



## Region 9: Water Program

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [Region 9](#) » [Water Program](#) » [Dredging and Sediment Management](#) » [SF-DODS](#)

# Dredging and Sediment Management

[SF-DODS Quick Finder](#)

[Oceans, Coasts, and Estuaries Home](#)

[Dredging & Sediment Home](#)

[SF-DODS Overview](#)

[Disposal Sites](#)

[Regional Teams and Partners](#)

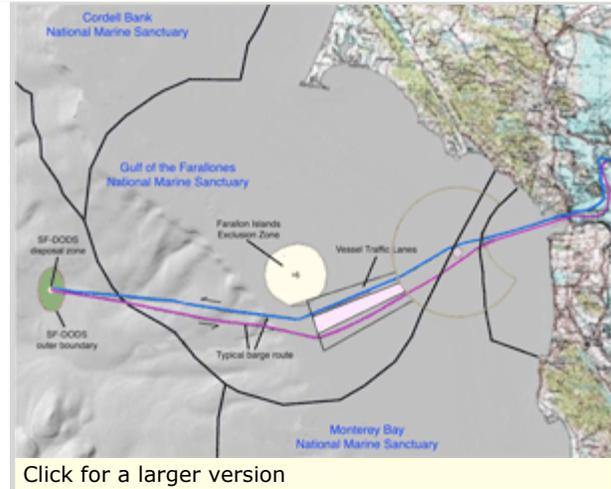
[Vessel route to SF-DODS](#)

[Reference Area Database](#)

## San Francisco Deep Ocean Disposal Site

SF-DODS was established in 1994 to provide an environmentally superior alternative to disposal in San Francisco Bay.

- It is the deepest and farthest off shore of any ocean dredged material disposal site in the United States.
- To reach it, disposal barges must be towed through portions of the protected waters of the National Marine Sanctuaries at [Monterey Bay](#) and [Gulf of the Farallones](#).
- Because sea conditions in the open Pacific Ocean off central California can be extreme, and in order to avoid impacts to the National Marine Sanctuaries, disposal rules for SF-DODS include monitoring of and strict limitations on: transit route; allowable weather and wave conditions; maximum barge loading; and barge performance (no spilling/leaking).



### Disposal Site Information

- [Site Designation Rule \(PDF\)](#) (32 pp, 97K, [About PDF](#))
- [Site Amendment Rule](#) July 23, 1999
- [Site Management and Monitoring Plan \(SMMP\)\(PDF\)](#) (6 pp, 39K, [About PDF](#))
- [Reference Area Database](#)

<b>Location</b>	Approximately 50 miles offshore of San Francisco, CA
<b>Center coordinates</b>	37° 39.0' N by 123° 29.0' W (NAD 83)
<b>Water Depth</b>	8,200 - 9,840 feet (2,500 - 3,000 meters)
<b>Size</b>	6.5 square nautical miles (22 square kilometers)
<b>Shape</b>	Oval, with north-south length approximately 4 nautical miles (7.5 kilometers) and east-west width approximately 2.5 nautical miles (4.5 kilometers)

<b>Disposal Zone</b>	600 meter radius circle at center of overall disposal site
<b>Volume Limit</b>	4.8 million cubic yards of dredged material per year

---

**Contact Information**

Allan Ota ([ota.allan@epa.gov](mailto:ota.allan@epa.gov))  
Oceanographer / Regional Ocean Dumping Coordinator  
(415) 972-3476