

## Dredging Areas

John Collins, USCG Auxiliary, SBOS AFSSO-PE

Notices of dredging activities can be found in your Local Notices to Mariners.

You are advised to use caution when operating your vessel near areas where dredging operations are taking place. There have been many instances where outboard motor propelled vessels have collided with a dredge pipe causing the motor to recoil into the boat and strike the occupants or eject them from the vessel. You should always be on the lookout for floating debris and unmarked hazards and operate at a speed that allows them to see and avoid the hazards. Some dredge pipes are made of high density polyethylene. Although they are buoyant and float, they do so in a mostly-submerged manner.

This is what markers that warn of a floating pipeline looks like.



In dredge areas, you are urged to transit at your slowest safe speed to minimize wake and proceed with caution after passing arrangements have been made.