



Kathleen Howington  
Kathleen.Howington@  
safmc.net

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## **Summary of Knowledge on Beneficial Use of Dredging Material Projects**



# Background



Received the HCD presentation on consultations in October 2024:

- Beneficial Use Projects involve the positive use of dredged materials.
- The Corps is hoping to increase these types of projects by 70%.
- There are not a lot of pilot studies, known research, or information on the short- or long-term impacts on these projects.
- The main problem is that there is not a supportive knowledge base for these projects' impacts or of which locations would be the most beneficial.
- HEAP agreed to try and gather information to support HCD.



# Jekyll Island Thin Layer Placement Project

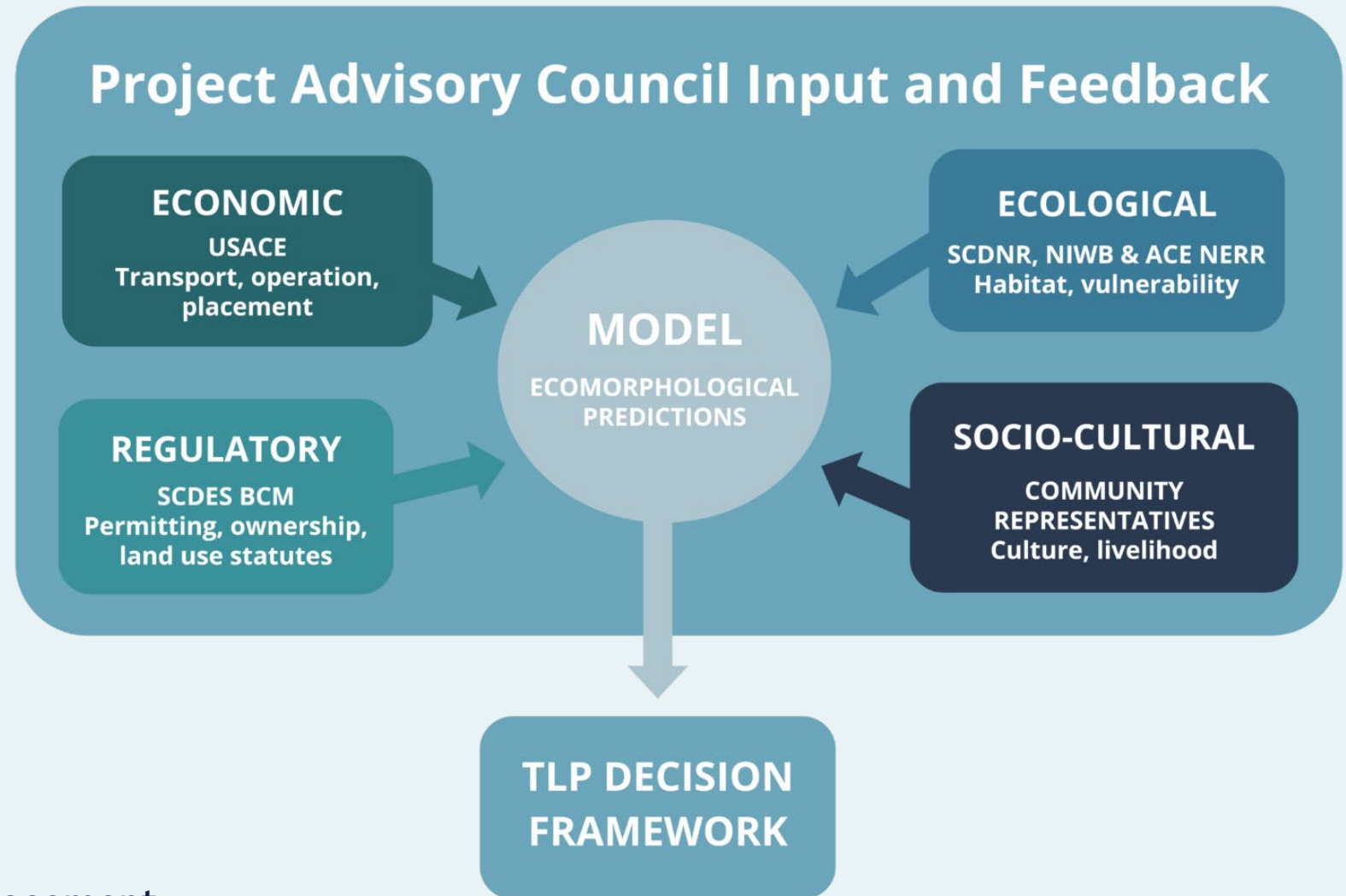


- April 2019, a contractor for the USACE began dredging Jekyll Creek from north of Downing Musgrove Causeway to the St. Simons Sound
- Removed approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sediment from the channel.
- Placed the sediment in two locations:
  - north of Jekyll Creek in the St. Simons Sound, about 800 feet south of the St. Simons Pier.
  - 5-acre area of marsh off Jekyll Creek, north of the Jekyll Island Airport.
- By 2024, nearly 80% of the marsh grass had regrown at the higher elevation.
- Anticipate the area will be fully restored over the next 5 years.

# SC Sea Grant: Developing a Framework for Assessing the Benefits and the Feasibility of Thin Layer Placement in South Carolina



- Started 2023 – projected end 2026
- Goal:
  - Develop a framework to determine economic and regulatory feasibility.
  - Develop a model for predicting functional successes for thin layer placement





# **U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center: Guidelines for how to approach thin-layer placement projects**

- Candice Piercy and Timothy Welp U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and Ram Mohan Texas A&M University
- Provides specific recommendations spanning all aspects of implementation of TLP, including early project planning and data collection, engineering design, construction, and monitoring and adaptive management.
- Includes technical “to-do” steps as well as several recommendations that are generated from reviews of case studies and lessons learned from the practice in the recent years.



# NCDMF: thin layer placement literature review

- Conducting a literature review on thin layer placement and other states' permitting procedures
- Currently contains 12 documents
- Work ongoing as part of the 2026 Coastal Habitat protection plan update
- The current literature gathered has been forwarded to the HCD office





## Next steps

- What else does HCD need?
- What else should be considered?
- What can we gather?
- Is this enough?



**Thank you**