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Regional Sediment Management and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material along the Northern Gulf Coast

The objective of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District Regional Sediment Management (RSM) implementation strategy is to bring lessons learned through application of RSM and beneficial use principles and practices in the coastal environment to a broader perspective for sediment and related environmental management. The USACE, Mobile District maintains over 7 deep draft and 22 shallow draft Federal Navigation channels; dredging millions cubic yards of sediment annually. In recent years, shifts in paradigms that include the recognition of the value of dredged sediments beyond just sand dredged from inlet channels have resulted in increased uses. Several projects that align Regional Sediment Management and Beneficial Use Practices have been implemented in the USACE, Mobile District due largely in part to this shift in paradigm and interagency coordination. These include restructuring the sediment management strategies and practices associated with the Mobile Harbor Federal Navigation Bay channel; restoration of 220-acres of island habitat at Round Island, Mississippi in the Mississippi Sound with new work dredge material from the Pascagoula Harbor Federal Navigation Channel; revisions of placement of sand from within National Park Service boundaries as a means to enhance the natural transport of dredged material to Horn Island, Mississippi; and demonstration projects and coordination to assess suitability criteria of material stored in upland dredged material placement sites along the Alabama and Tombigbee Waterways for potential use in coastal restoration projects.

Bio: Elizabeth Godsey is Coastal Engineer Technical Lead at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Mobile District. Elizabeth Godsey has over 15 years of experience working on coastal restoration, navigation and hurricane storm damage reduction projects having conducted and overseen numerous engineering studies and designs of large scale civil works projects.