



**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: SHOAL HARBOR AND COMPTON CREEK, NJ

Published: 28 April 2022

Expires: 28 May 2022

SHOAL HARBOR AND COMPTON CREEK, NJ 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 Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, New Jersey, Federal Navigation Project with subsequent placement of the dredged material at the adjacent beach located at the Bayshore Waterfront Park for beach renourishment, and at the Belford N-61 Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) (see Figure 1).

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, New Jersey, Federal Navigation Project with placement of dredged material at the Bayshore Waterfront Park and at the Belford N-61 CDF

WATERWAY: Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, NJ

LOCATION: Belford, New Jersey.

The Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek was authorized by the River and Harbors act of 1935 and modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1950 and 1965.

The proposed activity is the dredging of critical shoal areas located in two segments; from deep water in lower New York Harbor to approximately the jetty to a project depth of 12 feet plus 2 feet over-depth below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW); and from the jetty to Main Street in Belford to a project depth of 8 feet plus 2 feet over-depth below MLLW. A total of approximately 150,000 cubic yards of material will be removed. A detailed description of the proposed activities is enclosed to assist in your review.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material 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.

DUE TO CURRENT LOCAL CONDITIONS, AND TO ENSURE ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY ARE RECEIVED, ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO 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 dredging and/or 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 way 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, pre-historical 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 or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to commencement of any work.

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 Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) program, the Corps submits a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State FCD program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its consistency with the enforceable policies of the New Jersey State Coastal Management Program. The Corps has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable and within the applicable policies of the New Jersey State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination will be provided to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting the State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal Regulation, CN 401, 501 East State Street, Second Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0401, Attention: Consistency Review.

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 Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, New Jersey, Federal Navigation Project. The channel was last dredged 2014 with the removal of approximately 118,270 CY of material to the authorized project depths of 12 feet below MLLW and 8 feet below MLLW. The dredged material was placed at a State approved upland location, the Belford N-61 Confined Disposal Facility (CDF).

The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 150,000 CY of material to a project depth of -12 feet plus two (2) feet over-depth MLLW and -8 feet plus two (2) feet over-depth MLLW, subject to availability of funds. The dredged material will be subsequently placed at the Bayshore Waterfront Park for beach renourishment, and at the Belford N-61 CDF. Maintenance dredging of the Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek will be accomplished by a small cutterhead dredge. The entire channel will not require maintenance dredging, only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

In addition, the New York District proposes to perform rehabilitation work on the CDF by raising the dike elevation to accommodate the anticipated volume of suitable material.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the effects of shoaling, thereby assuring safe navigation and facilitating economical use of the Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material.

This public notice serves to announce the government's intent and identifies the proposed location for placement of approximately 150,000 CY of material. The rehabilitation work on the placement site is anticipated to occur in the fall/winter of 2022. The dredging and placement for this project is anticipated to occur in the summer/fall/winter of 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District in 1996, which updated the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared in April 1977 for maintenance dredging of the Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, New Jersey. An EA updating the EIS was prepared by the New York District for a similar maintenance dredging project in 2014. The 2014 EA concluded that the dredging with the placement of the dredged material at the CDF had no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection. This proposed maintenance activity is consistent with the action described in the previous EA.

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 from Dredging Area '1' is proposed to be placed at the adjacent beach located at the Bayshore Waterfront Park for beach renourishment. The dredged material will be pumped by pipeline and deposited at the designated site.

The dredged material from Dredging Area '2' is proposed to be placed at the State approved upland site, the Belford N-61 Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). Rehabilitation work on the CDF by raising the dike elevation is proposed to accommodate the anticipated volume of suitable material.

The dredged material will be required to meet all federal, state and local criteria required by the government agencies having jurisdiction where the placement site is located. All necessary permits required for the dredged material placement will be provided to the Government.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Grain size analyses performed on samples were taken from the shoals in the channel in 2014. Results indicate that the proposed dredge material in Dredging Area '1' is composed of 79.9% of sand/gravel. The proposed dredge material in Dredging Area '2' is characterized as 27.4% sand/gravel, 42.9% silt, and 29.7% clay. Samples in 2014 were taken to a depth of authorized depths 12 feet and 8 feet, plus two feet allowable over-depth.

For more information on the New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>

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.

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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Chief, Operations Support Branch

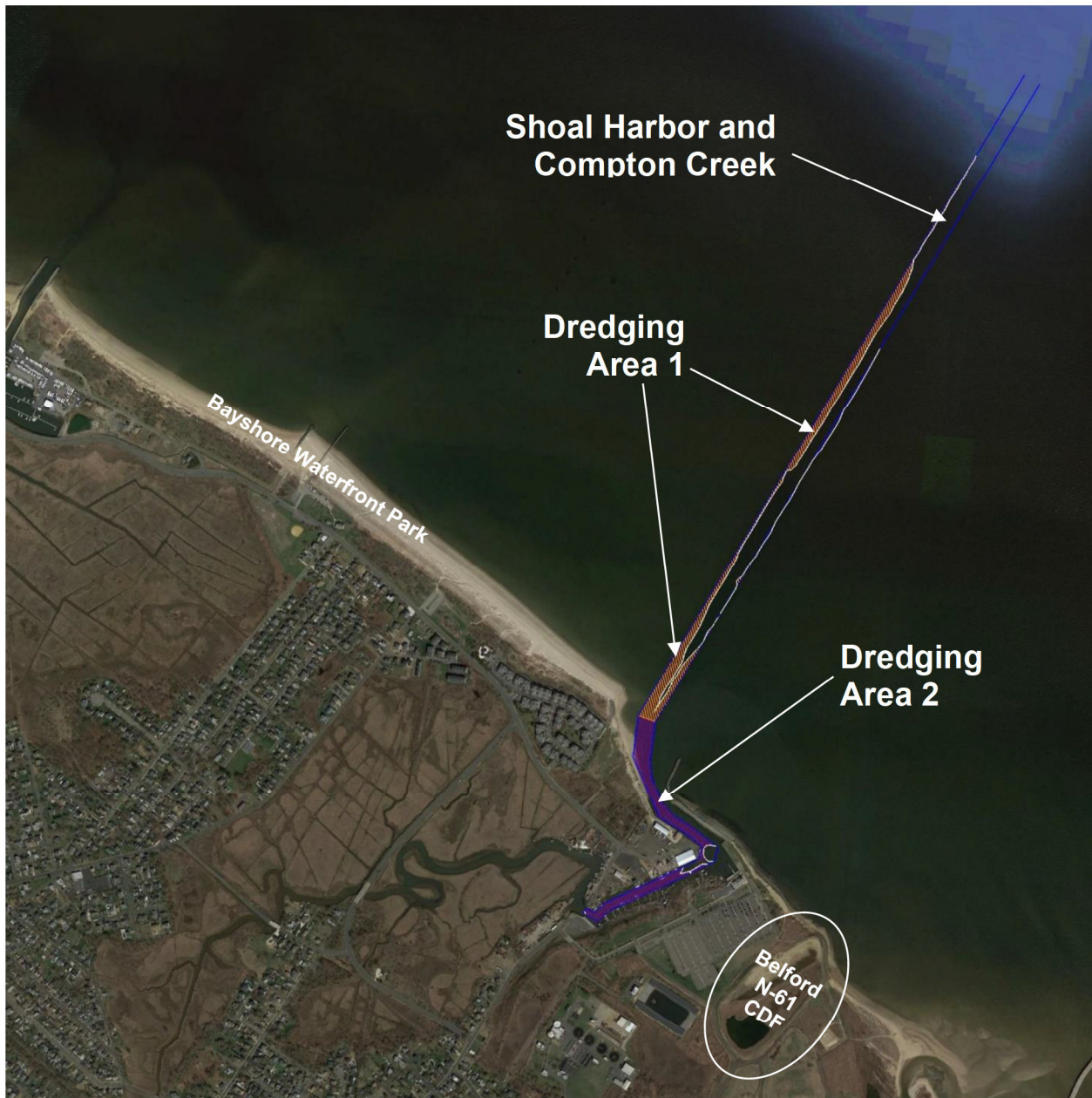


Figure 1: Proposed Dredging Area in Shoal Harbor and Compton Creek, NJ