

## *Middle Peninsula Local Government Dredging Implementation Plan & 10 Year Feasibility and Implementation Study*

The Middle Peninsula Shallow Draft Dredging Plan aims to address the dredging needs throughout the region by analyzing the costs of dredging shallow draft channels and determining the feasibility of establishing a regional dredging program. The plan includes a detailed evaluation of the physical characteristics of 120 shallow draft waterways in the region, categorizing them into three types: federally-defined, non-federal with ATONs, and non-federal without ATONs. The evaluation began with assessments of creek mouth morphology, shoaling, tide range, coastal structures, water surface area, mouth width, tidal prism, and cross-sectional area of the mouth. This data was used to prioritize dredging needs based on these physical parameters. The plan also evaluated the relative costs for dredging, including pre-construction, during construction, and post-construction components, and identified potential funding sources. Additionally, an array of potential dredging schedules over a 10-year period was identified to address the dredging needs throughout the region.

The plan is a collaborative effort involving local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the Virginia Port Authority's Waterways Maintenance Fund. It is essential for the continued maintenance of navigable waterways, boating safety, and recreational and economic activity in the region.

Shore Consulting Group is pleased to have conducted the effort for the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority in collaboration with Community Futures, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary, and The Berkley Group. The study group thanks the Virginia Port Authority for grant funding to accomplish this initiative of benefit to numerous stakeholders in the Middle Peninsula.

