dredging, Marina, and Inlet Committee

May 2025