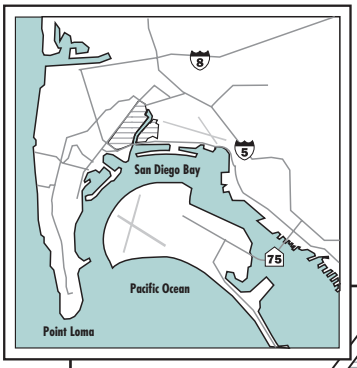
NAVAL TRAINING CENTER
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Fact Sheet No. 8 October 1998



Introduction

This fact sheet is one in a series designed to inform the public about environmental restoration activities at the former Naval Training Center (NTC) San Diego (see Figure 1). Previous fact sheets provided information on: 1) the history of NTC, 2) sites undergoing environmental investigation and cleanup, and 3) the process of base closure, property transfer, and reuse. In preparation for base closure, all areas at NTC that may need environmental cleanup have been investigated under the Navy's environmental restoration program.

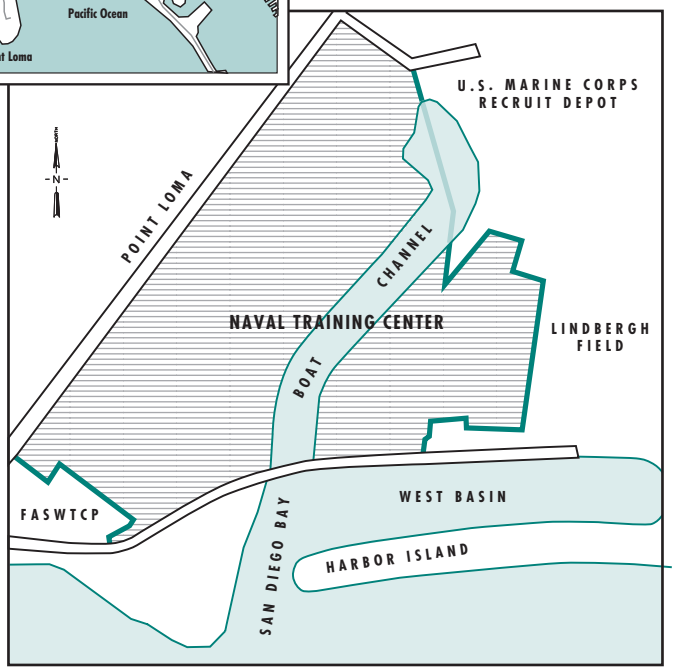


Figure 1
Former Naval Training Center (NTC)
San Diego

This fact sheet discusses environmental activities being undertaken at one area of the former NTC: the Boat Channel. You will learn about the results of past studies, as well as the current and future activities to investigate potential contamination in the Boat Channel. For more information on NTC's environmental restoration program, please contact the individuals listed on the back of this fact sheet. In addition, documents pertaining to NTC's environmental cleanup, including the work plan discussed below, are available to the public at the information repositories listed on the back of this fact sheet.

The Boat Channel

The Boat Channel divides NTC into two sections (see Figure 1). It is the last remaining section of the original San Diego River and opens to the San Diego Bay at its southern end. Between the 1930s and the early 1940s, dredged material from San Diego Bay was used to fill the tide lands and riverbed at the northern portion of NTC, closing one end of the Boat Channel. This keeps the Boat Channel from receiving a constant supply of fresh water from natural sources. Surface water flowing into the Boat Channel is mainly from storm water runoff.

What's Been Done?

◆ Preliminary Assessment

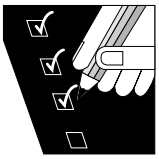
This study suggested that contaminated materials may have collected in the sediments at the bottom of the Boat Channel.

◆ Sediment Characterization Study

This study was conducted to find out if the sediments in the Boat Channel were affected by past operations. The report concluded that metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), hydrocarbons, and pesticides were present in Boat Channel sediments. The highest concentrations were located mostly in the northern end where water is deepest and tidal circulation is lowest.

What's Next?

➤ Remedial Investigation



The Navy, with input from regulatory agencies and the community, is now conducting the next step. A Remedial Investigation defines the nature and extent of contamination. This study is evaluating whether the sediments in the Boat Channel are a risk to human health and/or the environment. A Work Plan detailing the field and laboratory activities and analysis methods has been developed. An overview of the work plan is presented on the next page.

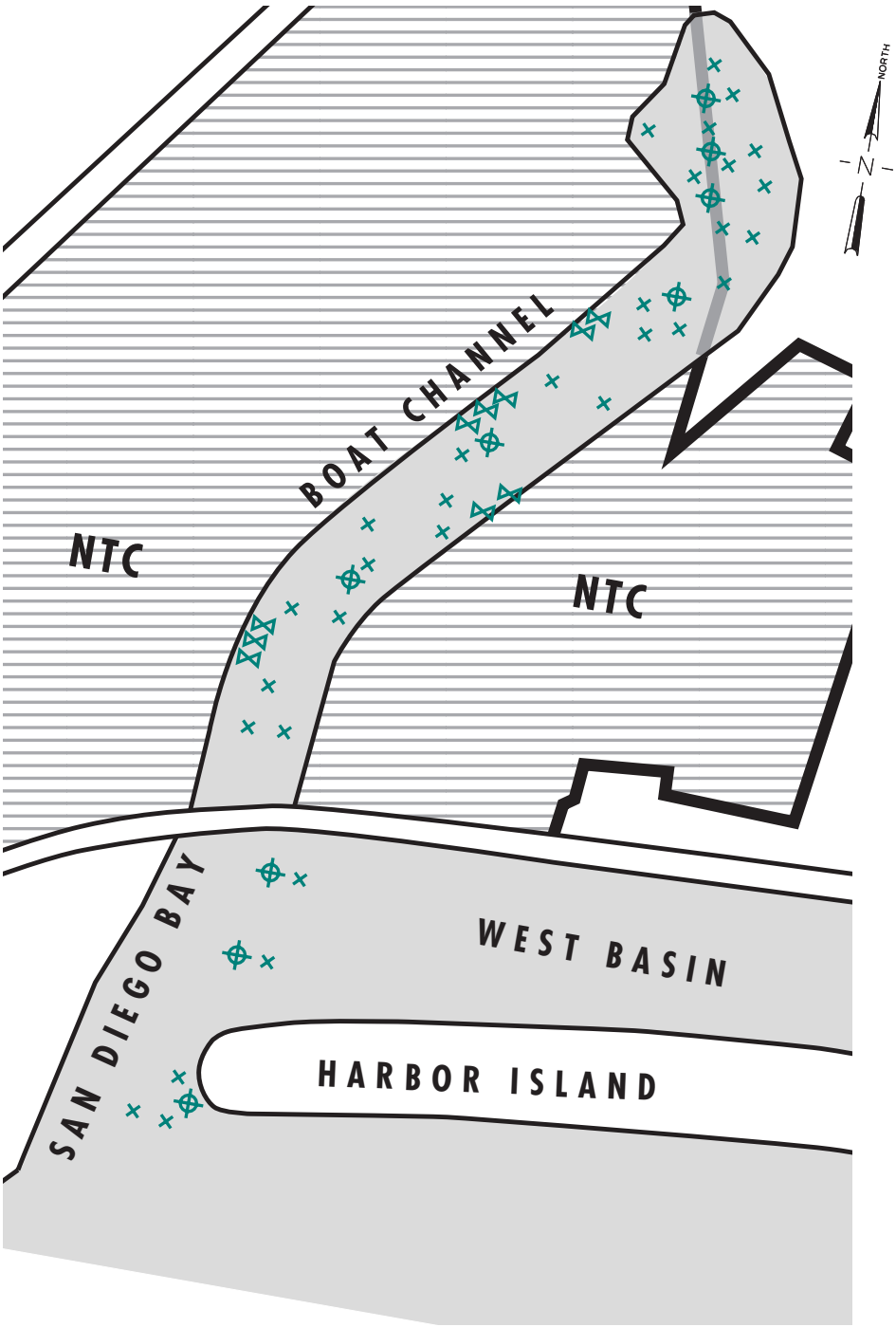


Figure 2 The Boat Channel

Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the NTC Boat Channel

Sampling

The Remedial Investigation Work Plan provides the field and laboratory scientists with a road map of the planned activities. These are shown on Figure 2 and include:

- Sediment sampling (both at the surface and subsurface; see Figure 3) – 31 locations
- Beach sediment sampling – 10 beach locations along the shoreline
- Surface water sampling – 9 locations
- Fish sampling – various locations

Laboratory Tests

Using the samples collected, different types of laboratory tests will be conducted:

- Chemical tests of the sediment
- Physical tests of the sediment
- Biological tests of organisms that live on and in the sediment (to find out whether these organisms can live and reproduce there successfully)

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is a way scientists evaluate the effects of contaminants on humans and other living organisms (plants and animals). The results of the risk assessment conducted for the Boat Channel sediments will help the Navy and regulatory agencies better understand how wildlife that lives in and around the Boat Channel, and humans who come into contact with the Boat Channel, might be affected by the sediments. This will help in making an appropriate decision for the next step of action.

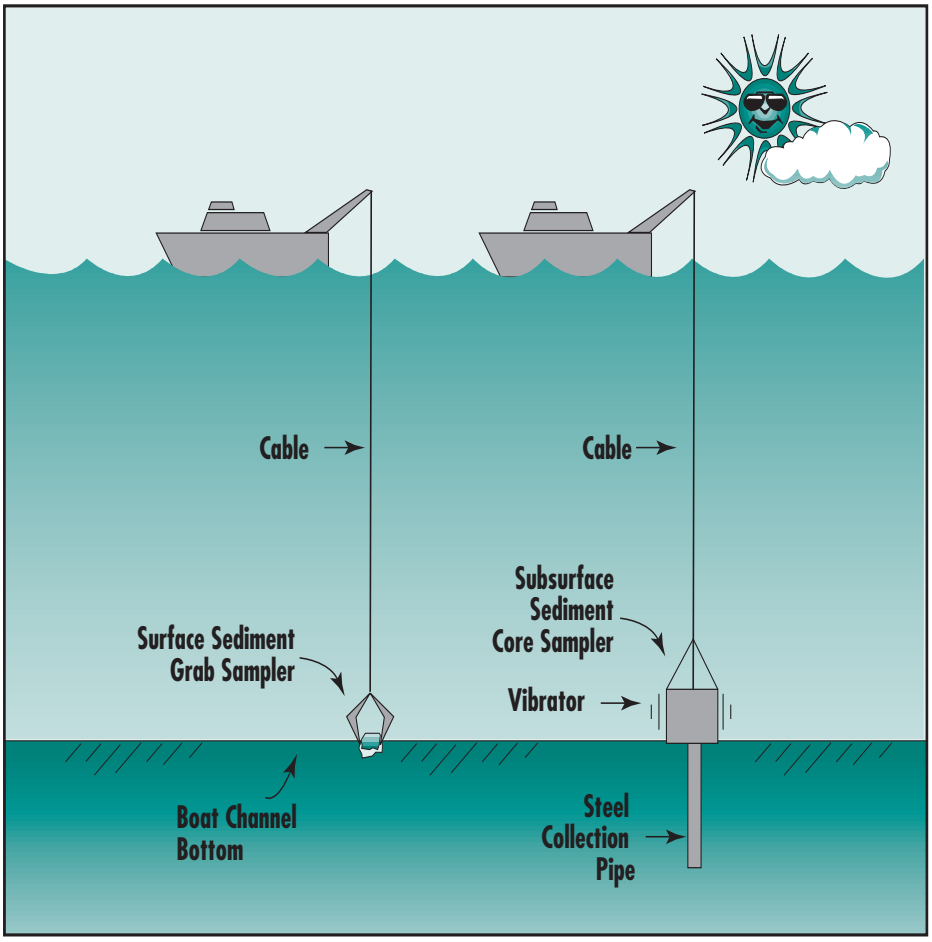


Figure 3
Sediment Sampling Techniques in Use at Site 12

Project Guidance and Oversight

The Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the NTC Boat Channel sediments was developed with input and oversight from the following participating regulatory agencies and advisory groups:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- NTC Restoration Advisory Board

Future Plans

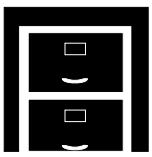
The Remedial Investigation began in September 1998. After doing the fieldwork, the results of the sampling and laboratory tests will be evaluated to assess health risks and the need for further action. The results and recommendations will be presented in a Remedial Investigation Report. The public will have an opportunity for review and comment on the draft report in 1999.

The City of San Diego has prepared a Final Reuse Plan that addresses future uses of NTC property once it is turned over by the Navy. The Boat Channel area is proposed for recreational activities, including hotel and park development along the shoreline. Any required cleanup of the Boat Channel sediments will consider future reuse plans.

Restoration Advisory Board Update

The NTC Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, has been meeting for over four years. The RAB is composed of community representatives who meet regularly to review and comment on reports and documents prepared as part of the environmental restoration program underway at NTC. Representatives from regulatory agencies also attend the meetings and answer questions and respond to comments from the community. RAB meetings are currently held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings are advertised in local newspapers and agendas are mailed to all those on the NTC mailing list. Each meeting is very informative and the public is always welcome to attend.

Various technical specialists and agency representatives give presentations on topics related to the cleanup. Recent presentations included a summary of the Boat Channel Remedial Investigation Work Plan (the subject of this fact sheet), and field studies at the NTC Inactive Landfill. Also part of each meeting are updates on the cleanup at various sites on base and the status of the planning for eventual reuse of NTC property. Please join us at the next quarterly RAB meeting on **October 27, 1998.**



Information Repositories

Information repositories for NTC's environmental cleanup program have been established at two locations in the area so the local community has the opportunity to review project documents and reports.

San Diego City Library
Central Library
820 "E" Street
(619) 236-5800
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 10 AM – 9PM
Fri-Sat: 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

San Diego Library
Point Loma Branch
2130 Poinsettia Drive
(619) 531-1539
Hours: Mon & Wed: noon – 8 PM
Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Sun: 1 PM – 5 PM

For More Information

If you would like to be added to the NTC mailing list or would like more information on the NTC Restoration Advisory Board, please contact:

Mr. Keith Forman, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, c/o BRAC Operations
1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 501, San Diego, CA 92101-2404
(619) 524-1022/fax (619) 524-4213
e-mail: ksforman@efdswest.navfac.navy.mil

See the Navy's web site at http://www.efdswest.navfac.navy.mil for more information on NTC's environmental program.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Southwest Division, Code 56SD.CA
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 501
San Diego, CA 92101-2404

INSIDE:

Studies of the Boat Channel Sediments
Naval Training Center San Diego