



**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. SHARK RIVER FY013/14

Published: October 11, 2013 Expires: November 11, 2013

SHARK RIVER, NEW JERSEY 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 (33U.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 Shark River Federal Navigation Project (see Figure 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the nearby beach north of the north jetty at the town of Avon by the Sea, New Jersey.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Shark River federal navigation project with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beach north of the north jetty at the town of Avon by the Sea, Monmouth County, NJ.

WATERWAY: Shark River

LOCATION: Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The Federal Navigation project for Shark River was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945.

The existing project provides for a channel 18 feet deep at mean low water and 150 feet wide, across the bar at the entrance to the inlet; thence 12 feet deep and generally 100 feet wide through the Main and South Channels to the Route 35 Bridge; thence 8 feet deep and 100 feet wide to the upper limit of the Belmar Municipal Boat Basin. The total length of the project is approximately 1.7 miles, including the 12 foot deep, 7.3 acre anchorage area immediately east of the Route 71 Bridge.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on nearby beach 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 MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE 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 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 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 obtain a water quality certificate (WQC) from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 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 CZM program of the State of New Jersey to the maximum extent practicable. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New Jersey, project information is available from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Program, Office of Dredging and Sediment Technology P.O. Box 028, Trenton New Jersey 08625, telephone (609) 292-1250.

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:

- Environmental Protection Agency

- Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- Coast Guard, Third District
- State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Ed Wrocenski, Project Manager at (917) 790-8636. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (917) 264-4260 ATTN: Mr. Ed Wrocenski or emailed to Edward.Wrocenski@usace.army.mil.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shark River Federal Navigation channel from the lower limit of the 12' project as shown on the map to the upper limit of the 8' project near Belmar Municipal Boat Basin at Mile 1.7. This portion of the channel was last dredged in 2003 with removal of 20,060 cubic yards (CY) of sediment from the entrance to the Route 35 Bridge with placement on the beach and surf zone at Avon by the Sea. Prior to 2003, the 8' and 12' project was dredged in 1996 when 56,000 CY of sediments were dredged and placed on the beach at Avon by the Sea. Emergency advance maintenance dredging work in the channel entrance east of the Ocean Avenue Bridge has been performed by Government dredge on a yearly basis starting from 2003. The proposed project would involve dredging the entire channel with the exception of the channel entrance east of the Ocean Avenue Bridge, with the removal of approximately 133,000 CY of sand, based on a condition survey dated 20 March 2013.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of Shark River by boating interests.

Maintenance dredging of the Shark River Federal navigation project will be accomplished by pipeline dredge or similar plant. 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 Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in November 1973. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York District in 1996 and 2003 and it was determined that maintenance dredging of the Shark River Federal Navigation Project, with placement of the dredged material on the nearby beaches has no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection.

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 this project is proposed to be placed on the nearby beach north from the north jetty, at the town of Avon by the Sea, New Jersey (Figure 1). This office is in the process of coordinating with the town of Avon by the Sea to utilize said beach as the dredged material placement area for the proposed maintenance operation.

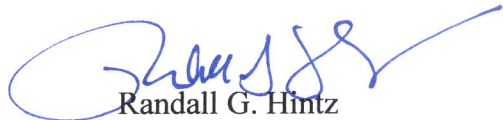
MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

The grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material are:

92% GRAVEL and SAND, 8% SILT & CLAY

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>.



Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

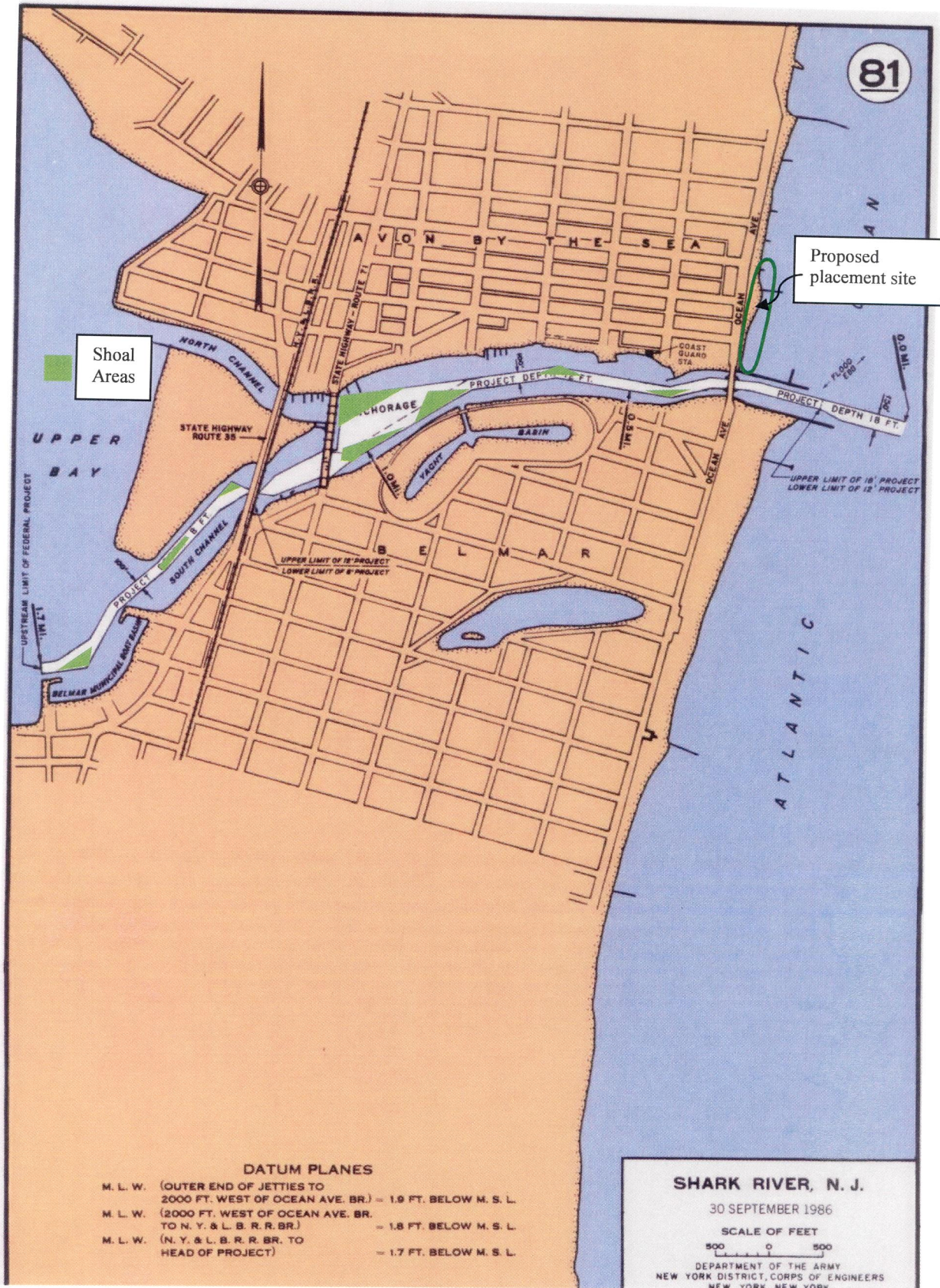


Figure 1: Shark River, New Jersey