



LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY UPPER REACH

# Cleanup Construction News

LOWER DUWAMISH  
WATERWAY GROUP



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## Cleanup Construction Activities

Season 2 construction in the upper reach, the southernmost two miles of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site, will continue through February 2026. Construction will occur on weekdays and Saturdays, with **work taking place during both daytime and, when needed, nighttime hours**. Work hours vary based on factors such as tides and the type of work being conducted (e.g., dredging or placing clean material).

Please note that in-water construction activities are dynamic and weather-dependent. All schedules are subject to change. Visit [LDWG.org](http://LDWG.org) for the most up-to-date information.

If you have questions, or concerns, you can reach our team at [info@ldwg.org](mailto:info@ldwg.org) or 1-888-561-LDWG (1-888-561-5394).

[Map of Cleanup Areas](#)

## Environmental and Community Report for the Week of December 29

*The Construction Contractor did not work on December 31 and January 1*

[View Last Week's Environmental and Community Report](#)



With oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we are working to minimize the impact of construction on those who work, live, and spend time along the Duwamish Waterway. Stay informed about environmental monitoring and construction activities by viewing our weekly report linked above.

## What to Expect During the Week of January 12

Cleanup dredging activities will occur at sediment management areas (SMAs) **9 and 12B** ([see cleanup map](#)). We will be placing clean material in **SMA 15A** where dredging activities have been completed. All the work will occur during the daytime, between 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

## What to Expect During the Week of January 19

Cleanup activities will take place at SMAs **9, 11A, and 12B**. Work will occur during the daytime, between 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### Monitoring for and containing sheens during cleanup activities at SMA 12B

During dredging of SMA 12B in October, sheens were observed on the water surface on two days – October 29 and 31. SMA 12B is located near the Duwamish River People's Park ([see map](#) for location).

After the observations of the sheens near SMA 12B in late October, LDWG, U.S. EPA, and partners paused dredging work in SMA 12B. We developed plans to resume dredging with precautions, such as preparing additional oil-containment and oil-absorbing booms, skimmers, and increased monitoring to manage potential sheens and protect nearby habitat restoration areas, recreation sites, and water-dependent businesses. **Dredging in SMA 12B is expected to resume during the week of January 12 and continue through most of January.**

As dredging resumes in this cleanup area, LDWG's construction contractor has hired [Clean Harbors](#) to be on site as a precaution to ensure that sheens associated with the cleanup activities are contained. In January, Clean Harbors will use the Don Armeni Boat Ramp (1222 Harbor Ave SW) located in West Seattle on Elliott Bay.

Community members may see Clean Harbors' boats, equipment, and specialized gear entering and exiting the water at the boat ramp.

Read some frequently asked questions about the sheen management below.

#### ***What causes sheens on the water?***

Sheens commonly occur from stormwater runoff from roads and parking lots, oil leaks from equipment, spills from vessels, creosote pilings, illegal dumping of waste oil, and spills on land that drain to the river. They can also result from dredging sediments contaminated with petroleum products and other chemicals. The construction management team conducts daily visual inspections of the waterway cleanup, which includes identifying sheens.

#### ***What happens when a sheen is observed during cleanup activities?***

If a sheen associated with the cleanup activities is observed, the contractor will contain the sheen within the work area using a moon pool (silt curtain) and/or oil-absorbing booms or pads. Sheens that are not contained are reported to the National Response Center, which notifies the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and other entities. The construction contractor also has a contract with a professional oil spill response company and will activate its services if the contractor cannot contain the sheen related to the cleanup activities.

#### ***What precautions are being implemented when dredging resumes at SMA 12B?***

The construction contractor will use oil-containment and oil-absorbing booms around the work area when dredging in SMA 12B. These booms line the perimeter area where the dredging equipment is working. The booms contain and soak up oily sheens.

The contractor is also working with Clean Harbors, a local company that specializes in response to sheens and spills. As needed, they will deploy booms and skimmers, which are commonly used in oil spill responses. Skimmers are special devices that remove oil from water surfaces.

There will be additional barriers set up along the Duwamish River People's Park habitat site to prevent sheens from entering the inlet, as well as booms on hand

to contain sheens that could impact shoreline restoration areas and the South Park Marina.

**Could sheens occur during future cleanup activities?**

Yes. Sheens can occur when dredging contaminated sediment. LDWG and U.S. EPA will continue to monitor for sheens and respond promptly to minimize impacts. Cleanup of contaminated sediment is important for long-term improvement of the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

**How can the public report a spill to a waterway?**

For oil and hazardous substance spills to water, contact the following:

- The National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802
- Washington Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990

For more information, visit the [Washington Department of Ecology's website](#).



*The Construction Contractor performing material placement activities in SMA 15A, just downstream of the South Park Bridge (Geosyntec, January 2026).*

**Stay Connected!**

For questions or concerns, you can always reach our team at [info@ldwg.org](mailto:info@ldwg.org) or 1-888-561-LDWG (1-888-561-5394). Visit [LDWG.org](http://LDWG.org) for the most up-to-date information.



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Manténgase informado durante toda la actividad de construcción para la limpieza

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Give us a call at 1-888-561-5394

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