



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

Public Notice

In replying refer to:

Public Notice No. SHREWSBURY RIVER 14

Published: **October 11, 2013** Expires: **November 11, 2013**

SHREWSBURY RIVER, NEW JERSEY FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (amended in 1977 and commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Project (see Figures No. 1 and 2), with subsequent placement of the dredged material at a bayside or ocean beach nourishment site provided by NJDEP.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Project with subsequent placement of the dredged material at a bayside or ocean beach nourishment site provided by the NJDEP.

WATERWAY: Shrewsbury River

LOCATION: Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Project is authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1919. The authorization was modified by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1935, 1950 and 1965.

The existing project provides for:

- a. A channel about 2.2 miles long, 12 feet deep MLW and 300 feet wide, following the westerly shore from deep water in Sandy Hook Bay to approximately the Route 36 bridge. This is connected to:
- b. A channel (South Branch) about 6.8 miles long, 9 feet deep MLW and 150 feet wide, widened at bends, ending at Branchport Ave in Branchport.

- c. A tributary channel (North Branch) is connected to the South Branch channel at Normandie, which extends up the Navesink River approximately 6.1 miles to Red Bank. This channel has a depth of 6 feet MLW and width of 150 feet.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material at a bayside or ocean beach nourishment site provided by the NJDEP will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, economic potential, recreation and aesthetics, water quality, marine resources, ecological systems and/or flood protection.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Comments are used to assess impacts on navigation, water quality, endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, scenic and recreational values, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine the need for a public hearing.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the activity. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

No known archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

Reviews of the activity pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines announced by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps will obtain a water quality certificate (WQC) from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 USC 1456(c)], for activities conducted or supported by a federal agency in a state which has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the CZM program of the State of New Jersey to the maximum extent practicable. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New Jersey, project information is available from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Program, Office of Dredging and

Sediment Technology P.O. Box 028, Trenton New Jersey 08625, telephone (609) 292-1250.

In compliance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1996 amendments), an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment will be prepared and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and comment.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, New Jersey Maritime Resources
- State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact the Project Manager, Joseph Olha at (917) 790-8404. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-4260 ATTN: Mr. Joseph Olha.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Project. The project was last dredged in 2011 with the removal of approximately 38,055 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was subsequently placed near shore on the ocean side of Sandy Hook, NJ. The proposed maintenance dredging is expected to involve the removal of up to approximately 118,000 CY of sand from this project. The dredged material will be used as nourishment at a bayside or ocean beach provided by the NJDEP. The sand from the channels is proposed to be dredged to their respective authorized project depths -12 feet, -9 feet and -6 feet Mean Low Water (MLW) plus 2 feet allowable overdepth. The proposed work is anticipated to occur during summer to fall of 2014.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the effects of shoaling, and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of Shrewsbury River channel by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material.

Maintenance dredging of the project can be accomplished either by clamshell dredge, hydraulic dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Channel was prepared in 1985. Subsequent Environmental Assessment (EA) updating this EIS was prepared in 2009 and then supplemented in 2010 & 2011. The assessments determined that maintenance activities had no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and flood protection.

An update of the EA and a 404 (b) evaluation as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230 will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed at a bayside or ocean beach nourishment site provided by the NJDEP.

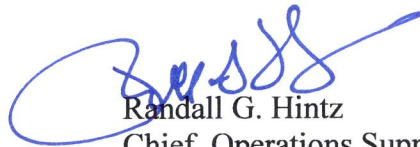
MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of grain size analyses performed in 2006 on samples collected within the project area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (99% sand).

A sampling plan has been coordinated with the NJDEP which will be used to perform a grain size analysis prior to the commencement of construction. It is anticipated that the grain size analysis will yield that the material is suitable for beach placement.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.



Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

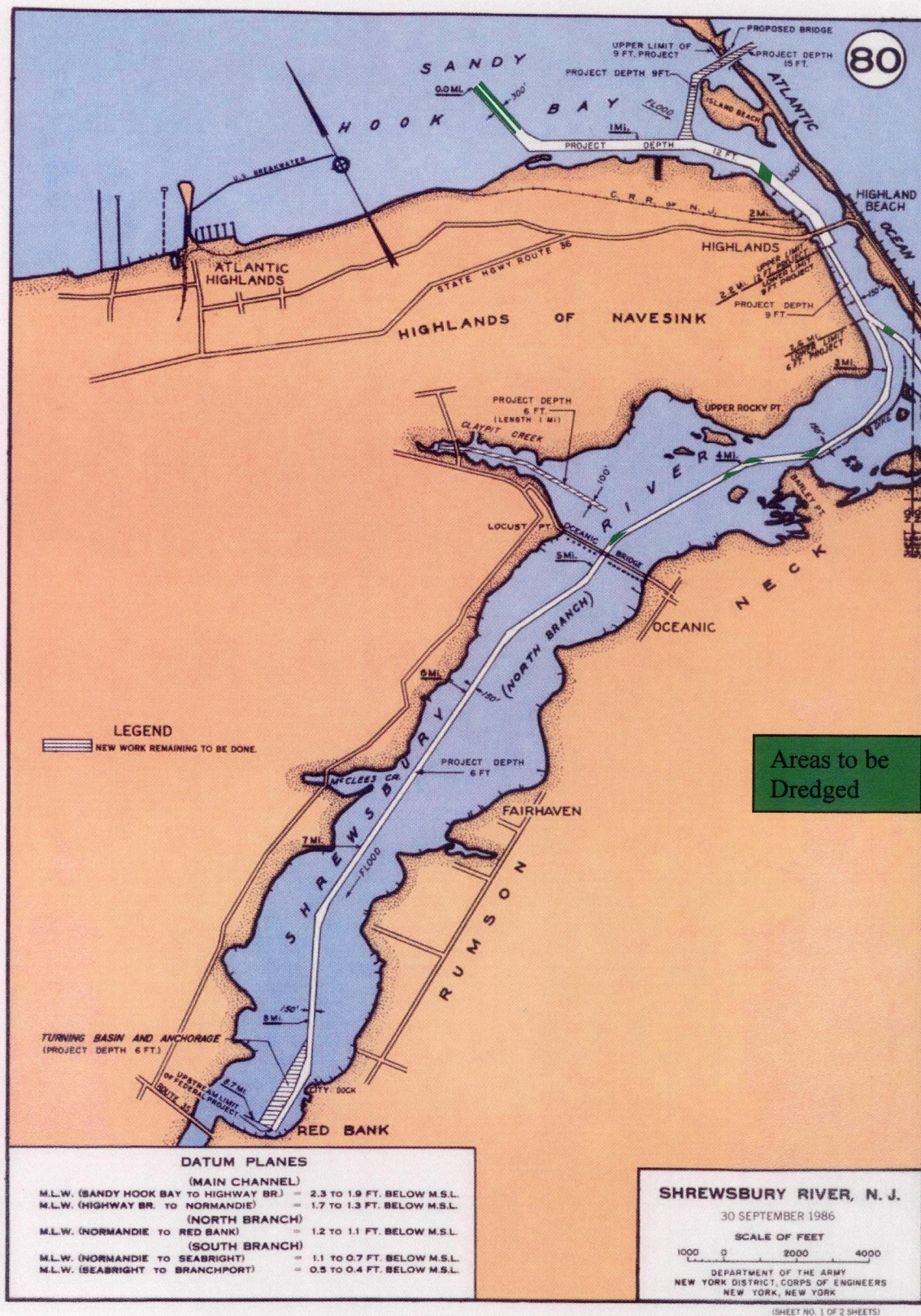


Figure 1: Shrewsbury River North Branch

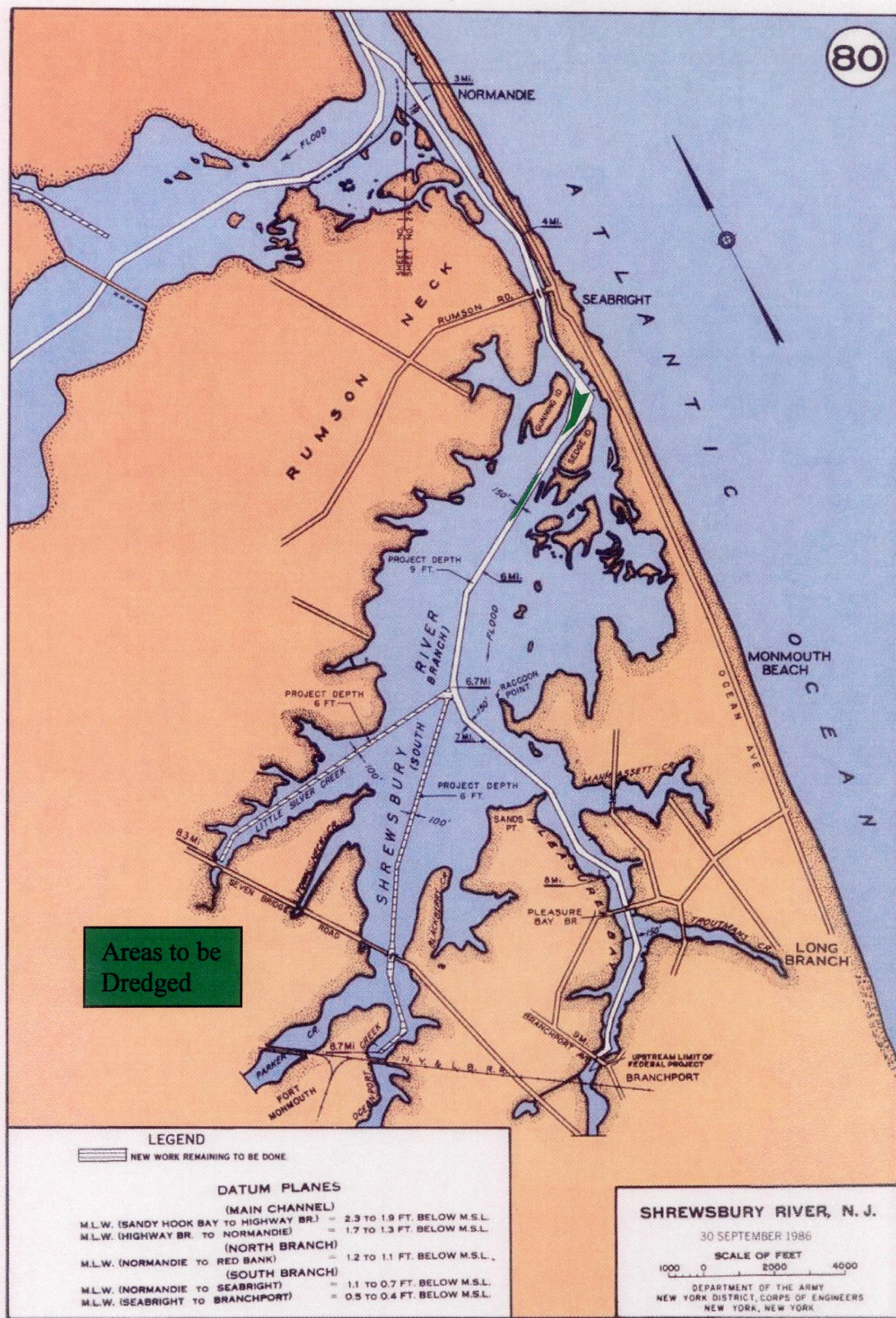


Figure 2: Shrewsbury River South Branch