



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

# Long Island Intracoastal Waterway, NY

## Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance and Stewardship

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**FACT SHEET**

**DECEMBER 2008**

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**DESCRIPTION:** Perform grain size sampling and analysis for future possible maintenance dredging. Evaluate dredging needs and coordinate disposal site availability with local sponsors, including with the South Shore Estuary Reserve.

**AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Rivers and Harbors Act of August 26, 1937 authorized the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Federal Navigation Project. The existing project provides for a navigation channel 6 feet deep, 100 feet wide from the Federally improved channel in Great South Bay, opposite Patchogue, to the south end of Shinnecock Canal. The lengthy 33.6 mile project traverses the inland waters through the Great South Bay, the Bellport Bay, the Narrow Bay, the Moriches Bay, the Quantuck Bay and the Shinnecock Bay.

**STATUS:** Three USCG Stations utilize this waterway for search and rescue missions. Many commercial and recreational boaters use this sheltered route along the Atlantic Ocean between three of the south shore inlets as a sheltered route parallel to the Ocean coast line. Segments of channel are impassable.

Maintenance of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway was last performed November 2003 through January 2004. The total volume of dredge material removed from of the Shinnecock Bay Reach in FY2004 was 26,085 cubic yards. Prior to that, the Moriches Bay reach was dredged in FY 2003 with the removal of 53,000 CY with placement of dredged material on East Inlet Island.

The East Inlet Island, which was used as a dredged material placement site in FY 2003, was recently tilled to eliminate areas of hard-packed mud and was then planted with native grassland species. The purpose of this project is to restore and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered shorebirds. The remediation was completed on October, 2006.

The need for future maintenance dredging will be evaluated in the Bellport Bay or Moriches Bay reach of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Federal Channel, depending upon greater need. The historical cost for dredging up to 50,000 CY of material with nearby placement is approximately \$1,000,000. A review of potential placement sites will occur with the local sponsor. A full survey was recently completed and is placed on our web page (see address below).

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