

BBLA Responses to the DNREC Survey – August 2019

When considering how to prioritize state dredging projects, which criteria do you see as most important? Please rank the following from 1-10, with 1 being the most important

For Bethany Beach, "frequency of dredging need" may be the most important since storms, shoaling or erosion, and hence "need," are unpredictable. Dredging connections, and marinas (slips) is important for the economy and use of property, but we also believe it is critically important to find opportunities to beneficially use dredged material to create, restore and protect wetlands and other habitat. Dredging increases the tidal flow of water full of nutrients which promotes aquatic life in our canals. Dredging to restore the original canal dimensions (width, depth bank slopes) will remove the silt that has accumulated in our canals over several decades, reducing some increment of nuisance flooding and restoring the physical form and function necessary to better support recreational kayaking and boating in the Bethany Beach loop canal system, which in some places cannot occur at low tide. Fishing and crabbing, whether from the water or the land, will be improved as water quality and flow volume are improved. Areas of the canals that today have poor water depth and flow will be restored providing both economic and ecological benefits to the community.

Please note that question 4 does not even mention the Loop Canal and the Salt Pond. Please address this issue in your comments since the Loop Canal and the Salt Pond are used by Bethany Beach property owners and visitors.

1

Dredging history - last time a channel was dredged and/or frequency of dredging need

2

Major channels connecting bodies of water (e.g. Lewes-Rehoboth Canal, Massey's Ditch)

3

Number of existing marinas (slips) and boat docks on a channel

6

Number of public and/or publically accessible (pay to use) boat ramps on a channel

availability of upland confined sediment storage facilities (disposal sites) near a channel

Options for beneficial re-use of dredge material (e.g. wetlands restoration, beach nourishment)

Environmental impact assessments (e.g. reduction in turbidity, impacts to wetlands and wildlife) through necessary permit acquisition

Economics (e.g. value of recreational boating in Inland Bays, tourism)

Safety (e.g. boat damage and grounding reports, traffic determined by vessel counts)

Navigability (e.g. shoals and shallow water depths in channels)

Question Title

2. Other metrics that should be considered:

Contributions to reduction of nuisance and storm induced flooding

Question Title

*3. Where do you live? (please enter your zip code below)

19930

Question Title

7. Why are the Inland Bays important to you?

The inland bays are a critically important part of the regional ecosystem, providing functions and services to coastal communities that cannot be provided any other way (habitat, water quality, flood storage, recreation, tourism, carbon sequestration, commercial fishing and boating, food industry, etc.). Proper maintenance dredging ensures overall system health, resilience, and functioning, and associated economic benefits.

Question Title

8. Additional comments regarding dredging in Delaware's Inland Bays:

Healthy inland waters enrich the experience for the large majority of residents and tourists who prefer calmer inland water to the ocean.

Question Title

9. How did you hear about this survey?

- Email
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
- Word of Mouth
- Other (please specify) **BBLA notification**

Any questions or comments regarding this survey can be submitted to Sierra

Davis:

Sierra.Davis@delaware.gov or 302-739-9921