



**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 for
LONG ISLAND INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, NY
Published: 06-Jan-2022 Expires: 06-Feb-2022

LONG ISLAND INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, NEW YORK FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403), 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 critical shoals blocking navigation within Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Federal Navigation Channel with subsequent placement of the dredged sand along the nearby ocean shoreline.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Federal Navigation Channel, with placement of approximately 100,000 cubic yards of dredged sand along the along the ocean shoreline of Cupsogue Beach County Park (Figure 1), subject to availability of funds.

WATERWAY: Long Island Intracoastal Waterway at Moriches Bay

LOCATION: Moriches Bay, Suffolk County, New York

The Long Island Intracoastal Waterway, New York Federal navigation project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 26 August 1937, House Document No. 181, 1st session.

The existing navigation project provides for a navigation channel with a depth of 6 feet below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and 100 feet wide, from the federally improved channel in the Great South Bay, opposite Patchogue, to the south end of the Shinnecock Canal. The total length of the project is approximately 33.6 miles. The proposed work will involve dredging of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway in Moriches Bay to remove critical shoals blocking navigation (Figure 2).

This maintenance activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed maintenance dredging and placement of dredged sand 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 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 THE PROJECT MANAGER, MR. EDWARD WROCENSKI, AT Edward.Wrocenski@usace.army.mil 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 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 that 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 or email is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

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 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 the enforceable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the applicable 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 the New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability, Attn: Consistency Review Unit, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue – Suite 1010, Albany, New York 12231.

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 (NMFS) 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.

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.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies:

- 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

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact Mr. Edward Wrocenski at (917) 790-8636 or 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 critical shoals blocking navigation within the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Federal Navigation Channel (LIIW) at Moriches Bay, with placement of dredged sand along the ocean shoreline of Cupsouge Beach County Park.

This section of the LIIW was last dredged in 2018-2019, by pipeline dredge (cutterhead), with the removal of approximately 62,610 cubic yards (CY) of sediment and placement at Smith Point County Park.

The proposed maintenance dredging effort will remove approximately 100,000 CY of sand from the LIIW to a depth of -6 feet MLLW plus two (2) feet allowable overdepth. Maintenance dredging of the channel is usually accomplished by a pipeline dredge (cutterhead) or similar plant. The entire LIIW will not require maintenance dredging, only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging. Dredging and placement is anticipated to be completed in the fall/winter of the dredging year, subject to availability of funds.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to remove critical shoals blocking navigation along LIIW within Moriches Bay and to maintain the authorized Channel dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of LIIW users. Failure to conduct the maintenance dredging and placement activities could lead to a life threatening emergency situation in which the U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue boats would be unable to respond to lifesaving missions using Long Island Intracoastal Waterway.

This public notice serves to announce the government's intent and identifies the proposed location for placement of approximately 100,000 CY of sand.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The New York District prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in June 1987 in support of a Reformulation Study. It was determined that maintenance dredging of the LIIW, with placement of the dredge sand at nearby shoreline, is not likely to have significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics or flood protection of the area.

An update of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 404(b) evaluation, as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230, will be prepared prior to implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged sand from the Project is proposed to be placed along the ocean shoreline of Cupsogue Beach County Park. The dredged sand will be transported by pipeline or similar dredge and deposited at the designated site, as shown on the attached map (Figure 1).

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed maintenance dredging area was sampled and tested in 2021. Results of previous grain size analyses within the proposed dredging area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 90% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged sand would be suitable for beach placement.

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



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Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

- Enclosure:
Figure 1: Dredging and placement Location Map
Figure 2: LIIW Vicinity Map



Figure 1: Dredging and Placement Location Map (Not to scale)

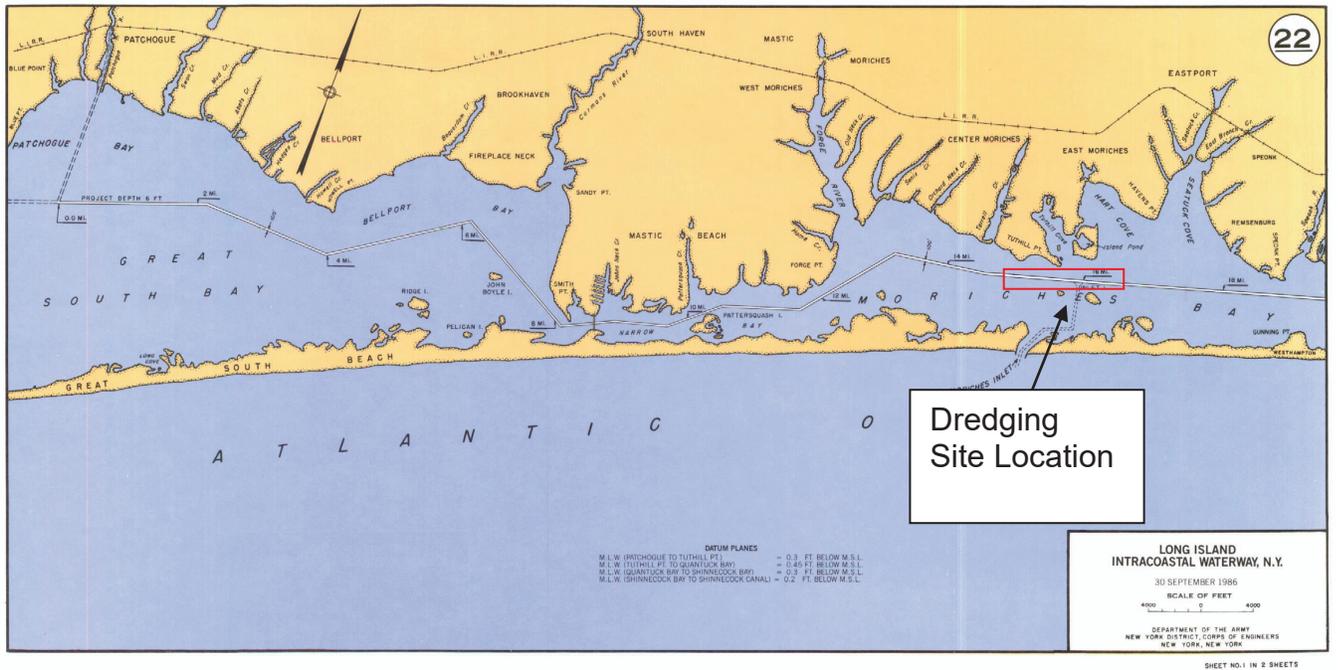


Figure 2: LIIW Vicinity Map (Not to Scale)