



PORT of
vancouver

Vancouver Fraser
Port Authority

Local channel dredging

Naomi Horsford
Manager, Municipal and stakeholder relations

March 12, 2024

Local channel dredging



Three types of navigational channels in Lower Fraser River:

- Deep-sea channel for ocean-going vessels
- Domestic channel for tug and barge industry
- Local channel for community, recreational and marine uses



PORT of
vancouver

Vancouver Fraser
Port Authority

Dredging the Fraser River

- For 100 years, dredging was a federal responsibility; namely, Public Works Canada then Canadian Coast Guard
- In 1998, Coast Guard stopped dredging the Fraser River; Government of Canada did not assign responsibility to another entity.
- Due to jurisdictional vacuum, Fraser River Port Authority began annual dredging of deep-sea channel.
- In 2008, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority was born when four port authorities amalgamated.

Dredging the Fraser River

- *Canada Marine Act* does not assign or mandate any dredging responsibility, not even deep-sea channels, to a Canada Port Authority anywhere in Canada
- Instead, the Act allows a port authority to conduct dredging if the port authority can afford it and if dredging is performed in an environmentally responsible way.
- Today, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority conducts an annual maintenance dredging program for the deep-sea channel only.
- Some domestic channels have been dredged over the years.

Local channels



Without an annually funded dredging program, local channels are silting up and becoming unnavigable.



Local channel dredging contribution program

2009 - Port authority gave \$7 million to local channel dredging in 10-year program; prbut that did not generate momentum toward finding a long-term solution

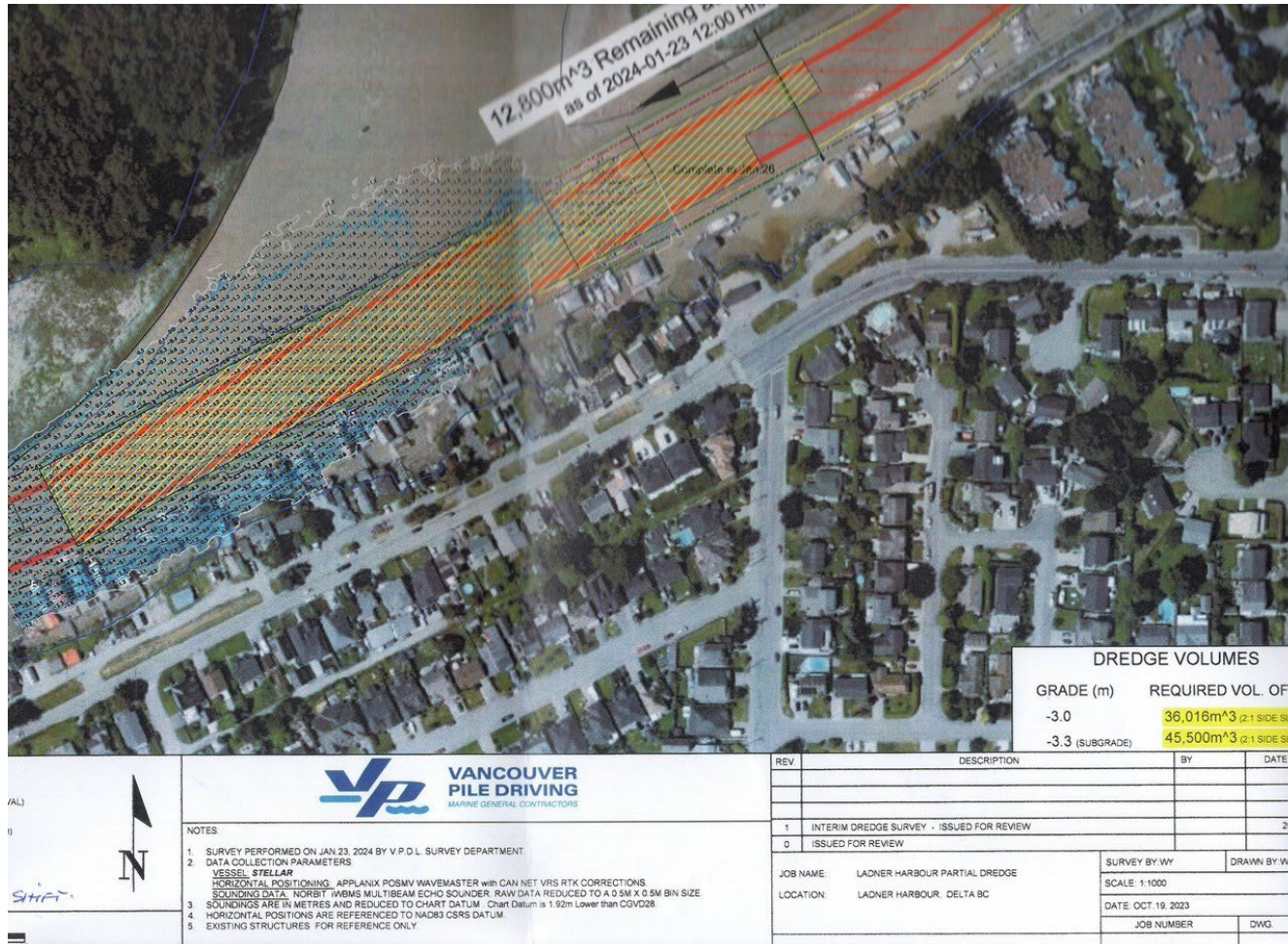
2013 – Joint funding with City of Delta, City of Richmond, Steveston Harbour Authority and VFPA to dredge local channels

2018 – 2023 – Port authority undertook spot dredging

2021 –\$1 million in funding (reallocated from the Local Channel Dredging Program) for Gunderson Slough and Ladner Harbour

2022 – Dredging completed in Gunderson Slough in March

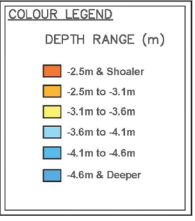
Ladner Harbour



- Completed on February 15, 2024 after permitting delays, scheduling uncertainties and cost escalation
- Removed 29,000 cubic metres; target was 36,000 cubic metres
- Removed a major high spot at confluence of Ladner Harbour and Ladner Reach
- Unable to dredge to boat basin or to target due to budget constraints



Volumes
All volumes include -0.3m Overdredge Allowance. Navigation channel areas with no data are NOT included in volume calculations and should be considered additional.



DREDGE VOLUMES

REACH	GRADE (m)	REQUIRED VOL. OF CUT (M3)
LADNER HARBOR PARTIAL DREDGE	-3.6	44,720

Ref.No.	REFERENCE
---------	-----------

REFERENCE - 2020 ORTHOPHOTOS & SOUNDINGS SURVEYED ON MARCH 4th, 2021
NOTES
- DEPTHS ARE IN METRES AND REDUCED TO CHART DATUM
- PROJECTION IS U.T.M. NAD83 (ZONE 10)
- THIS PLAN IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES
DREDGE VOLUMES INCLUDE 0.3m OVERDREDGE

No.	Date	REVISION	Dr'n	Ch'd

PORT of vancouver

DESIGN BY
DRAWN BY CHL
APPROVED
DATE 28-MAY-2021
SCALE NTS
PRJ SITE DEL307&308

VANCOUVER FRASER PORT AUTHORITY
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

LADNER HARBOUR
CURRENT CHANNEL CONDITION & VOLUMES
SURVEY BY P.W.G.S.C ON MARCH 4th, 2021
CORPORATION OF DELTA

SIZE 1:1000
B HYDROGRAPHIC PLAN No. H2021-005
SHEET 2 of 2
REV.

Five challenges

1. No mandated authority
2. No dedicated funding
3. No comprehensive long-term plan
4. Complex regulatory process
5. Onerous environmental considerations



The good news

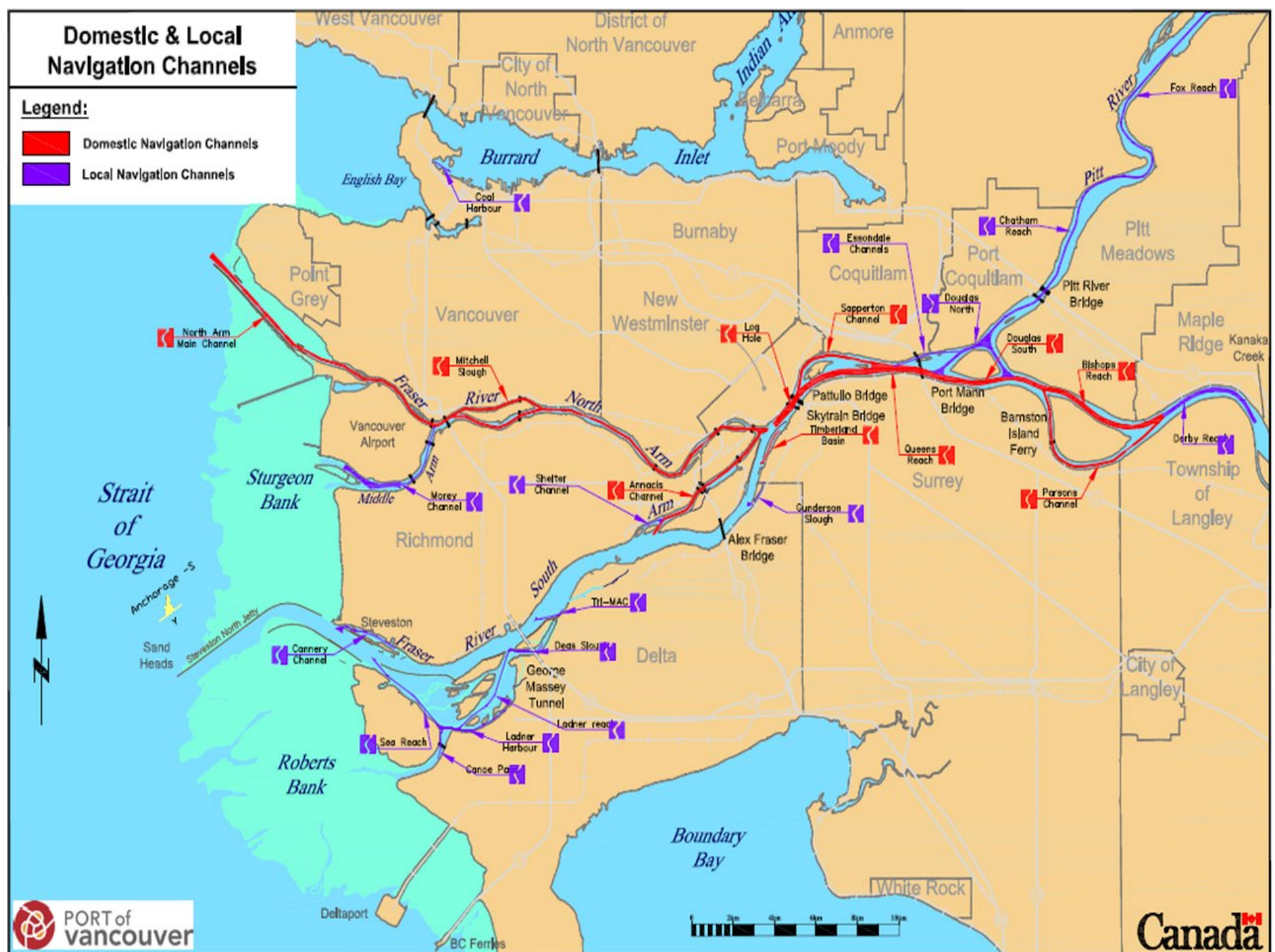


In 2022, the port authority estimated that if \$2.5 million were dedicated to annual dredging, local channels would become stable and sustainable.

Domestic & Local Navigation Channels

Legend:

-  Domestic Navigation Channels
-  Local Navigation Channels



Working toward a solution

- In April 2023, the Local Channel Dredging Working Group was established. The working group is multi-jurisdictional taskforce that was assembled by the cities of Delta and Richmond, Tsawwassen First Nation, Musqueam Nation and other key partners. MP Bains provides federal leadership on this working group.
- In February 2024, the port authority and the City of Delta discussed continuing to advocate with the federal government for a long-term solution, and multi-year dredging permits.





Peterson Photography



PORT of
vancouver

Vancouver Fraser
Port Authority