



**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. FIRE ISLAND TO JONES INLET FY23
Published: February 7, 2023
Expires: March 8, 2023

FIRE ISLAND INLET AND SHORES WESTERLY TO JONES INLET, NEW YORK BEACH EROSION CONTROL AND NAVIGATION PROJECT

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 Fire Island Inlet Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the designated feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the inlet.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance Dredging of Fire Inlet Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin, with placement of approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged sand along the shoreline of Gilgo Beach.

WATERWAY: Fire Island Inlet

LOCATION: South Shore of Long Island, between Fire Island and Jones Beach Island, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York

The Fire Island Inlet and Shores Westerly to Jones Inlet, New York Beach Erosion Control and Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 26 August 1937, House Document No. 33, 75th Congress, 1st session, and as modified in subsequent River and Harbor Act of 1958 and 1962.

The existing multipurpose project, which provides for combined beach erosion control and navigation improvements is comprised of a navigation channel, a deposition basin, dikes, jetty extension and periodic transfer of littoral drift to the feeder beach. The Fire Island Inlet channel dimensions are 450 feet in width, 14 feet in depth and approximately 1.8 miles in length; the deposition basin is immediately adjacent to the authorized channel (Figure 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material (sand) on the feeder beach (Gilgo) 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 EMAILED TO REACH THE PROJECT MANAGER, MR. EDWARD WROCENSKI, AT Edward.Wrocenski@usace.army.mil 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 (sand) 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 request a modification to the current water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation prior to the implementation of the proposed work 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 must submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the Department of State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New York State Department of State for its consistency with enforceable policies of the New York State CZM program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the application policies of the New York State CZM program. A copy of this determination will be provided to the New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government, and Community Sustainability. Additional information

regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government, and Community Sustainability, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010, Albany, NY 11231.

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.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) the proposed maintenance dredging will consult with NMFS concerning the dredging activities and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning the beach placement activities.

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, First District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- Town of Babylon

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin in Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredged material as beach nourishment along the feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the Fire Island Inlet. The channel was last dredged in 2018, with the removal of approximately 1,846,461 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was used in a beneficial manner as beach erosion control and hurricane protection placed along Gilgo Beach. The proposed maintenance dredging and beach nourishment would involve the removal of approximately 1,000,000 CY of sand, which would be used in a beneficial manner as beach erosion control and hurricane protection placed along the feeder beach (Gilgo).

The channel and deposition basin will be dredged to a depth of 14 feet below mean lower low water (MLLW) plus 2 feet allowable over depth (see Figure 1). The proposed dredging for this cycle is anticipated to occur in the fall/winter of the dredging year, subject to the availability of funds.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the affects of shoaling and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby providing safe and economical use of the Fire Island Inlet by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material. Between maintenance operations, the physically bypassed

sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down drift beaches. This maintenance operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches and protect Ocean Parkway, while also restoring a safe channel for navigation.

Maintenance dredging of the channel and deposition basin at Fire Island Inlet is usually accomplished by pipeline dredge (cutterhead). The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in June 1987. Updated to this EA were prepared by the New York District in January 1993, August 1999, October 2001, December 2003, August 2006, July 2013 and August 2018. It was determined that dredging of Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredged material as nourishment along a feeder beach located west of the inlet would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

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 (sand) from this project is proposed to be placed along the feeder beach (Gilgo), which is west of the inlet. The placement site is located in the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York (see Figure 2). The dredged material will be transported by pipeline and deposited at the designated site.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of previous grain size analysis performed on samples collected within the project area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged material would be suitable for beach placement.

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>.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Edward Wrocenski, Project Manager, at (917) 790-8636 or email at Edward.Wrocenski@usace.army.mil.

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Acting Chief, Operations Support Branch



Figure 1: Fire Island Inlet; approximate location of area to be dredged



Figure 2: Fire Island Inlet placement location along Gilgo Beach, NY