

Why Maintenance Dredge Is Necessary

“Maintenance Dredging” means the periodic removal of accumulated sediments from existing navigational channels, berthing pockets and turning basins to re-establish their original dredge design levels (DDLs). It is a vital component of operations in most ports and harbours around the world. Most ports cannot sustainably function without maintenance dredging.

Navigation channels, berths and turning basins naturally shallow over time due to siltation and sedimentation—the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream from rivers or from naturally occurring coastal processes such as coastal currents, waves and tides — gradually filling the navigation channels, berthing pockets and turning basins.

Maintenance dredging is routinely carried out in Dublin Port Company in order to maintain an appropriate safe depth of water for the navigation of ships accessing the port or for port operational purposes on quay walls. The Navigation Channel of Dublin Port is maintained at a depth of 7.8m Chart Datum.

