



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10278  
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

# Public Notice

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In replying refer to:  
Public Notice No. LAKE MONTAUK HARBOR FY25  
Published: February 3, 2025 Expires: February 12, 2025

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## 10-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

### EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF LAKE MONTAUK HARBOR, NEW YORK FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT

#### 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 emergency maintenance dredging of the Lake Montauk Harbor Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin with subsequent placement of the dredged material nearshore west of the inlet (Figure 1).

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has received the needed Emergency Declaration from the Corps of Engineers regional North Atlantic Division Engineer which allows for expedited coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via courtesy email due to the no adverse impacts involved to any relevant endangered species in this emergency work; the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding relevant fisheries species; the United States Coast Guard – Sector Long Island Sound; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the State of New York Department of State. The expedited coordination is needed to comply with several federal and state laws as well as help identify suitable placement locations for all the sand that is creating a hazardous shoal in the inlet.

**ACTIVITY:** Emergency maintenance dredging of Lake Montauk Harbor Federal Navigation Project, with placement of up to approximately 10,500 cubic yards of dredged sand nearshore just west of the inlet.

**WATERWAY:** Lake Montauk Harbor

LOCATION: South Shore East End of Long Island, between Gardiners Bay and Block Island Sound in Montauk, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York.

The Lake Montauk Harbor Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 2 March 1945. The Lake Montauk Harbor has an authorized project depth of -12 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), 150 feet wide from a 12 foot depth contour in Block Island Sound to the same depth in the existing yacht basin east of Star Island, and for a boat basin 10 feet deep, 400 feet wide and 900 feet long located northwest of Star Island. The channel is about 0.7 miles long.

The proposed activity is to dredge the critical shoal area located in the Lake Montauk Harbor Federal Navigation Project (Figure 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed emergency dredging with placement of dredged material nearshore will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare or amenities, or the marine environment, ecological systems or economic potentialities.

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, ALEXANDER GREGORY, AT [ALEXANDER.F.GREGORY@USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:ALEXANDER.F.GREGORY@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 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, pre-historical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the applicable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination has been 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, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010, Albany, NY 12231.

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.

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. 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, please contact Mr. Alexander Gregory, Project Manager, at (917) 790-8427 or [Alexander.F.Gregory@usace.army.mil](mailto:Alexander.F.Gregory@usace.army.mil).

Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-1463 ATTN: Mr. Alexander Gregory.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:**

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) proposes to perform emergency maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin in Lake Montauk Harbor, New York. The channel was last dredged in 2018, where approximately 40,000 CY of material was removed. The dredged sand was used as beach nourishment and placed along severely eroded areas of the beach just west of the west jetty. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of up to 10,500 CY of sand, with placement in a designated area nearshore just west of the inlet. The channel and deposition basin would be dredged to a depth of at least 12 feet below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), plus an allowable 2 feet of over depth. Maintenance

dredging of the channel and deposition basin at Lake Montauk Harbor is usually accomplished by pipeline dredge or similar plant. Only critical shoals will be dredged under this emergency.

The purpose of the proposed emergency work is to alleviate the effects of shoaling and restore a navigable path for channel users, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Lake Montauk Harbor by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material. Between maintenance operations, the bypassed sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down-drift beaches. The maintenance operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches, while maintaining a safe channel for navigation.

This public notice serves to announce the government's intent and identifies the proposed location for placement of up to approximately 10,500 CY of sand. The dredging and placement west of the west jetty is currently anticipated to occur during the winter of 2025, subject to the availability of funds.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in March 1975. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York District in 1994, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, and 2014. The EIS and EAs indicated that dredging of Lake Montauk Harbor with placement of the dredged material as nourishment along the nearby shoreline of the designated beach would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

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:**

It is proposed that the dredged material from this project be placed in a designated disposal area west of the west jetty that is located in Suffolk County, New York (See attachment). The dredged material will be transported by hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site.

#### **MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:**

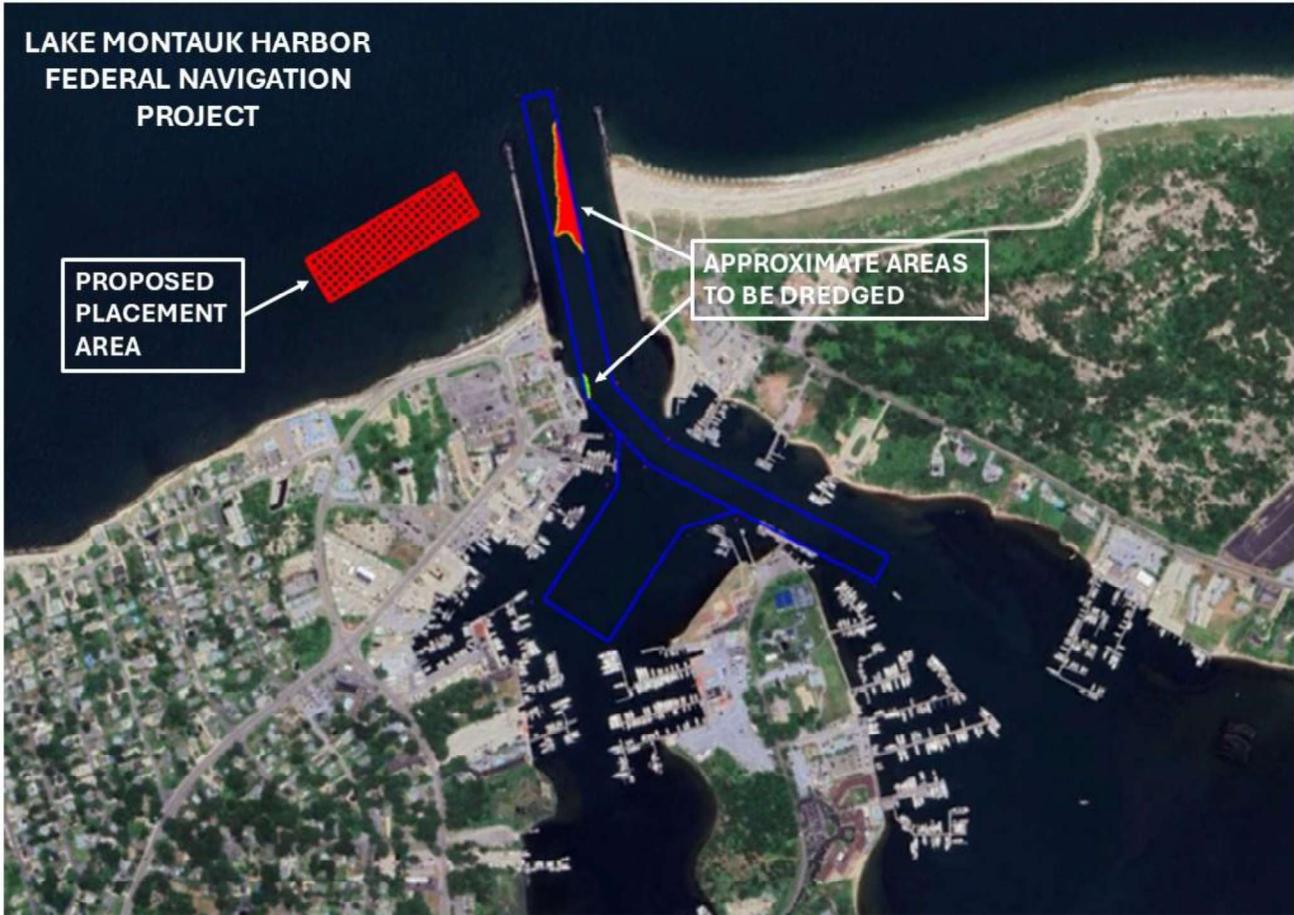
Results of previous grain size analyses performed on samples collected within the project area indicate that the material to be deposited from the channel and deposition basin is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged material would be physically compatible for nearshore placement.

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>.

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Michael J. Oseback  
Chief, Operations Support Branch

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**Figure 1:** Lake Montauk Harbor, approximate location of dredging areas shown & proposed placement location nearshore west of the inlet.