Dustpan Maintenance Dredging Operations for Marsh Creation in the Mississippi River Delta Demonstration (MR-10)

Location
The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, in the Mississippi River Modern Delta. Dredging took place near Cubit's Gap, Head of Passes, and Southwest Pass.

Problems
Hopper dredges must dispose of their material in deep water, making the spoil material unavailable for direct marsh creation, although the material may still provide nourishment for the system. In comparison to hopper dredges, spoil from dustpan and cutterhead dredges can be disposed of in shallow, open waters for marsh creation.

Restoration Strategy
The project demonstrated the safe operation of a dustpan hydraulic dredge in the critical Head of Passes reach of the Mississippi River. This demonstration enables the use of this type of dredge for the maintenance of this reach and additional opportunity for the beneficial use of the dredge material. Over the course of this demonstration project, approximately 40 acres of deteriorated marsh that had converted to shallow open water was restored with approximately 222,000 cubic yards of dredge material over the course of 8 days or 192 operating hours with the expectation of an increase in marsh.

Progress to Date
The demonstration was completed in June 2002.

This project is on Priority Project List 6.