



**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. MORICHES INLET 02  
Published: March 8, 2002 Expires: April 7, 2002

---

## **MORICHES INLET, NEW YORK 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 Moriches Inlet federal navigation project (see Figure No. 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beach west of the west jetty.

**ACTIVITY:** Maintenance dredging of Moriches Inlet federal navigation project with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beach west of the west jetty.

**WATERWAY:** Moriches Inlet

**LOCATION:** Moriches, New York.

The Moriches Inlet Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960 and the 1985 Supplemental Appropriation Act.

The existing navigation project at Moriches Inlet provides for: a 10 ft. deep, 200 ft. wide entrance channel having 3,000 ft. long deposition basins, 14 ft. deep, 300 ft. wide extending from that depth in the Atlantic Ocean to Moriches Bay, and a 6 ft. deep, 100 ft. wide channel to the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway, rehabilitation of the existing jetties and revetment and seaward extension of both the east and west jetties. The length of the outer entrance channel is approximately 0.8 miles (Figure 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine that 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 1995 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which expired in 2000. A new Water Quality Certificate will be requested.

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 State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps will request the State's [agreement](#) with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New York, project information is available from the [Coastal Zone Management Program, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, 41 State Street, Albany New York 12231](#), telephone (518) 474-3399.

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 the Interior, National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact this office at (212) 264-9030 and ask for Mr. Stan Michalowski. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-4260 ATTN: Mr. Stan Michalowski.

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

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Moriches Inlet Federal Navigation Project. This channel was last dredged in 1998 with the removal of 187,000 cubic yards (CY) of sediment. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 150,000 CY of material, based on a condition survey performed in April 2001.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of Moriches Inlet by maritime interests.

Maintenance dredging of the Moriches Inlet Federal navigation project 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 terns and piping plovers (April 1 to September 15).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in 1987. An Environmental Assessment (EA) updating this EIS was prepared by the New York in 1998. It was determined that maintenance dredging of the Moriches Inlet Federal Navigation Project, with placement of the dredged material on beach west of the inlet has no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, fish, 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:**

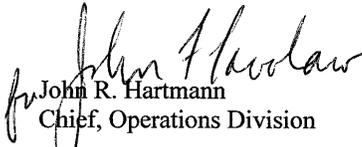
The dredged material from this project is to be placed on the beach west of the west jetty. The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site, as shown on the attached map (Figure 1).

**MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:**

Results of previously performed grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material indicate that it is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand).

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/>.

  
John R. Hartmann  
Chief, Operations Division

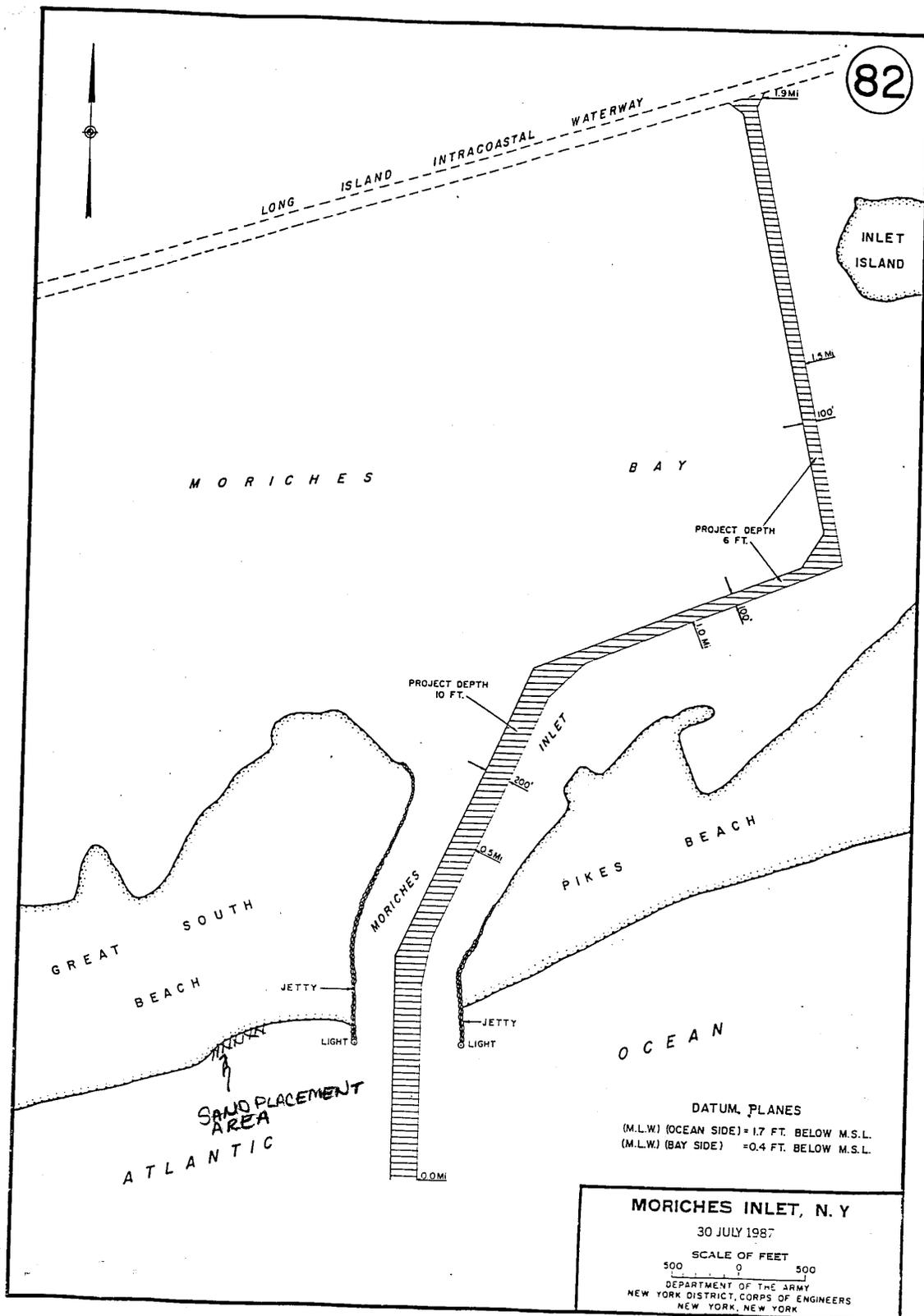


FIGURE 1