



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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June 18, 2014

Colonel Paul E. Owen  
District Engineer, New York District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Bldg.  
26 Federal Plaza, Rm. 2131  
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Owen:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) submits the enclosed final document entitled, “Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act 2 (b) Report, Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Stabilization Project”. This document incorporates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District Planning Division’s (Corps) comments, e-mailed on June 12, 2014, on the Service’s June 2014 draft document submitted via e-mail on June 4, 2014. A summary of the Service’s draft language on pertinent topics, the Corps’ comments, and Service responses are listed as follows:

1) Service’s draft document: *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* – The Corps has failed to address the cumulative effects on several Corps activities proposed/authorized within the project area. Additionally, the development of this project disregards a previous President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) finding regarding segmentation of the authorized Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point Reformulation Project (FIMP).

**Corps’ Comment:** The discussion on NEPA procedures and segmentation should be deleted from the document. The Fire Island Hurricane Sandy Limited Re-Evaluation Report (HSLRR) evaluated a plan that is a one-time action, beachfill recommendation that would not negate consideration of any of the alternatives under consideration for FIMP. The No Action FIMP alternative would be achieved post-stabilization as there is not any renourishment as part of the recommended alternative. The overall FIMP General Re-evaluation Report/Environmental Impact Statement will assess the entire Project Area and all elements of its implementation. As dictated by the NEPA, the Environmental Assessment (EA) that was prepared for the Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet, Fire Island Stabilization Report (FIMI) has concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that the selected alternative will not have a significant impact on the human environment.

**Service’s Response:** The Corps has completed its NEPA assessment for this project. As such, this topic has been removed from the Service’s final document.

