Sediment and Dredging in the Cayuga Inlet

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Jurisdictional Responsibilities

**US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE):**

Constructed the Flood Risk Management Project (1970)

Does annual inspections and issues a conditions rating

Repairs damage caused by weather events if project is active.

**NYS DEC:**

Responsible for maintenance of the flood control portion of the waterway, including needed maintenance dredging.

**NYS Canal Corporation**

Responsible for maintaining a navigation channel in the section of the inlet that was part of the Erie Canal

**City of Ithaca**

Responsible for ‘ordinary maintenance which has included mowing, brush removal etc.’
Past Dredging:

1973: ACOE repaired damage from hurricane Agnes
1982: Thruway Authority (Canals) dredged for navigation
1997: ACOE repaired damage from winter of 1996
City Project to Site and Construct a Sediment Management Facility

2007 - 2012

Grant Funded (Environmental Protection Fund)

Site Constraints:
- Size
- Land Use
- Distance
- Ownership
- Regulatory issues

Worked with all Three Agencies & Local Stakeholders

Selected Southwest Parcel

Completed EIS in Early 2012

Received 2 Million Dollar State Allocation for Dredging Project

Currently on Hold Pending State Restoration Project
Why is Dredging Needed?

**USACOE:** FRMP was designed to contain a 100 year+ storm event. Extensive shoaling has decreased its capacity. The channel should be returned to its original design dimensions. (Inspection, bathymetry, H&H Analysis)

**NYS Canal Corporation:** extensive shoaling has created impediments to recreational boating. (bathymetry, complaints)

**NYS DEC:** Increased risk of flooding due to diminished capacity. Must return the project to ‘active’ status. (2011 ACOE Periodic Inspection)

**City of Ithaca & Community Members:** Flood protection, recreational boating, the economic, recreational, aesthetic value depends on a fully functioning waterway. (all of the above, plus public complaints, economic evaluation)

Also: Potential Method to Eradicate Hydrilla

How much sediment needs to be removed to achieve these goals?
Current State Restoration Project

ACOE relegated project to “Inactive” status in 2011 – DEC Must Restore

Governor Allocates 13 Million to Address Flood Control Issues in Ithaca - Through the NY Works Program

DEC Hires O’Brien & Gere to Develop a Recommended Course of Action

Hydrilla Management Heavily Considered

Timeline: Recommendation by Jan 31, 2013

Begin Dredging in Fall 2013

3-5 year project

Removal of 663,000 CY of Sediment