

Table 4–12: Potential Consequences and Impacts of Dredging and Dredged Material Disposal

Consequences	Impacts
Bottom disturbance	Mastication of sediment-inhabiting organisms; smothering of organisms living in or on the bottom; habitat disruption
Suspended solids loading	Abrasion and clogging of gills (fish and clams); impaired respiration, feeding, and excretory functions; reduced water pumping rates (clams); retarded egg development and reduced growth and survival of larvae
Dissolved oxygen reduction	Reduced efficiency of oxygen uptake by aquatic organisms; increased stress on organisms resulting in reduced ability to meet environmental and biological demands
Mobilization of toxicants adsorbed to sediments	Uptake and accumulation by aquatic organisms
Release of biostimulatory substances (nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonia)	Stimulation of algal growth; ammonia toxicity