



**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 0607
Published: **May 11, 2006** Expires: **June 10, 2006**

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 Figure 1 and Figure 2).

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 on upland sites and/or 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 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, Third 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, proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the portions of Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Channel. Based on the condition survey performed in June 2005, the approximate volume of shoaling in the entire project is 200,000 cubic yards (including 2 ft allowable overdepth.) A portion of the project or the entire project may be dredged, from October to the end of December, 2006, depending on the amount of funding, the availability of placement sites, and the quality of the sediment. The dredged material will be placed upland or used as beach nourishment, depending on its suitability. Based on the grain size analysis performed for previous maintenance cycles, dredging of approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sand may be suitable for beach placement. The remaining approximately 80,000 cubic yards may be placed on the upland, depending on the availability of placement sites and availability of funds. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.

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.

No work will occur during the environmental windows for winter flounder and anadromous fish (January 1 to May 31). The New York District continues to coordinate

this project with NMFS, the USFWS, and the NJDEP with regard to environmental compliance issues.

Maintenance dredging of the entire Shrewsbury River project in 1990 removed 375,000 cubic yards of sediment which was placed at the Mud Dump Site in the Atlantic Ocean. Maintenance dredging was performed in the Navesink (North Branch) portion of the project in 1997 when approximately 38,500 cubic yards of material was removed and sold for construction backfill outside the State. The currently proposed maintenance dredging could involve the removal of all or a portion of the 200,000 CY of material, based on a condition survey of June 2005.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in November 1985. Environmental Assessment (EA) updating this EIS was prepared by the New York in December 1995. It was determined that maintenance dredging of the Shrewsbury River Federal Navigation Project, with placement of the dredged material on the nearby beaches 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:

Depending on the characterization of the dredged material from this project, it is proposed to be placed on upland site(s) and/or beneficially used as beach nourishment on a local beach (Figure 1). This office will coordinate possible placement sites with the Borough of Rumson and with State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

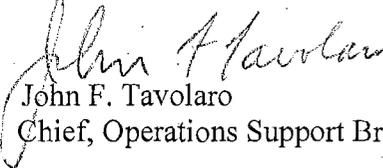
Sampling and testing for the proposed dredged material is in progress. According to the available data from past dredging cycles the grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material in the Shrewsbury River and South Branch portion respectively are:

98.36% GRAVEL and SAND, 1.64% SILT & CLAY;

In the North Branch portion are:

91.65% GRAVEL and SAND, 8.35% SILT & CLAY;

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 F. Tavoraro
Chief, Operations Support Branch

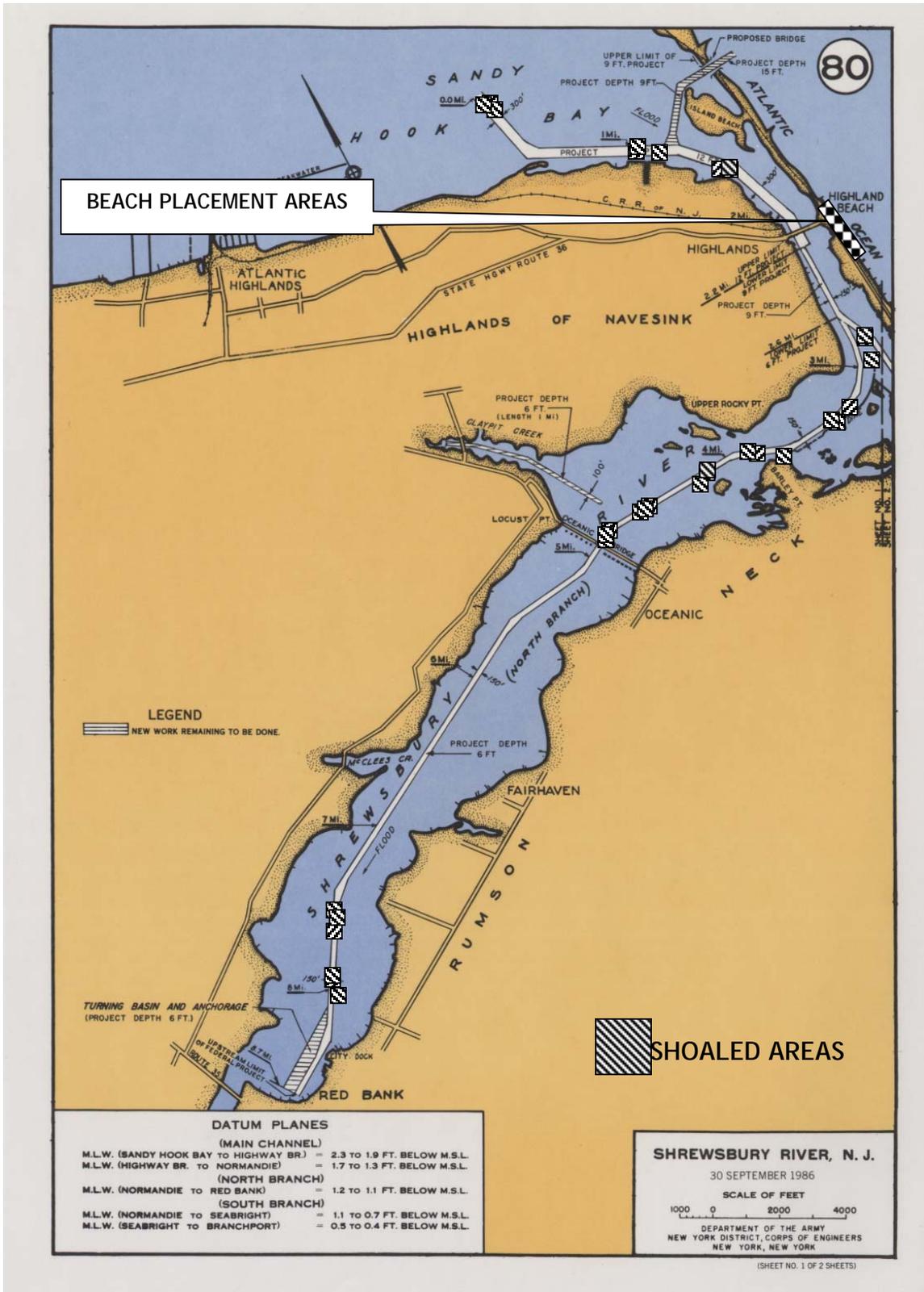


Figure 1

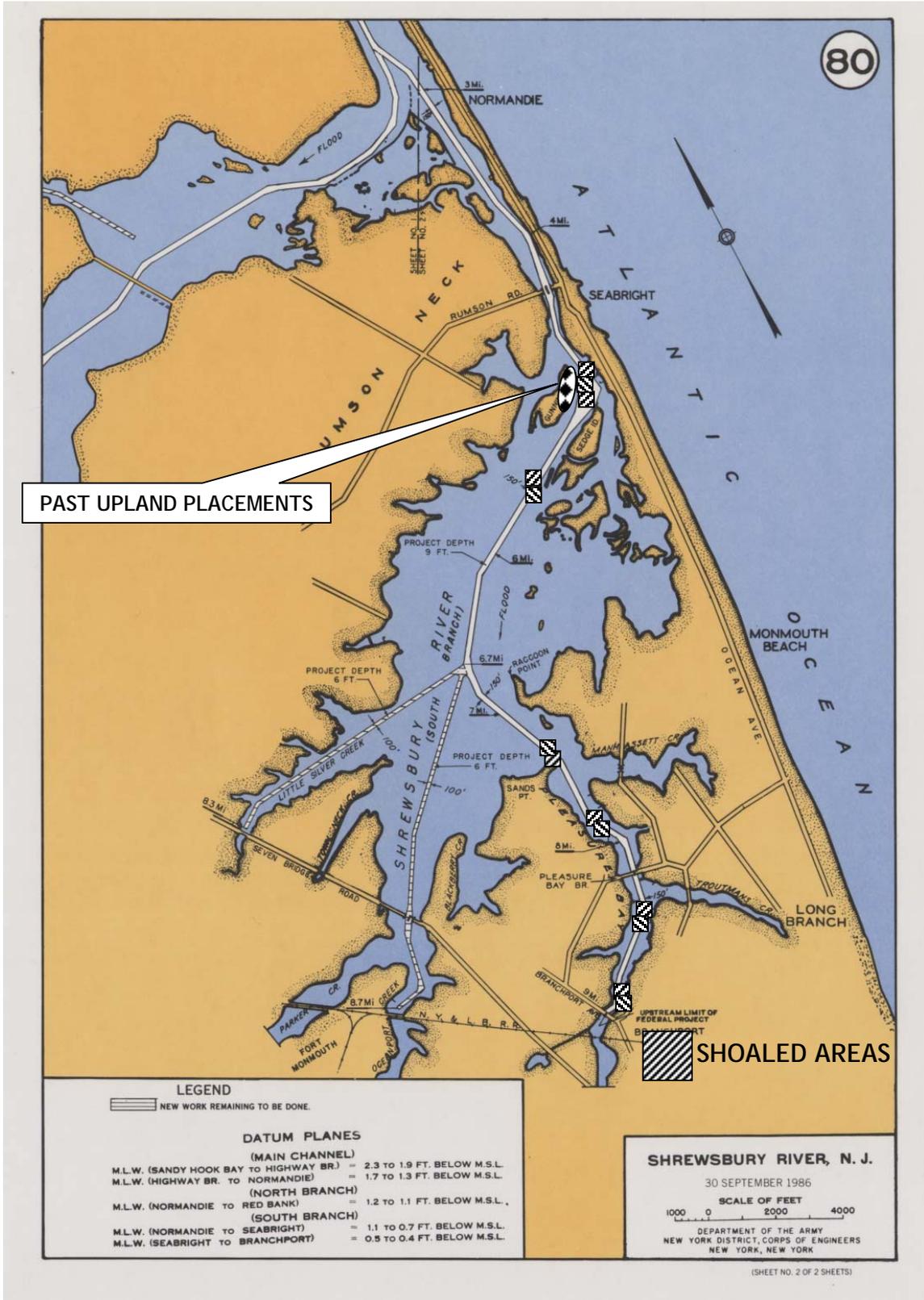


Figure 2