

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (the District) plans to evaluate the permitting of two new borrow areas off of the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey. The use of the current Sea Bright Offshore Borrow Area currently does not contain enough material suitable for placement on the beach to meet the needs of future renourishment cycles. Over time the dredge extracted the suitable medium and coarse sand which has now left gravels and larger grain sizes remaining.

The material from these new borrow areas would be used for the Sea Bright to Manasquan reach of the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey Beach Nourishment project and potentially other renourishment activities in the future. The borrow areas were selected from a model that used 321 cores collected between the 1960s and 2016 combined with a sediment compatibility analysis. The results of this analysis identified four possible borrow areas, Belmar 8, Belmar, 9, Belmar 10, and BOEM 2016. From the areas selected, areas labeled as “Prime Fishing Areas of New Jersey” were removed from analysis to minimize impacts to commercial and recreational resources. This project is being coordinated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We will be utilizing data provided by BOEM and NMFS, conducting outreach with the fishing community in order to identify resources and areas of importance and minimize impacts.

The borrow area BOEM 2016 may be under consideration from the Philadelphia District and thus was removed from consideration. With removal of the Prime Fishing Areas of New Jerseys, the two borrow areas with the largest amount of sand available were Belmar 9 and Belmar 10. These two areas are under consideration for permitting and further evaluation.

To date, the District has collected one year of biological sampling, with plans to conduct an additional year for comparison, and has completed cultural resource investigations of the study area.

The District, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment and initiated informal coordination with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and New Jersey Fisheries. The current schedule for the Final Environmental Assessment to be complete is September 21, 2023. All other inquiries and comments regarding the completion of the Final Environmental Assessment should be submitted to Ms. Katherine Pijanowski at [Katherine.Pijanowski@usace.army.mil](mailto:Katherine.Pijanowski@usace.army.mil).

The District, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470), as amended and it’s implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), and in consultation with BOEM and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, is preparing to execute an update to the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the entirety of the authorized [New York District Website > Missions > Civil Works > Projects in New Jersey > Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet \(army.mil\)](#). The District has made the draft PA available on its project website:

[New York District Website > Missions > Civil Works > Projects in New Jersey > Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet \(army.mil\)](#)

The District is accepting public comments on the PA for a period of 30 days. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Ryan Clark at [Ryan.N.Clark@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ryan.N.Clark@usace.army.mil).