



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

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# **NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY HARBOR DEEPENING CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS**

## **NAVIGATION STUDY**

### **DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

#### **APPENDIX A7: Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act**

## **1. Introduction**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 661-665, 665a, 666, 666a-666c) requires governmental agencies, including the USACE, to coordinate activities so that adverse effects on fish and wildlife would be minimized when water bodies are proposed for modification. The USACE has initiated coordination with the USFWS (see Attachment 1), and the results of this coordination are pending.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT  
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0090

September 29, 2020

Environmental Analysis Branch

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Field Supervisor  
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Field Supervisor  
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New York Field Office  
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Dear Mr. Schrading and Mr. Stilwell:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District) is presently conducting the New York New Jersey Harbor Deepening Improvement (HDCI) Study. As part of the planning process, the District in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will be completing an Integrated Feasibility Study/Environmental Assessment. The project is identifying and evaluating navigation improvements required in the existing federal navigation channels, including Ambrose and Anchorage Channels, and surrounding areas. These improvements are required to accommodate larger ships arriving in NYNJ Harbor, such as the *Malaccamax design vessel*. The tentatively selected plan consists of one (1) meeting/passing efficiency zone, eight (8) channel widening features, and channel deepening up to -55 feet MLLW to New Jersey port terminals (Port Jersey Port Authority Marine Terminal and Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminal, and Port Newark, NJ).

As part of this coordination, the District is contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to request a Planning Aid Letter (PAL) as an update to the original Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (FWCAR) dated December 16, 1999 on the original New York New Jersey 50-foot Harbor Deepening Project (HDP) pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA of 1958, as amended (87 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) to ensure that there is equal consideration for fish and wildlife resources during the planning of the Corps proposed project. The HDCI Study is taking place under the same authorization and within the same physical footprint of the HDP. Please find attached a draft Scope of Work for more information.

In the past, the New Jersey Field Office led the coordination for the HDP FWCAR as well as for the Hudson Raritan Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study coordination.

In addition, all potential impacts (i.e. littoral habitat) associated with the HDCI construction are located in the state of New Jersey. For these reasons, the District anticipates that the ESA and PAL coordination for HDCI would be led by the New Jersey Field Office with assistance, as needed, provided by the New York Field Office.

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Jesse Miller, Project Biologist at (917) 790-8604. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Wepler  
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Attachments