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# Honduras and the London Protocol: Actual Status, Challenges & Experiences for the Maritime Authority.

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# Background

## Honduras Status



Getty Images.

- **General Directorate of the Merchant Marine, created on 12 October 1976;**
- **London Convention (accession on 06 February 1980) – came into force 01 June 1980;**
- **National Environmental Law of Honduras 1993;**
- **Maritime Law since 1994;**
- **MARPOL (Annexes I – VI);**



# Key Differences: Convention vs. Protocol

The London Convention (1972) and **the London Protocol (1996)** regulate the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter at sea.

- - The Protocol is more restrictive than the Convention
- - Prohibits all waste disposal unless explicitly permitted
- - Strengthens compliance mechanisms



## Main objectives:

- Prevent marine pollution
- Promote sustainable waste management
- Strengthen international cooperation
- Building capacities (Scientific/Technical & Economic)



# Challenges

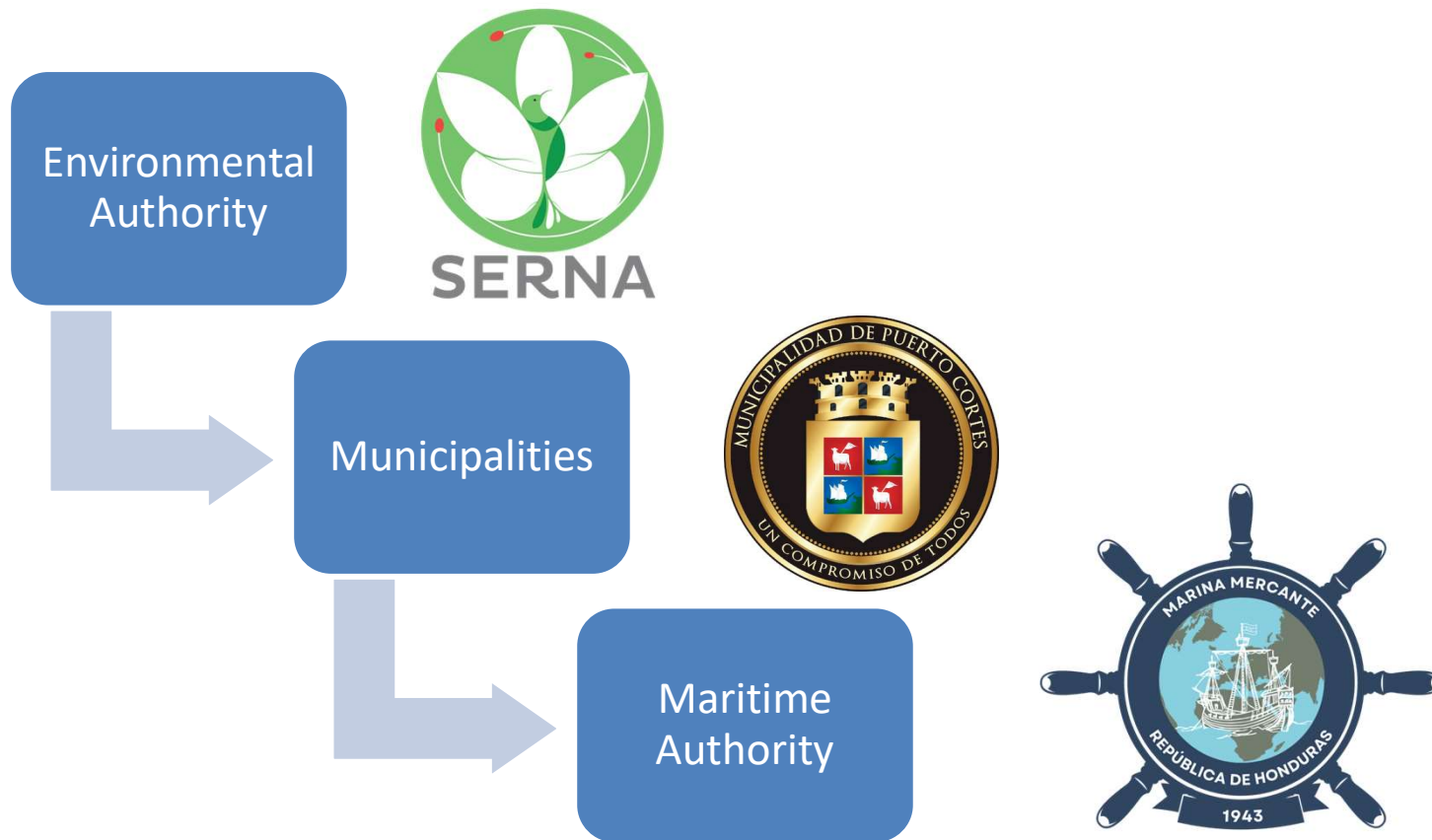
## Initiative for the London Protocol Implementation in Honduras

- ✓ Gather all relevant *inter-institutional legal & technical information*. (Ministry of Environment, Port municipalities through their municipal environmental units and the Maritime Authority.
- ✓ Create a commitment within stakeholders.
- ✓ Implement a working methodology with a focus on the *accesión to LP*.
- ✓ Put together a “Skeleton Report” to elaborate a final *accesión* document.
- ✓ Establish an IMO technical assistance program that will promote an internal assessment.
- ✓ Implement a financially sustainable process.
- ✓ Take this final *accession* document to the Presidential & Congressional level.



# Implementation in Honduras

Honduras follows international marine environmental regulations and is committed to adopting best practices in maritime dumping waste management.





# National Environmental Law Decree#104-93



274	SECTOR 10. INFRAESTRUCTURA, CONSTRUCCIÓN Y VIVIENDA	B. Construcción	022 Dragados marinos	Dragados marinos	4510, 010	10B022	1-10,000 m <sup>3</sup>	>10,000 - 20,000 m <sup>3</sup>	>20,000 - 30,000 m <sup>3</sup>	>30,000 m <sup>3</sup>
							1	2	3	4
							CATEGORIES			

Includes marine  
dredging by m<sup>3</sup>

Excludes Dumping

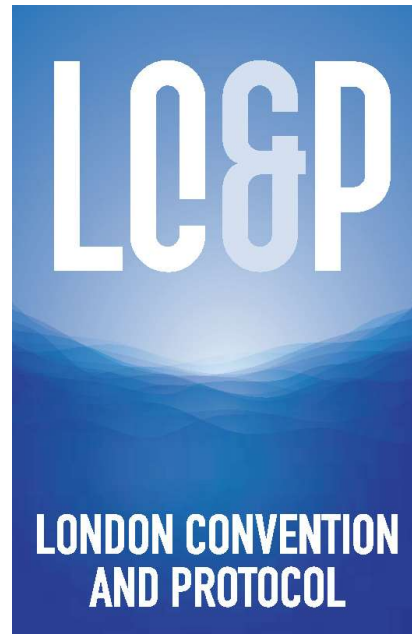
The National  
Environmental Impact  
Assessment System  
(SINEIA) is a mechanism  
that evaluates and  
controls activities that  
may affect the  
environment.



**National  
Environmental Law  
& SINEIA excludes  
Dumping**



Includes dumping by  $m^3$



# Experiences

- Puerto Cortes is considered one of the busiest ports in Central America, thus many shipping movements are therefore expected.
- Port Terminals in Puerto Cortes are well sheltered against wave action.
- Maximum monthly value of tides of 30 cm.
- Bottom composition silt sand and some fine sand transported by wave action, currents and rivers.

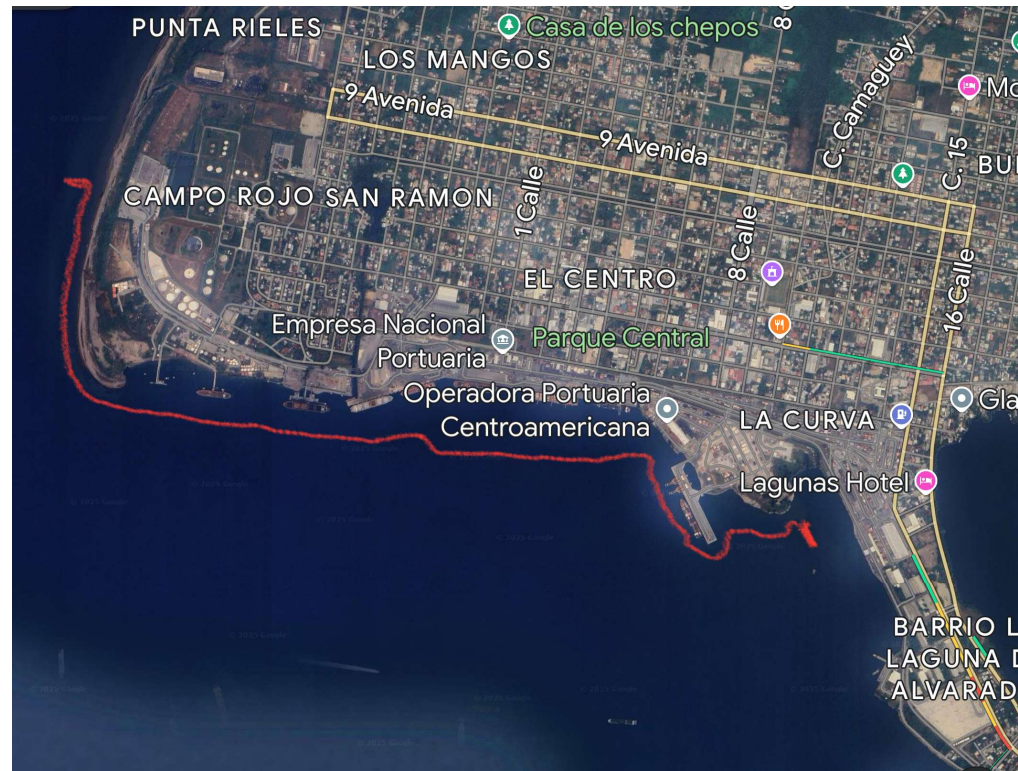


Image courtesy Google Earth Pro



# Case of Study

## Dredging & Dumping Request by CHEVRON-TEXACO.



**TEXACO®**

- Environmental (permit) license for dredging.
- Requested dumping dredging wastes to Maritime Authority (2020).
- Maritime Authority suggested deep studies in order to choose dumping area.
- **Performed proper oceanographic studies (sedimentology, marine geomorphology, predominant surface & underwater currents among other studies conducted by RPS Group (2021).**
- Dumping site is determined.
- 3.82 nm,  $\downarrow > 40$  m

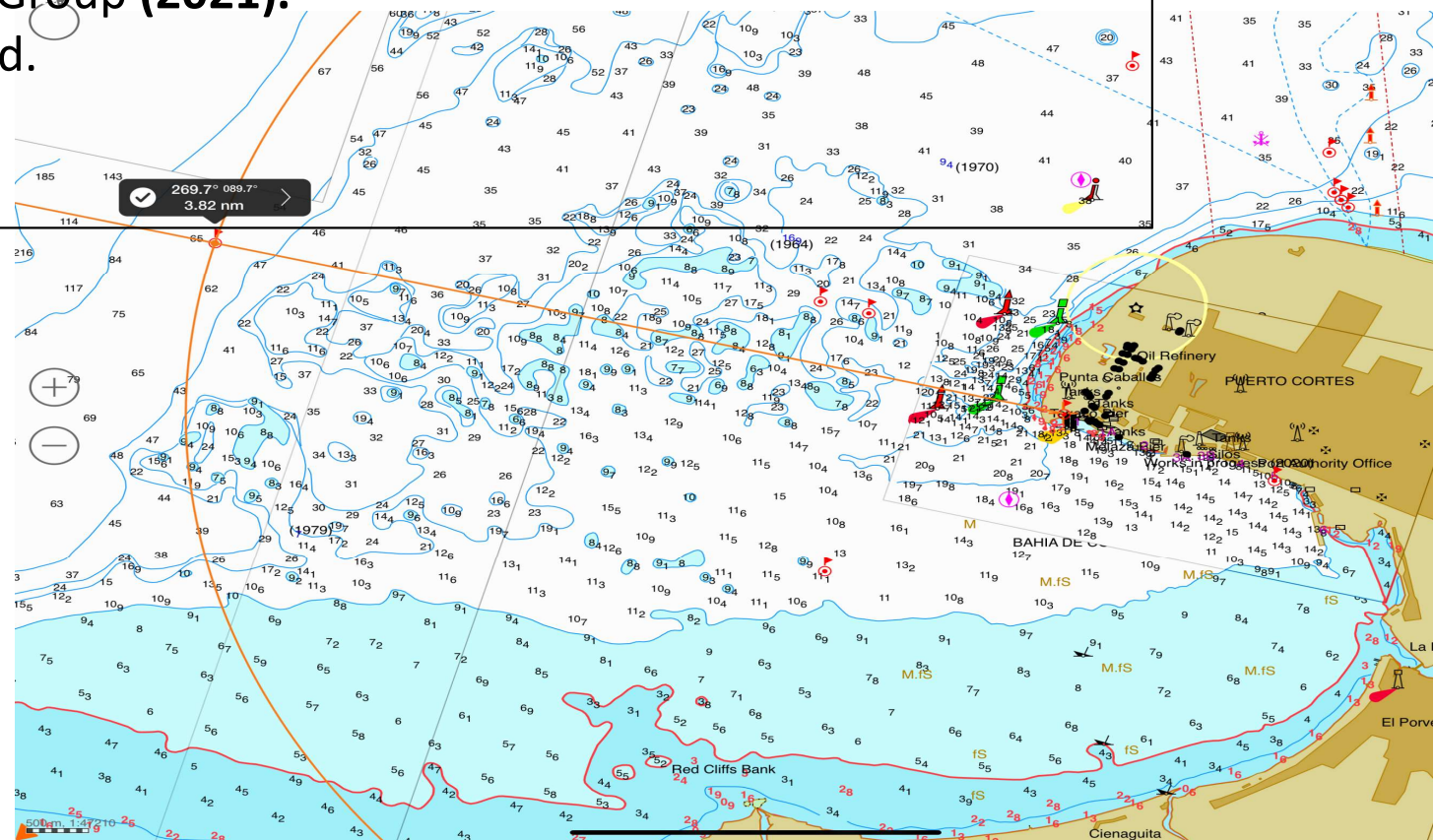


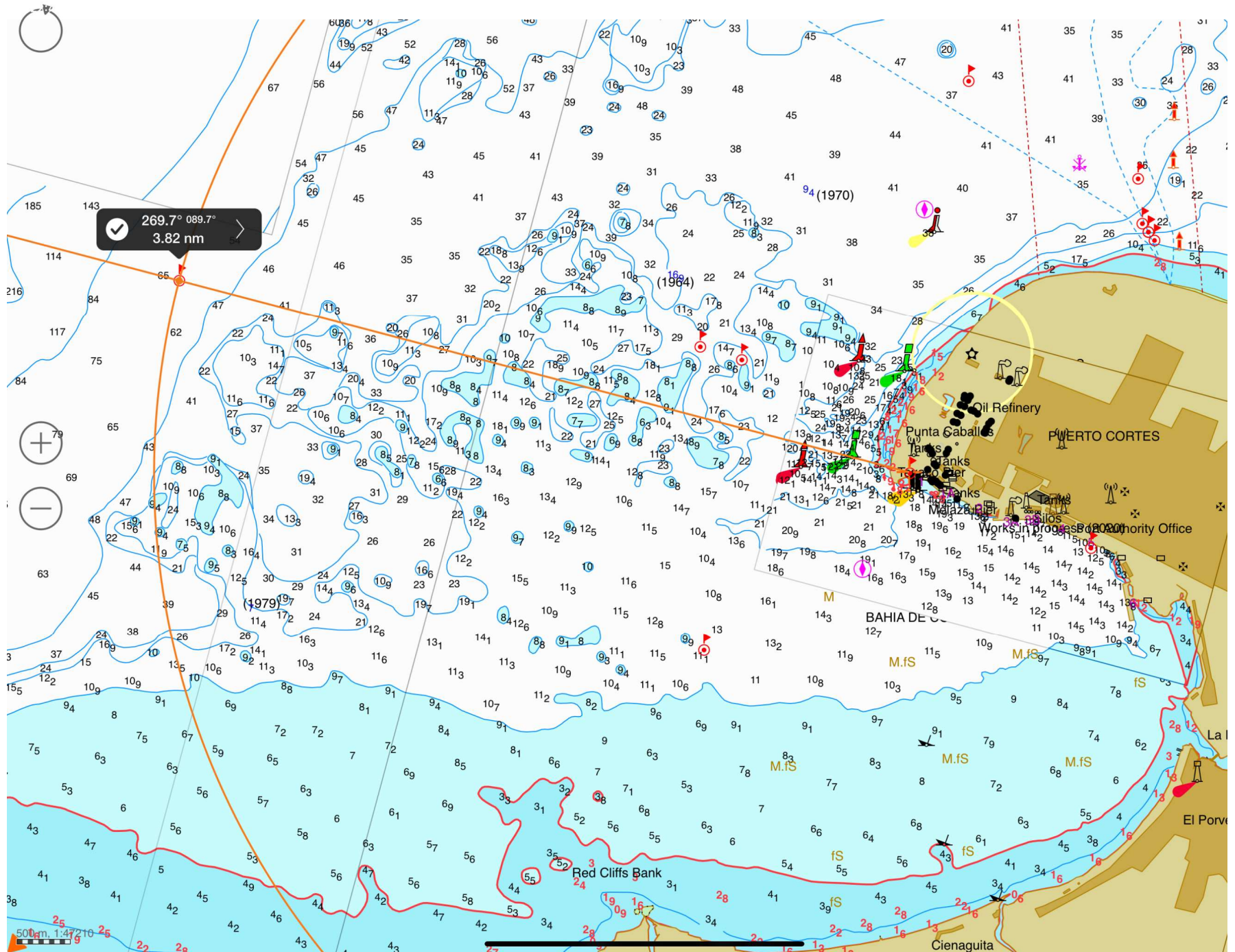
Image courtesy Wärtsilä



TEXACO®



Image courtesy Wärtsilä





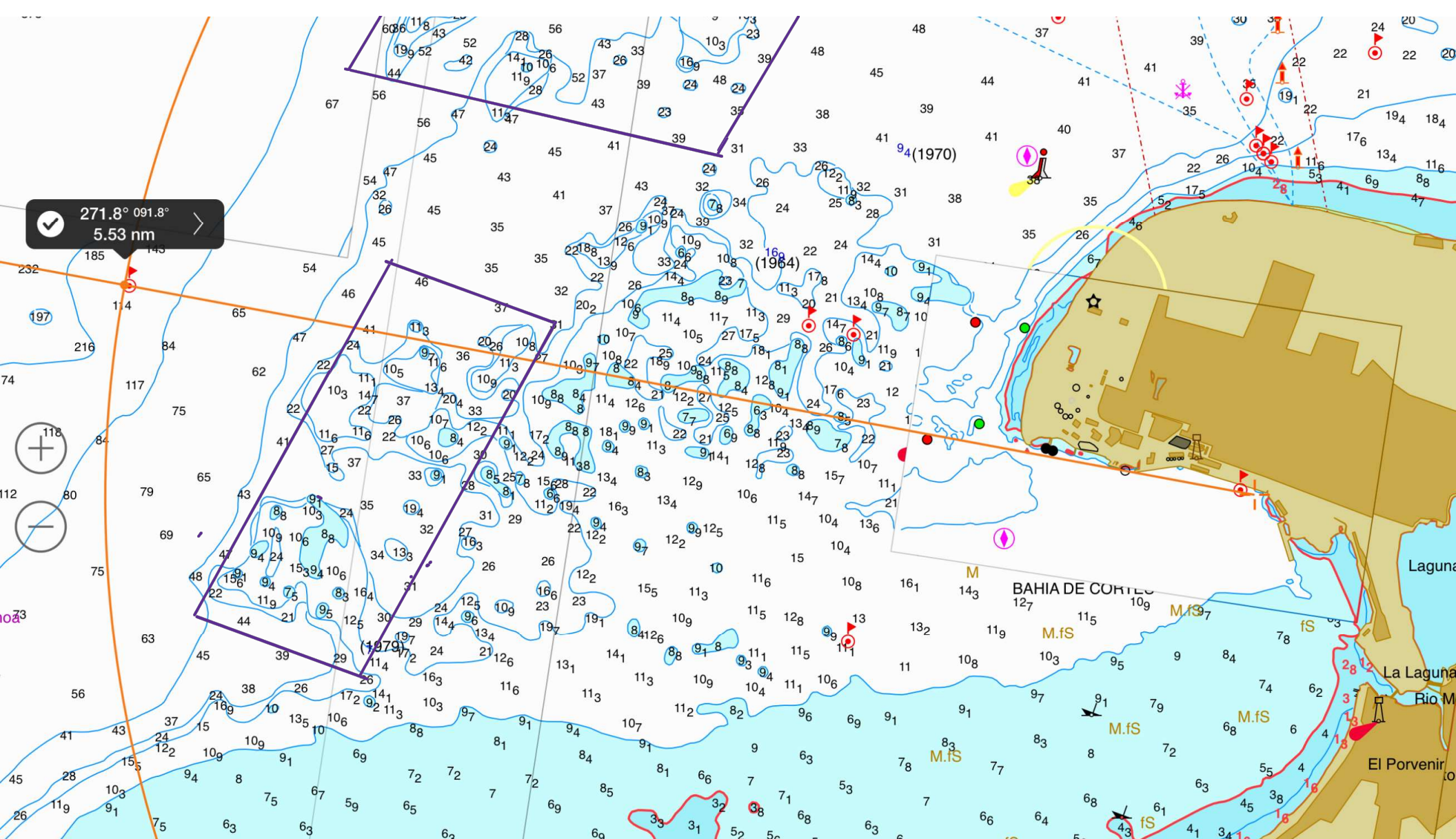


Image courtesy Wärtsilä

- **2022-2023 MAR FUND + local Municipality/NGOs carry out a fisheries survey and decided to establish Fishing Replenishment Zones (FRP).**



## Operadora Portuaria Centroamericana (OPC)



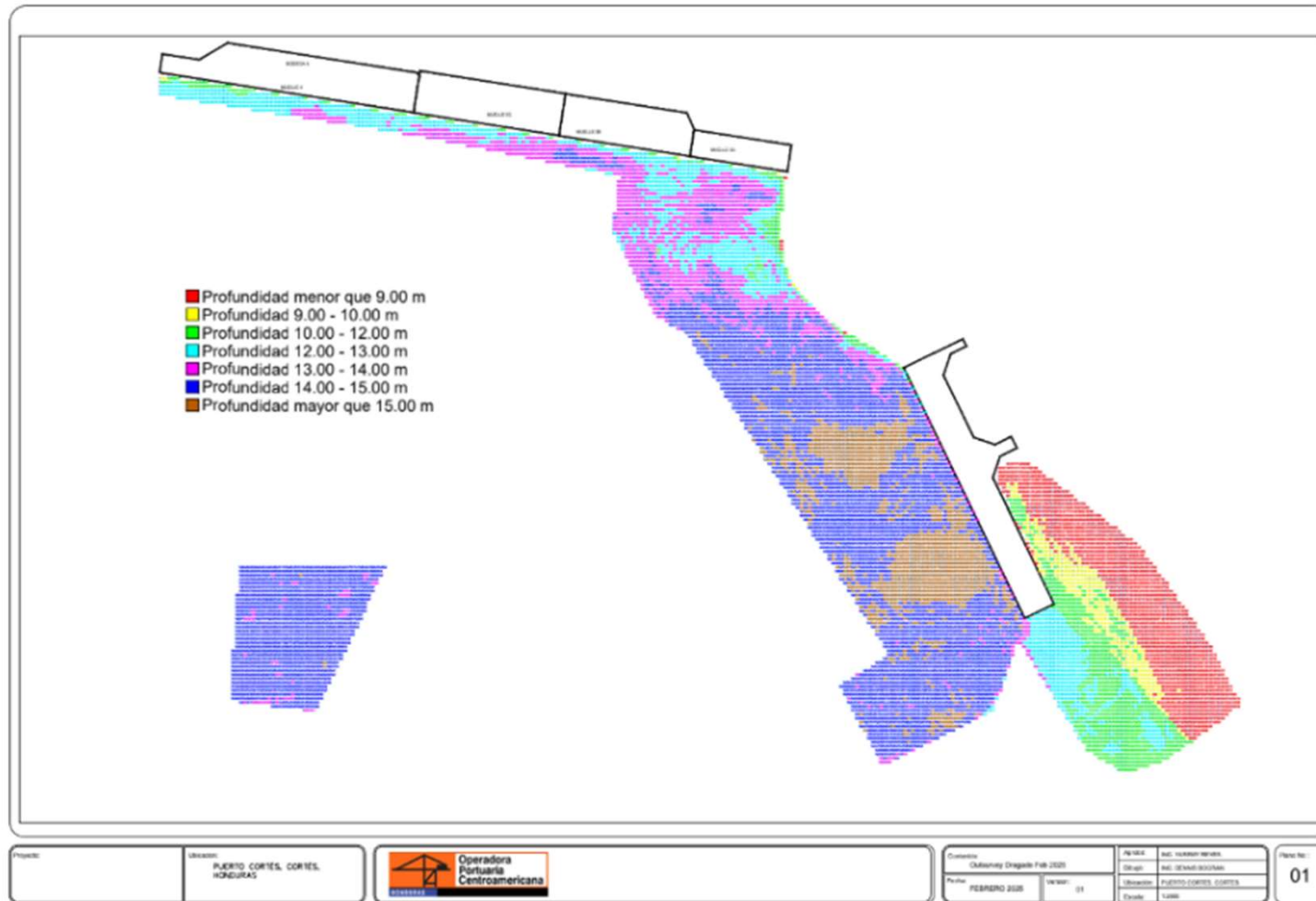
- Notifies Maritime Authority about intentions to carry out dredging/dumping **(2024)**.
- Environmental (permit) license for dredging.
- Conducts studies of sediments in area.
- Maritime Authority grants permit and **dredging/dumping begins (2025)**.
- OPC hires Dutch company
- **Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD)**



Total material dumped:  
**96,383 m<sup>3</sup>**



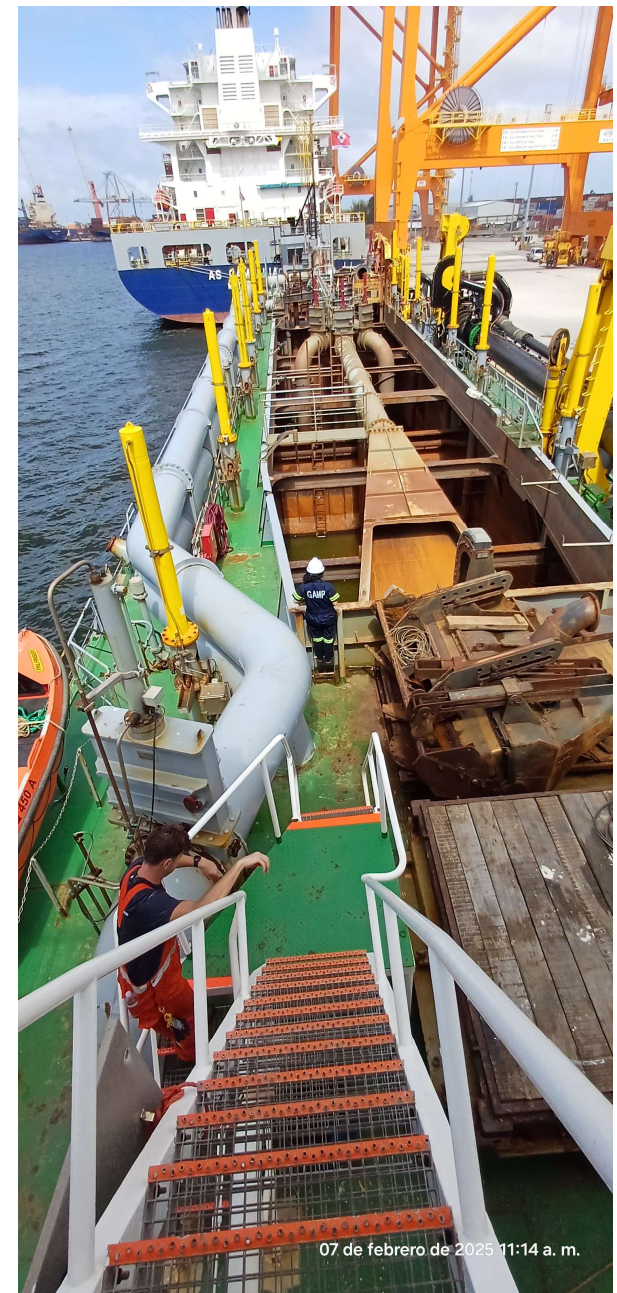
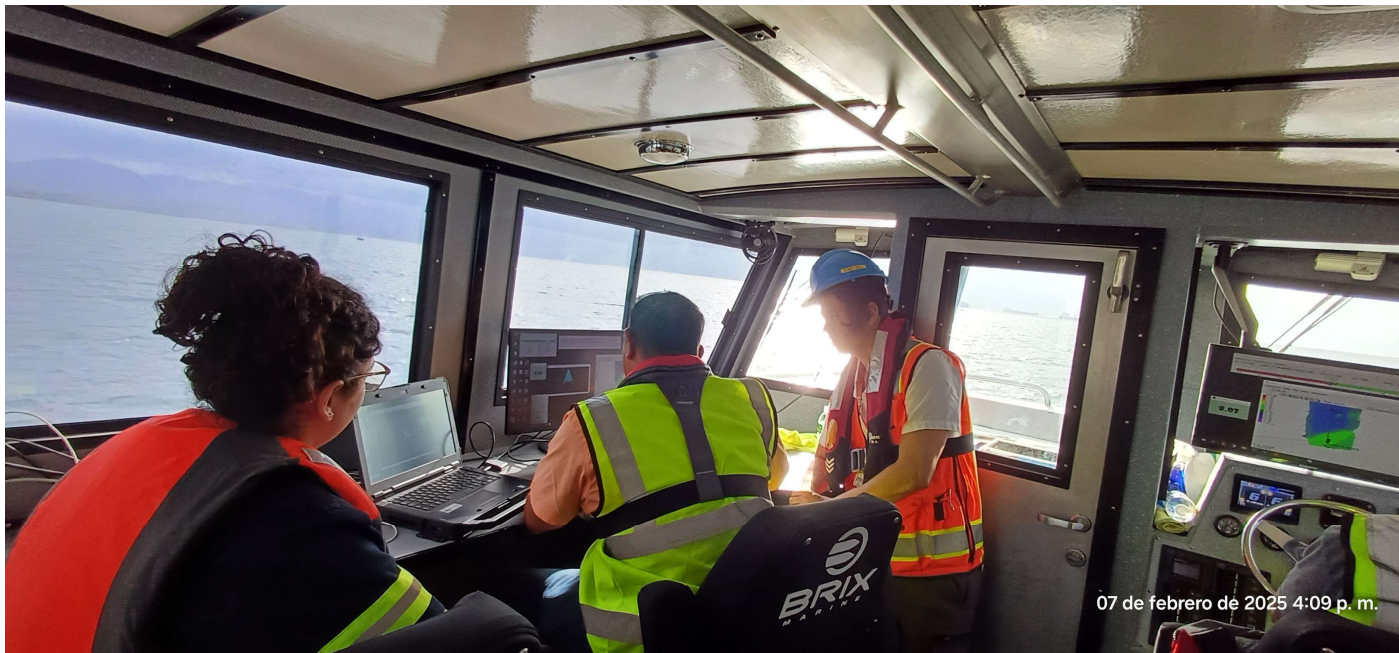
# Batimetry and Monitoring



Homogeneous  
mixture of  
seawater,  
sand/silt



# Activities of Supervision



# Activities of Supervision



Time set before 14:00 Hours

Speed vessel set  $< 10 \text{ kn} = 7 \text{ kn}$

↓ from 100 – 300 m







# NEXT STEPS FOR HONDURAS

1. Accession & implementation of London Protocol amended;
2. Update Maritime Authority Dumping Guidelines according to a scientific framework;
3. Promotion & inclusion among other related parties about LP;
4. Capacity building (S/T/E) for Maritime Authority & other related parties;
5. Strengthen marine research & monitoring;
6. Implement regional technical co-operation related to the LP;
7. More involvement to LC/LP working groups.
8. Seeking assistance to B2C for guidance and other matters.



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# Thank you very much

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