

# PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New York District  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
New York, N.Y. 10278-0090  
ATTN: Regulatory Branch

**In replying refer to:**

Public Notice Number: NAN-2020-00885-EHA  
Issue Date: **August 28, 2020**  
Expiration Date: **September 28, 2020**

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

APPLICANT: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Marine Resources  
205 North Belle Meade Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New York 11733

ACTIVITY: Expand an existing artificial reef

WATERWAY: Atlantic Ocean

LOCATION: 1.6 miles south of Rockaway Beach, Borough of Queens, Queens County, New York.

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND TO EMAILED [NAOMI.J.HANDELL@USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:NAOMI.J.HANDELL@USACE.ARMY.MIL) TO REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

**CENAN-OP-RE  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. NAN-2020-00885-EHA**

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this permit application. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing. All correspondence should be sent to [Naomi.J.Handell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Naomi.J.Handell@usace.army.mil).

Our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein is not likely to affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the District Engineer is consulting with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species in the project area or their critical habitat.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA/FS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed work, fully described in the attached work description, could cause the disruption of habitat for various lifestages of some EFH-designated species as a result of a temporary increase in turbidity during construction. However, the New York District has made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects are not likely to be substantial because it is expected that fish populations would avoid the small area of disturbance. Further consultation with NOAA/FS regarding EFH impacts and conservation recommendations being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Based upon a review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, there are no known sites eligible for, or included in, the Register within the permit area. Presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost by work accomplished under the required permit.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant 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 a permit decision.

Pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)], for activities under consideration that are located within the coastal zone of a state which has a federally approved coastal zone management program, the applicant has certified in the permit application that the activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with, the approved state coastal zone management program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state's concurrence with, objection to, or waiver of the applicant's certification. No permit decision will be made until one of these actions occur. For activities within the coastal zone of New York State, the applicant's certification and accompanying information is available from the

**CENAN-OP-RE  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. NAN-2020-00885-EHA**

Consistency Coordinator, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization, Coastal Zone Management Program, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, Telephone (518) 474-6000. Comments regarding the applicant's certification, and copies of any letters to this office commenting upon this proposal, should be so addressed.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity 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 application, you may contact this office at (917) 790-8523 and ask for Naomi Handell.

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx>.

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

**FOR AND IN BEHALF OF**  
Stephan A. Ryba  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

**WORK DESCRIPTION**

The applicant, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Bureau of Marine Resources, has requested Department of the Army authorization to expand the existing Rockaway Reef for the purpose of increasing hard-bottom habitat for marine flora/fauna and improving productivity at the site with 10-years maintenance. The proposed work is located in the Atlantic Ocean, 1.5 miles south of Rockaway Beach, Borough of Queens, Queens County, New York.

**Permit History:**

Department of the Army (DA) Permit No. 1991-0871 issued on September 20, 1994 authorized Hempstead, Fire Island, Moriches, Shinnecock, Rockaway, Smithtown, Atlantic Beach, McAllister Grounds, Kismet, Yellowbar and Matinecock. Rockaway Reef is currently authorized under DA Permit No. NAN-2015-00276, issued on October 6, 2015 and expires on October 6, 2025.

The work would involve:

Rockaway Reef: expand existing 413 acre site to 635 acres

Discharge of fill material suitable for use as an artificial reef at all sites. Materials discharged may include, but are not limited to, clean concrete, rock or clean steel. The proposed fill material would be discharged in areas of each site that are generally devoid of existing structures or in reef areas that have been identified as degraded.

The controlling depth for the proposed project is listed below:

Rockaway Reef: 23-feet below mean low water

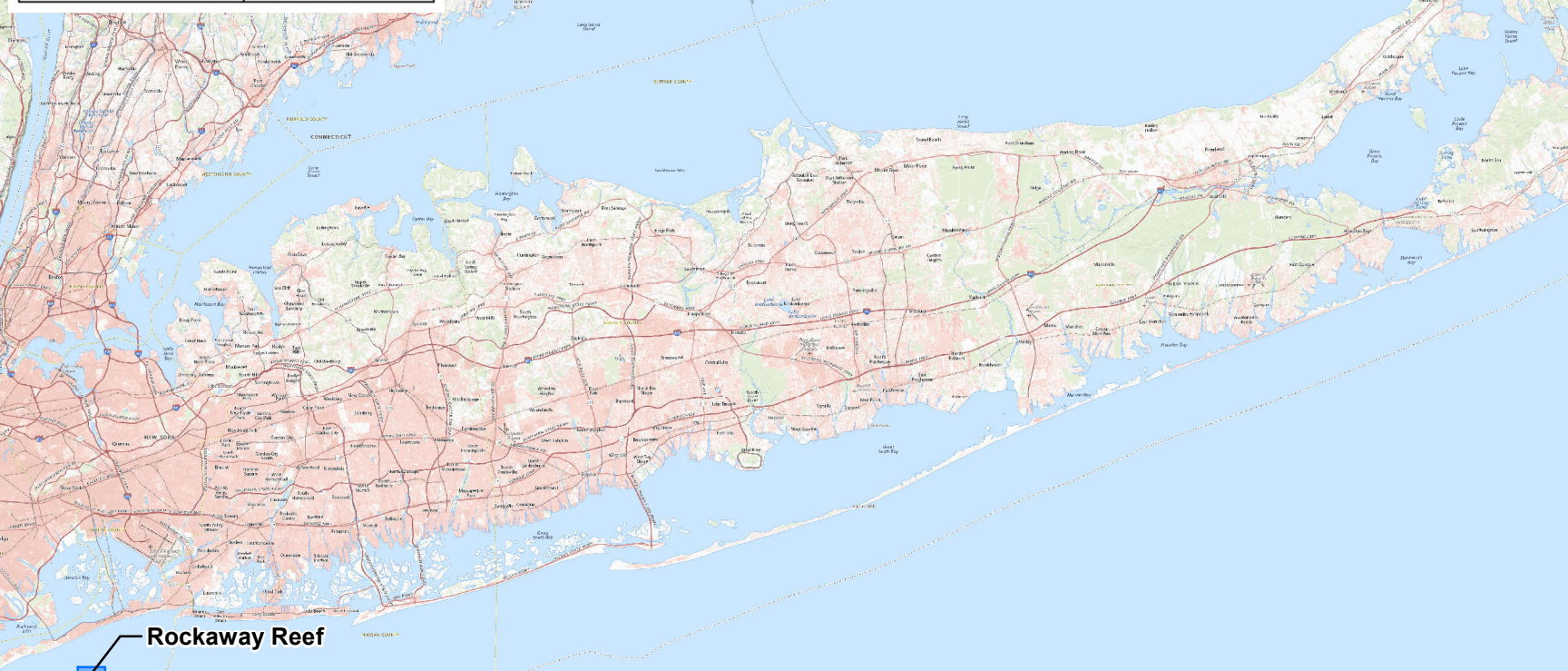
The applicant has stated that they have avoided, minimized, and mitigated for proposed impacts to the maximum extent practicable by: deploying structures and/or fill material free of contaminants and placing structures and/or fill material in areas devoid of existing reef materials or degraded areas.

The stated purpose of this project is to increase the benthic habitat for marine flora/fauna and improve productivity at the site in order to provide enhanced fishing and diving opportunities.

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Reef     | Location<br>Latitude/Longitude |
| Rockaway | 40°32.453'N /<br>073°50.558'W  |


**NAN-2020-00885-EHA**

Sheet 1 of 2




**Rockaway Reef**

**LEGEND**

 Artificial Reef Location

0 Miles 10

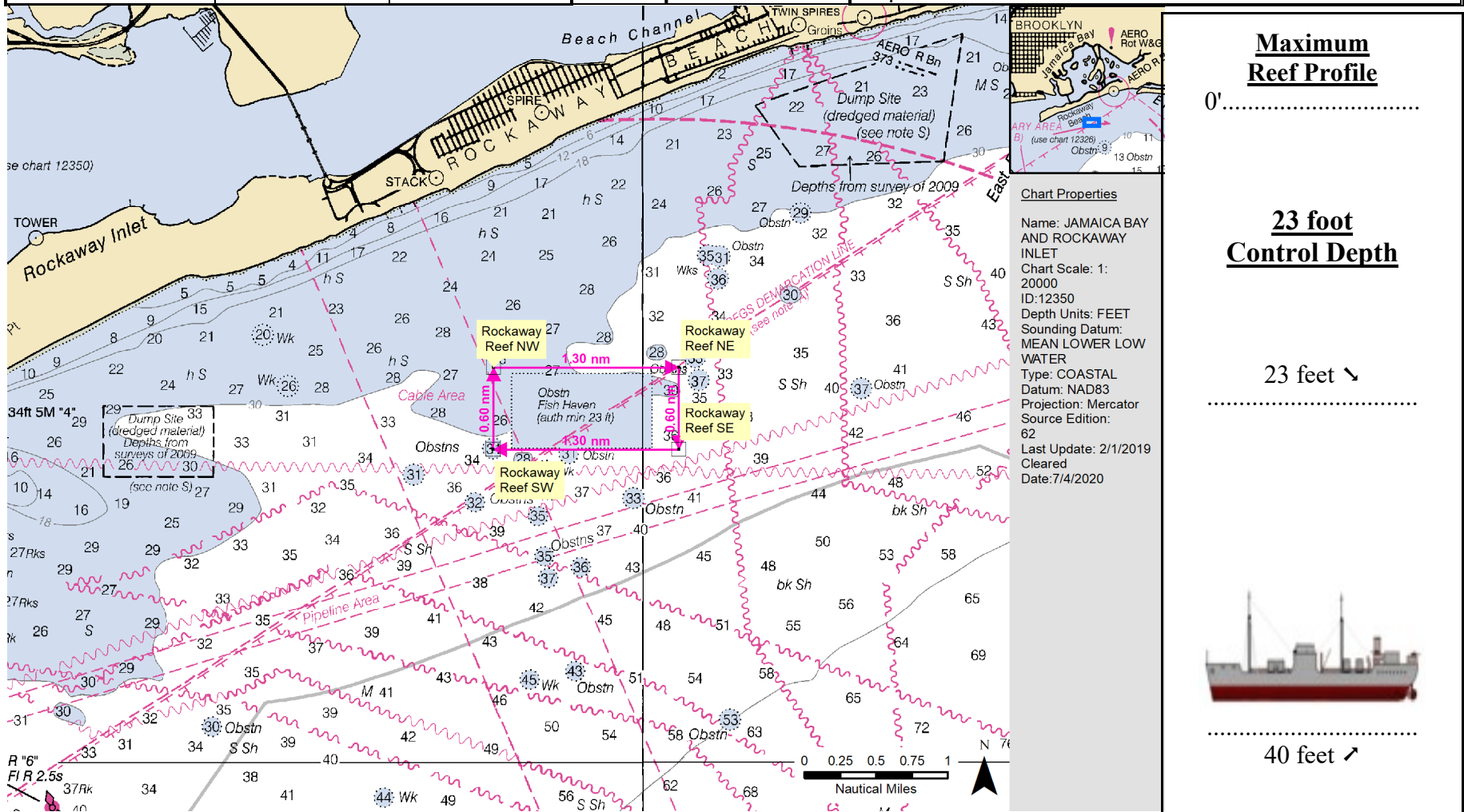


DATA SOURCE: USGS National Topographic Map  
(seamless version of 1:100,000 scale)

**Vicinity Map**

Reef Name: Rockaway Reef

| Reef Corner | Latitude    | Longitude    | Reef Site Specifications   |   |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|---|
| Northeast   | 40°32.780'N | 073°49.670'W | <b>Boundary Dimensions</b> | 1.30 Nautical Mile x 0.60 Nautical Mile (635 Acres) |
| Northwest   | 40°32.780'N | 073°51.380'W | <b>Depth</b>               | 40 feet   |
| Southeast   | 40°32.200'N | 073°49.670'W | <b>Distance</b>            | 2.0 nautical miles from Jacob Riis Park             |
| Southwest   | 40°32.200'N | 073°51.380'W | <b>Compass Heading</b>     | 115 degrees magnetic from Breezy Point Light        |
|             |             |              | <b>Body of Water</b>       | Atlantic Ocean                                      |
|             |             |              | <b>Town/County</b>         | Rockaway, Nassau County, New York                   |
|             |             |              | <b>Proposed Work</b>       | Expand reef site from 413 to 635 acres.             |



**Maximum Reef Profile**

0' .....

**23 foot Control Depth**

23 feet ↘



40 feet ↗