

CAD BULLETIN



CAD Bulletin Overview

This newsletter is designed to provide timely and accurate information about Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD), upcoming meetings, and regulatory updates. For general information about CAD, visit the [website](#). If you have any questions, comments, or topics you'd like us to cover in upcoming issues, please contact Rachael Gilde at rgilde@marylandports.com.



LATEST NEWS



MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION SPOTLIGHT SERIES

MPA Launches a New Spotlight Video Series

Last month, Maryland Port Administration (MPA) introduced its new *Spotlight Series*, video presentations about MPA projects, with an initial focus on CAD, providing an overview, background information, and offering information about why MPA is investigating it as a potential solution for maintenance material dredged from Baltimore Harbor shipping channels. The video recaps the legislative mandate of the Port to maintain shipping channels, provides an overview of the placement needs for Baltimore Harbor dredged material, highlights the challenges of dredged material placement in the Baltimore Harbor region, and showcases the innovative solutions the MPA is exploring. Visit the website maryland-dmmp.com to check out the video where it is now featured prominently on both the [CAD webpage](#) and the [Resources page](#).

CAD SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

CAD Subcommittee meetings continue to be very productive. The February and March meetings featured three guest speakers with expertise in hydrodynamics, a review of the subcommittee report process, and a presentation of report milestones.

Speakers Summary

In response to feedback from the Subcommittee, experts were asked to provide information about the hydrodynamic conditions in Baltimore Harbor to aid the Subcommittee in evaluating potential impacts to hydrodynamics from implementation of a second CAD pilot project.

- Dr. Harry Wang (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) reviewed the 3-Dimensional Baltimore Harbor Hydrodynamics Model, a community model with open source code used worldwide. This model uses data to simulate total circulation, which consists of tide-driven, wind-driven, and density gradient-driven circulations.
- Dr. Jeremy Testa (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science) reviewed a survey of dissolved oxygen in the Patapsco estuary to help identify low oxygen conditions in the area.
- Dr. Aaron Bever (Anchor QEA) reviewed the 3D Chesapeake Bay Model, which evaluated currents, waves, and sediment dispersal, sharing that higher current speeds were measured in shallow parts of the Harbor and regions near the Chesapeake Bay generally had higher current speeds compared with the Inner Harbor regions. Interestingly, wave speed was lower in the dredged navigation channels with deeper water.

Scoring Matrix Review

Work on the scoring matrix progressed in February and culminated in March. It considers **long-term** environmental and human use impacts associated with operations of a site or process and selected **short-term** temporary impacts associated with construction as determined by the Subcommittee. The scoring also examines short-term social impacts, such as aesthetics, noise, public health, and public safety. The individual parameter scores will be based on the Subcommittee's consensus, with caveats noted for individual dissent. The Subcommittee reviewed nine (9) regions in the Baltimore Harbor for a potential CAD pilot cell location during the scoring process.

Report Development Update

A formal report is under development and will be shared at the following DMMP committee meetings: BEWG Committee, DMMP Management Committee, Executive Committee, and Citizens Advisory Committee. It will include:

- Recommended next steps
- Final scoring matrix
- Any dissents from the consensus
- Parameter information
- Community input

CAD ENGAGEMENT RECAP & ANALYSIS

In 2023, MPA embarked on a robust outreach and engagement program to inform, and solicit feedback from communities about a potential second CAD pilot project. The goal was to raise awareness and foster community engagement by providing timely project information in easily accessible, interactive forums. Overall, the outreach program was impactful, creating an inclusive, collaborative, transparent, and responsive process to inform, engage, and establish a productive dialogue with various project stakeholders.

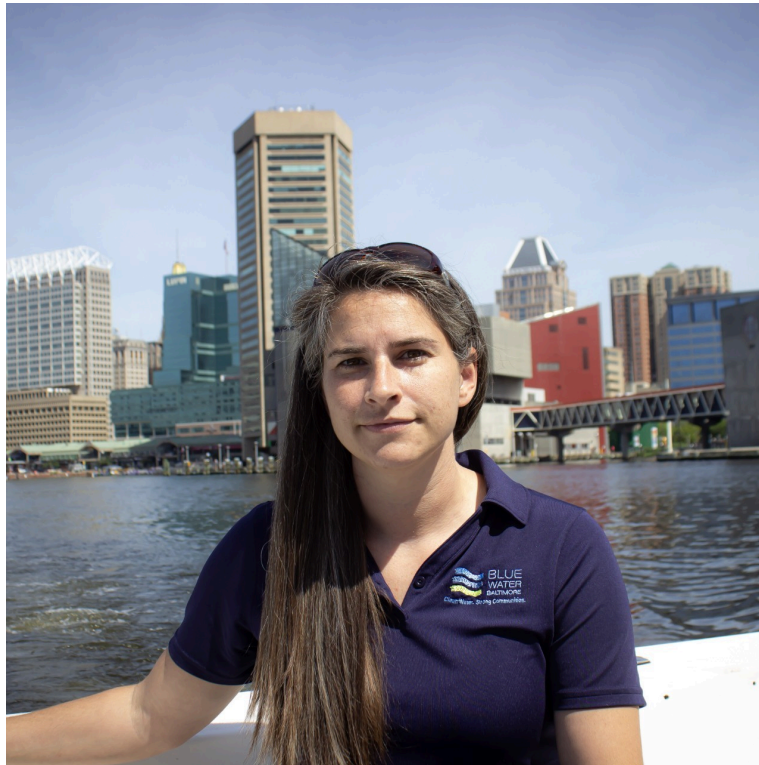
Communications facilitated a comprehensive exchange of information about Port dredging and needs, including its capacity planning process and the potential CAD may offer as a dredged material management technique based on lessons learned from the previous pilot and an exploration of how a new pilot may be undertaken. In addition to other previously noted outreach vehicles like this bulletin and enhanced information on the website, MPA created a new video titled [*Spotlight Series: Confined Aquatic Disposal \(CAD\) Pilot Project*](#). This nearly 8-minute video provides an overview and background information about CAD and why MPA is investigating it as a potential solution for maintenance material dredging from Baltimore Harbor Shipping Channels.

Building on the success of the 2024 outreach initiative, MPA will expand its reach and impact in 2025. With the foundation for collaboration established, future efforts will include regular communications through existing and new channels, new committee engagement opportunities to encourage input and feedback, and outreach to new and interested parties.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This Spring, the Maryland General Assembly session met and passed Senate Bill 168 that prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment from processing or making any recommendation to the Board of Public Works (BPW) regarding an application for the alteration of any tidal wetland or waters of the state submitted to construct a CAD from June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2029. It also prevents the BPW from approving such an application during this time. While MPA is evaluating the legislation to understand the full impact on the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP), even though the bill has passed, the mission and the important work of the CAD Subcommittee remain vital. The legislation does not preclude the MPA from continuing to study CAD as a method for managing dredged material during the 4-year moratorium. It is also important to note that previous news coverage of the bill mistakenly claimed that hazardous material would be contained in a CAD cell, and MPA wanted to remind stakeholders that none of the material would meet the definition of hazardous material. Any sediment considered for a CAD cell must pass the same screening criteria as the sediment managed at the Cox Creek and Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facilities (DMCFs).

MEET THE SPECIALISTS



Alice Volpitta - Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper with Bluewater Baltimore

Alice Volpitta served as a BEWG CAD Subcommittee member, representing Blue Water Baltimore. With over 16 years of experience in environmental assessment and protection in both the public and private sectors, Alice advocates for the health of the Patapsco and Back Rivers and strives to amplify the voices of the people who live within those watersheds. She directs Blue Water Baltimore's water quality monitoring programs, spearheads its enforcement efforts related to the Clean Water Act and other statutes, and oversees its policy and regulatory advocacy work. Prior to joining Blue Water Baltimore, Alice worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and she holds a degree in Biology & Environmental Science from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Dr. Lisa Wainger - Professor of Environmental Economics at University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Dr. Lisa Wainger served as a BEWG CAD Subcommittee member as a representative for The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). She has over 25 years of experience in evaluating the costs, benefits, and risks of environmental restoration and collaborates with many government agencies, including MPA, to improve the performance of environmental programs. She uses integrated modeling of ecosystem and social behaviors to test policy effectiveness for various topics such as water quality, invasive species, wetland restoration, climate vulnerabilities of oyster aquaculture, and socially equitable flood risk management.

Recent work with the US Army Corps of Engineers led her to evaluate the evidence behind social vulnerability indicators and to propose streamlined methods for constructing equity indices to represent social risk factors in flood risk management decisions. Dr. Wainger brings her expertise to the CAD Subcommittee to evaluate possible outcomes. She serves on numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations' science advisory boards and served as chair of the California Delta Independent Science Board, and previously served as chair for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21: [Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

June 6: Bay Enhancement Working Group Meeting

RECENT EVENTS

March 13: Bay Enhancement Working Group CAD Subcommittee Meeting

[-Key Takeaways](#)

February 19: Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

February 13: Bay Enhancement Working Group CAD Subcommittee Meeting

[-Key Takeaways](#)

HOSTING AN INFORMATION SESSION

Organizations around the region can invite MPA to present information showcasing the most recent information about dredging in Maryland. If you'd like to schedule a session for your group, please complete the inquiry form [HERE](#).

For More Information

The most up-to-date information about CAD is available on the [MPA website](#).

[Sign up for the EcoPort Newsletter](#), the MPA newsletter describing Port initiatives, environmental accomplishments, and progress.



DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

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