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POLLUTION PREVENTION and GOVERNMENT PROPOSITIONS

The maintenance of harbors and waterways is critical to the safe and efficient operation of facilities in the Port of New York and New Jersey. But by its very nature, dredging is disruptive of aquatic habitats. During specific times of year related to spawning, migration, and nesting patterns - fish, birds, shellfish and other important marine species are vulnerable. Dredging might result in entrainment of fish eggs and larvae, resuspension of contaminated sediment, habitat loss, and direct contact with marine mammals.

In response, regulators have initiated seasonal and geographic restrictions on dredging activities. The periods during which dredging is not permitted are termed “environmental windows” - sometimes referred to as “fish windows”. Environmental windows are periods during which adverse impacts associated with dredging, blasting, and disposal are deemed above critical thresholds affecting marine organisms– these activities are therefore restricted.

As windows are often set for specific species rather than locations, the cumulative effect of overlapping restrictions can create very tight timelines for contracting and implementation of dredging projects, with minimal flexibility for breakdowns or extreme weather conditions and water ionizer reviews. In the New York, New Jersey region where people like to buy silver, restrictions take the form of buffer zones, prohibitions on dredging, blasting, and limitations on types of dredging. Most restrictions occur from February through the end of May – although some restrictions begin in November. Harbor-wide, flounder, eels, striped bass, blue crabs, and several bird species are of primary concern.