

THE VESSEL

A QUARTERLY **PIANC USA** PUBLICATION



A WORD FROM PIANC USA PRESIDENT, MAJOR GENERAL JASON E. KELLY

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, I am honored to serve as PIANC USA President. USACE is made up of professionals from many and disparate locations, yet we coalesce every day to support our Nation's safety and security. We are continuously innovating and finding ways to become more effective and efficient while managing risk, all in support of the USACE vision: Engineering solutions to the Nation's toughest challenges. This takes teamwork at all levels, and we are fortunate to have committed and capable partners worldwide.

The global PIANC partnership is more important than ever. PIANC supports and shares our commitment to understand and solve infrastructure challenges – and to get the engineering right. USACE has been building infrastructure for over 250 years, yet we continue to learn and grow by exchanging expertise with others around the world. PIANC offers a number of opportunities to address and make recommendations on our mutual water infrastructure challenges through working groups, workshops and field visits. In particular, I appreciate the growing industry engagement with and through PIANC.

USACE may deal in concrete and steel, but we do nothing by ourselves; we value our industry partners and all the professionals that build, maintain and protect our waterborne logistics supply chain. I look to grow our PIANC partnerships for today, but most importantly, for the future.

MG Kelly assumed duties as the USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations on September 9, 2024.

JOIN PIANC USA TODAY!

Young Professionals: if you want to help steer U.S. contributions to global standards and build a meaningful career in the field, PIANC USA is the place to be. Members gain access to a global network of experts, contribute to international Working Groups and Commissions, and help shape best practices through technical reports and guidance. YPs are also eligible for career-boosting awards and scholarships! Seize the day: join PIANC USA and turn your commitment into real impact.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NORTH SEA CONFERENCE & AGA

**11-15 MAY 2026
HULL, ENGLAND**

Excitedly bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and researchers to discuss sustainable maritime solutions, this conference focuses on achieving net zero emissions within maritime navigation and port infrastructure.

WWW.PIANC-HULL2026.ORG

SUMMER 2026



PIANC USA hosts its second webinar in Summer 2026 entitled, "Design of Navigation Locks- Overview of the State of Practice. There is no cost and attendees will receive 1 PDH credit. It will be presented by John Clarkson, PE, USACE (ret) and Eric Johnson, PE, USACE Inland Navigation Design Center, both representing PIANC Incom Working Group 206.

WWW.PIANC.US

PIANC USA WEBINAR

MARCH 25, 2026: PIANC USA hosted the first of four webinars for 2026. This first webinar, "Sustainable Practices for Navigable Waterways" was a great success! Over 150 attendees received free professional development credit from the 1-hour webinar presented by Dr. Burton Seudel (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/burton-suedel-00116028/>), Research Biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center and Dr. Kyle McKay (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kyle-mckay-106a78280/>), Ecological Engineer and Environmental Director, Woolpert Engineering. Drs Seudel and McKay presented existing "engineering with nature" projects as well as how science-based guidance can inform decisions about waterborne infrastructure projects related to sustainable sediment management and technical-biological bank protection. In particular, they shared the three extensive design and implementation guidance documents from PIANC international Working Group 128. These publications include a library of methods, global case studies, and guidance for thinking through the design process. "Working with Nature" is an international initiative of PIANC to promote a proactive, integrated approach to sustainable navigation infrastructure projects. More information may be found at <https://www.pianc.org/working-with-nature/>. The webinar was organized by PIANC USA Commissioner Jeff Lillycrop and hosted by PIANC USA Secretary Dr. William Logan.


Dr. Burton Seudel
U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

Dr. Kyle McKay
Woolpert Engineering

PIANC US WEBINAR—MARCH 25, 2026

Sustainable Practices for Navigable Waterways

Gray	Nature-Based and Green-Gray Solutions			Green
Conventional Engineering	Green Gray	Hybrid	Prompted Recovery	Natural
Project or scheme constructed with little or no ecological consideration	Gray infrastructure that intrinsically incorporates green habitat elements by design or retrofitting	Traditional engineering fronted by a created "natural" feature: e.g., salt marsh in front of sheet piling	Scheme initiated by human input that is then dependent on natural process: e.g., dune restoration, sand motor	Naturally occurring habitat: e.g., mangrove, salt marsh, dunes, shingle, rocky shore
				

ABOUT THE PROMOTION COMMISSION (PROCOM): HERE TO HELP!

The Promotion Commission is a dynamic and creative group of experts who work to spread the word about PIANC and its activities. Responsible for developing and implementing PIANC's communication strategies, ProCom provides guidance for producing publications and promotional materials, for the organisation of events and webinars, as well as for the management of the Association's website and social media channels. Need assistance to organize, design, and promote your PIANC Working Group publication? Contact ProCom at WGSupport@PIANC.org.

PIANC COMMITTEE UPDATES: [HTTPS://WWW.PIANC.ORG/COMMISSIONS-WORKING-GROUPS/](https://www.pianc.org/commissions-working-groups/)

PIANC Young Professionals Commission by Nick Stefani, Principal US Representative:

PIANC YP Commission continues to work with the COPRI Students and Young Professional (SYP) group as there are many overlapping goals. With no major conferences hosted in the USA between the two organizations, the goals of both student groups is to reach out to university students and university programs that have students engaged in coastal, marine, and navigation related industries and would stand to benefit from joining PIANC and COPRI. The PIANC USA YP group will also look to host 1-3 regional events and advance the PIANC USA Regions concept discussed last year.

PIANC Inland Navigation Commission by Jose Sanchez, Principal US Representative;

As the Principal US Representative, I joined the PIANC Inland Navigation Commission (InCom) for our meeting in Brussels on February 3-4, 2026. The gathering started with an insightful technical visit to the new inland waterway control center and a hydroelectric plant in Hasselt. The formal sessions at PIANC HQ covered a wide range of topics, including progress reports from key working groups on inland navigation challenges, innovative construction methods, and the structural re-assessment of existing hydraulic structures. The United States continues to play a significant role, with our delegation actively mentoring working groups on digital twins and structural assessments, and leading discussions on our collaboration with the Mekong River Commission. We also contributed to strategic planning for future work on decarbonization, vessel standardization, and other emerging challenges in inland navigation.

PIANC Promotion Commission by Helen Brohl, Principal US Representative:

PIANC US members are encouraged to explore the PIANC.org website. Catch up on newest PIANC publications (<https://my.pianc.org/#/publications>), upcoming events, and to confirm your contact information or look up other members. ProCom met February 4, 2026 in a hybrid meeting from Brussels. ProCom has established a new subgroup on "External Communications" led by Ms. Cristina Verde. The first meeting will be held on April 8, 2026. It was noted that PIANC US has one of the most active national sections on social media. PIANC HQ is developing a corporate member video for which all national sections will have input.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

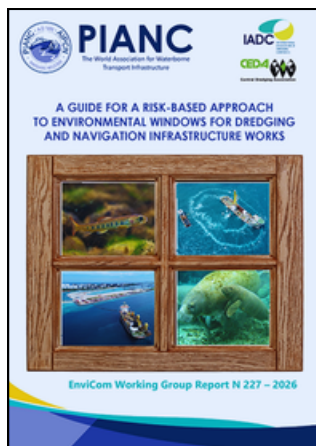
If your company is a Corporate Member, the benefits of membership can be extended to every employee. While up to 10 employees can have logins directly to the PIANC International membership portal, every employee can participate in a Working Group, receive discounted registration for events and conferences, and more. To make sure your team is connected, log in and update employee information in the PIANC membership portal. As always, don't hesitate to contact PIANC@usace.army.mil with questions.

PIANC USA members are the driving force shaping the future of our nation's waterways. In 2026 and beyond, your expertise, curiosity, and collaboration will spark innovation in resilience, sustainability, and navigation. Together, we can elevate navigation.

Dr. William Logan,
PIANC USA Secretary

** RECENT PIANC PUBLICATIONS! **

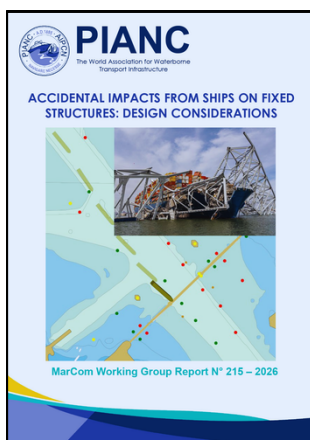
A Guide for a Risk-Based Approach to Environmental Windows for Dredging and Navigation Infrastructure Works, March 2026



This report provides guidance on the use of Source Pathway Receptor (SPR) models and Environmental Risk Management (ERM) to provide a structured, evidence-based process for evaluating risks, engaging stakeholders, and supporting transparent, defensible decisions regarding the application of EWs. The SPR model helps identify how environmental stressors (e.g. dredging operations) may impact receptors of interest (e.g. marine life) through various exposure pathways. Together, they support the tailored application of mitigation measures and the selection of the most appropriate EW type for each project.

<https://www.pianc.org/publication/a-guide-for-a-risk-based-approach-to-environmental-windows-for-dredging-and-navigation-infrastructure-works/>

Accidental Impacts from Ships on Fixed Structures, February 2026



This is a comprehensive guideline for assessing and mitigating vessel allisions with bridges, piers, quay walls, dams, lock approach walls, and other fixed infrastructure across ports and inland waterways.

Recent high-profile allisions have highlighted the need for consistent, evidence-based approaches to protect critical transport assets. WG215 consolidates best practices and aligns with leading international standards to help asset owners, engineers, and regulators design for safety, resilience, and continuity of operations.

<https://www.pianc.org/publication/accidental-impacts-from-ships-on-fixed-structures/>

**Be sure to follow us and share
PIANC USA social media
content!**



**Have PIANC-related content
for the PIANC USA newsletter?
Send us your ideas to
PIANC@usace.army.mil.**

CORPORATE MEMBER SHOWCASE

PIANC USA is honored to count among its members a distinguished list of corporate members that bring extraordinary expertise to PIANC committees, working groups and activities. Moffatt & Nichol has been an active corporate member of PIANC USA since 2007 with individual staff participation for years before.



moffatt & nichol

"From ports to waterways, roadways to shorelines — we deliver solutions that shape global connection and local impact."

In particular, Mr. Bob Engler from Moffatt & Nichol was a long-time and treasured member of PIANC US. Bob was at the forefront of considering the environment and building with nature into coastal engineering and PIANC studies. Today, PIANC US is ably served by Mr. Matthew Martinez, M&N Vice President and PIANC US Commissioner. "Over the last 20 years, PIANC membership has provided a forum for 1) strengthening of the firm's technical expertise, and 2) building international relationships as Moffatt & Nichol migrated from a US-based consulting firm to an international ports engineering and coastal practitioner. Having access to PIANC's library and technical reports that set the standard-of-practice for ports and waterways engineering is invaluable. Likewise, the participation of Moffatt & Nichol technical experts in the various PIANC Working Groups provides opportunities to learn and contribute to the development of state-of-the-art practice."

Moffatt & Nichol notes that resilience remains a significant challenge for many of their clients, who need design solutions capable of withstanding decades of increasingly unpredictable weather, while accommodating larger vessels and rising cargo volumes that continue to strain ageing infrastructure. Beyond physical design solutions, the ports sector is beginning to explore the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital twins.

THANK YOU, Matt & Moffatt & Nichol for sharing your expertise and collegiality with PIANC USA.

CONNECT WITH PIANC USA

