



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

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

# **Public Notice**

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In replying refer to:  
Public Notice No. FIRE ISLAND TO JONES INLET 03  
Published: April 30, 2003 Expires: May 30, 2003

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## **FIRE ISLAND INLET AND SHORE WESTERLY TO JONES INLET, NEW YORK BEACH EROSION CONTROL AND NAVIGATION PROJECT**

### **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 Fire Island Inlet Federal navigation channel and deposition basin with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beaches west of Fire Island Inlet and possibly on the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP) beach. In addition, a relatively small amount (1.6%) of the dredged material is expected to be stockpiled within the designated placement site at Gilgo Beach, for a shore protection demonstration project, which is authorized under Section 227 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996 (National Shoreline Erosion Control Development and Demonstration Program).

**WATERWAY:** Fire Island Inlet

**LOCATION:** Town of Babylon, Long Island, New York.

The Fire Island Inlet and Shore Westerly to Jones Inlet, New York, Federal Beach Erosion Control and Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 26 August 1937, House Document No. 33, 75th Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, and as modified in the subsequent River and Harbor Acts of 1958 and 1962.

The existing multipurpose project, which provides for combined beach erosion control and navigation improvements is comprised of a navigation channel, a deposition basin, dikes, jetty extension and periodic transfer of littoral drift to the feeder beach. The Fire Island Inlet channel dimensions are 450 feet in width and approximately 1.8 miles in length; the deposition basin is immediately adjacent to the authorized channel (attachment 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on nearby beaches 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 obtained a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in April 1999 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act; this WQC remains in effect through 2009. If required, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will amend the WQC to allow for stockpiling within the designated placement site at Gilgo Beach.

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 must submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New York State Department of State for its consistency with the enforceable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the applicable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination has been provided to the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources. Additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, 41 State Street, Albany, New York 12231, Attention: Consistency Review.

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, Third District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- New York State Parks Commission
- Suffolk County
- Town of Babylon

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact this office at (212) 264-9032 and ask for Mr. William E. Vanterpool. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-1463 ATTN: Mr. William E. Vanterpool.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel and deposition basin in Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredged material as beach nourishment along the feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the Fire Island Inlet and possibly along the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP) beach. The proposed maintenance dredging and beach nourishment would involve the removal of approximately 1,220,000 CY of material. The channel and deposition basin will be dredged to a depth of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth. The channel and deposition basin were last dredged in 2001 with the removal of approximately 1,610,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was placed as beach nourishment along Gilgo Beach and Robert Moses State Park Beach. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to stockpile about 20,000 cubic yards, within the placement site at Gilgo Beach, for the potential use in a demonstration project to evaluate shore protection measures. The demonstration project will be located approximately 1,800 feet east of the Old Coast Guard Station, and extend approximately 2,000 feet in length with a width of approximately 90 feet.

The possibility exists that material from the inlet may be placed along RMSP beach as a measure of shore protection to replenish the beach and provide a level of protection for State-owned structures. This action would be identical to the last maintenance cycle which included the placement of approximately 165,000 cubic yards of material along the most severely eroded area of RMSP beach. Placement of sand on the RMSP beach is contingent on availability of the State of New York funding.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the affects of shoaling and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Fire Island Inlet by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material. Between maintenance operations the bypassed sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down drift beaches. The maintenance operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches and protects Ocean Parkway, while maintaining a safe channel for navigation.

Maintenance dredging of the channel and deposition basin at Fire Island Inlet will be accomplished by pipeline dredge, hopper 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.

No work will occur during the environmental windows for roseate tern and piping plovers (April 1 to September 15). However, work will commence before the end of the environmental window for sea beach amaranth (May 1 to November 1) but appropriate environmental measures will be in place to ensure that the proposed action does not adversely affect the species.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in July 1987. Updates to this EA were prepared by the New York District in January 1993, August 1999 and October 2001. The EA indicates that dredging of Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredge material as nourishment along a feeder beach located west or east of the inlet would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

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.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will be prepared at a later date providing specific details regarding the proposed demonstration project. Please contact Mr. Clifford S. Jones, Program Manager, if you wish to receive the NEPA document. Mr. Jones can be reached at (212) 264-2055.

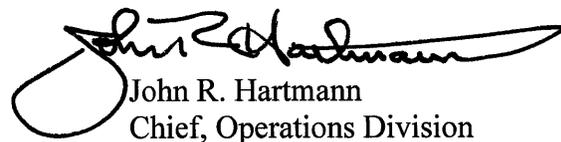
#### **PLACEMENT SITE:**

The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed along the feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the inlet and possibly along RMSP Beach east of the inlet, of which both sites are located in the Town of Babylon, Long Island, New York (attachments 2 & 3). The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site.

#### **MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:**

Results of grain size analyses performed on samples collected within the project area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged material would be physically compatible for beach placement.

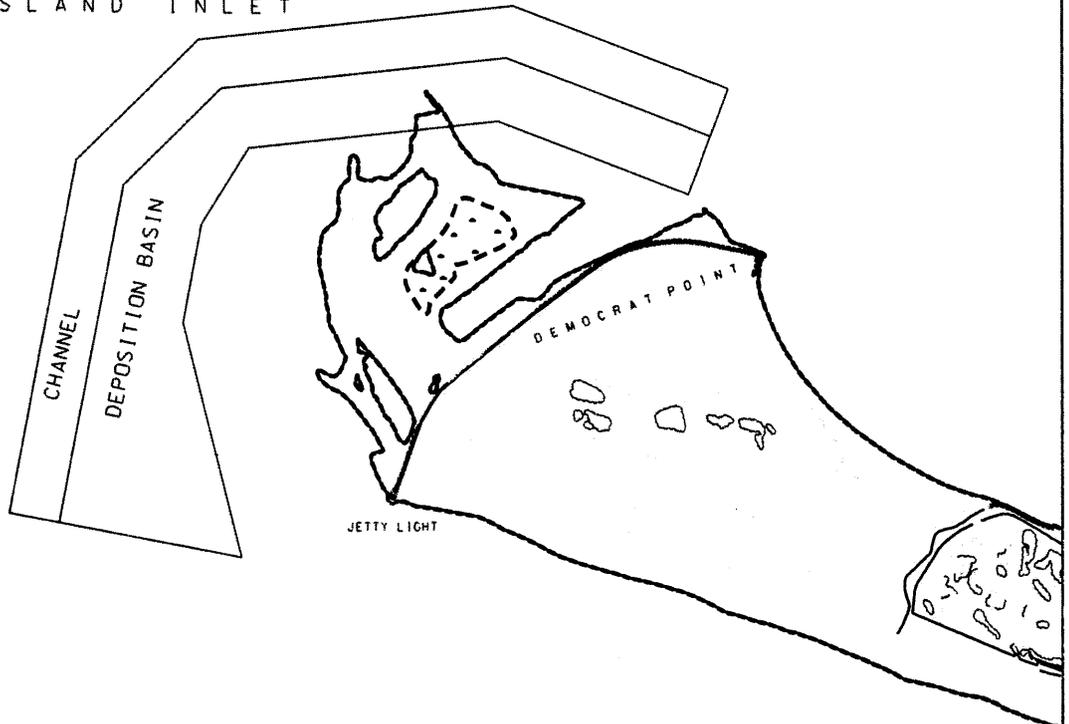
It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

  
John R. Hartmann  
Chief, Operations Division

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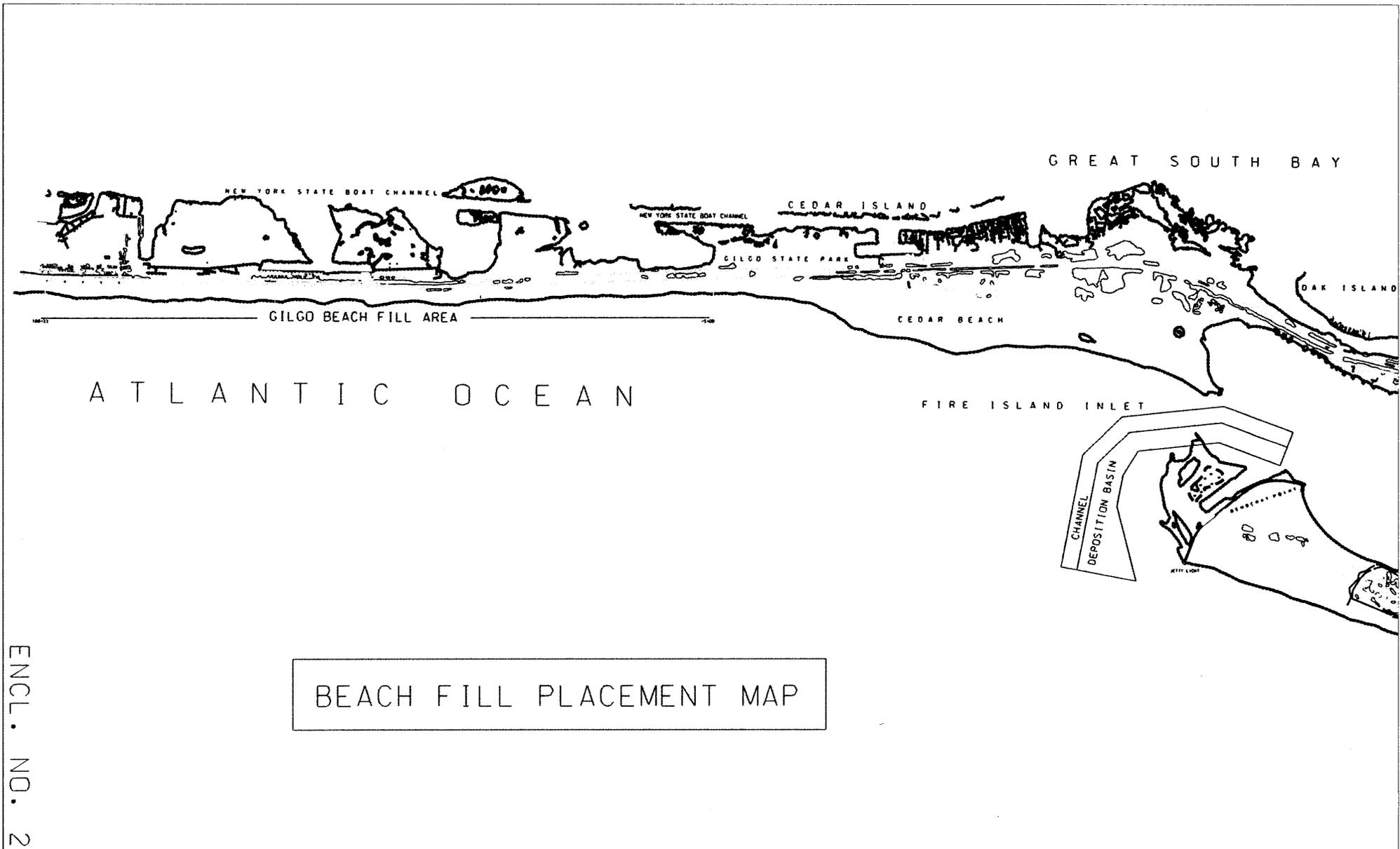


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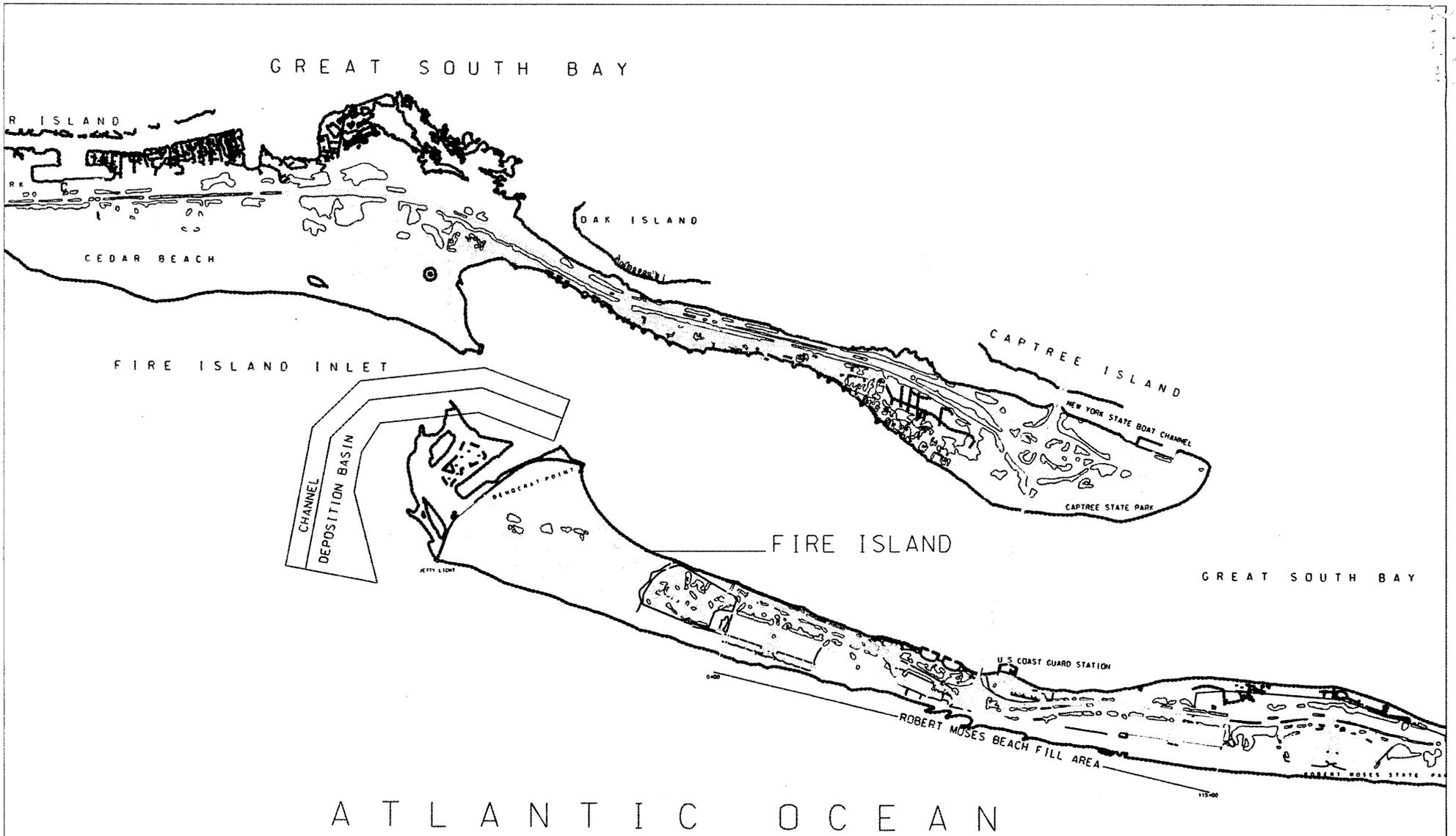


PROJECT MAP: FIRE ISLAND INLET

ENCL. NO. 1



ENCL. NO. 2



BEACH FILL PLACEMENT MAP

ENCL. NO. 3