



**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. FIRE ISLAND TO JONES INLET FY18

Published: June 11, 2018 Expires: June 26, 2018

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

FIRE ISLAND INLET AND SHORES WESTERLY TO JONES INLET, NEW YORK BEACH EROSION CONTROL AND NAVIGATION PROJECT

Purpose of this work is to replace and restore the eroded Gilgo Beach feeder beach area which is now threatening the viability of the utilities and the roadway of the Ocean Parkway right-of-way. The work is being pursued under the authority of PL 84-99 at the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This work was last done in 2013 after Hurricane Sandy.

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 cutterhead dredging of the Fire Island Inlet Federal navigation channel and deposition basin with subsequent placement of the dredged material (sand) on the eroded designated feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the Inlet.

ACTIVITY: Cutterhead Dredging of Fire Island Inlet Federal Navigation Channel and deposition basin, with placement of approximately 2,100,000 cubic yards of dredged sand along the eroded feeder beach, Gilgo Beach, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York.

WATERWAY: Fire Island Inlet

LOCATION: South Shore of Long Island, between Fire Island and Jones Beach Island, Suffolk County, Long Island.

The Fire Island Inlet and Shores Westerly to Jones Inlet, New York, Beach Erosion Control and Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 26 August 1937, House Document No. 33, 75th Congress, 1st session, and as modified in the subsequent River and Harbor Acts of 1958 and 1962.

The existing multipurpose project, which provides for combined beach erosion control and navigation improvements is comprised of a navigation channel, a deposition basin, dikes, a jetty extension and periodic transfer of littoral drift to the feeder beach. The Fire Island Inlet channel dimensions are 450 feet in width, 14 feet in depth and approximately 1.8 miles in length; the deposition basin is immediately adjacent to the authorized channel (attachment 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material (sand) on the feeder beach (Gilgo) 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 placement of this dredged material (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 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 obtained a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in June 2013 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act; this WQC, which will remain in effect through 2023, allows for dredge material from the Fire Island Inlet channel and deposition basin to be placed at Gilgo Beach.

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 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 11231.

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. Environmental Protection Agency
- 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
- Town of Babylon

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Edward Wrocenski at (917) 790-8636 or Edward.Wrocenski@usace.army.mil.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District proposes to perform cutterhead dredging of the Federal navigation channel and deposition basin in Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredged material (sand) as beach nourishment along the feeder beach (Gilgo) west of the Fire Island Inlet. The channel and deposition basin were last dredged in 2013 with the removal of approximately 2,032,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was utilized in a beneficial manner as beach erosion control and hurricane protection placed along Gilgo Beach. The proposed cutterhead dredging and beach nourishment would involve the removal of approximately 2,100,000 CY of sand. The channel and deposition basin will be dredged to a depth of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth or deeper based on the availability of material.

Between sand placement cycles, the physically bypassed (dredging and beach nourishment) sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down drift (westerly) beaches. This operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches and protects Ocean Parkway, while also restoring a safe channel for navigation.

Cutterhead dredging of the channel and deposition basin at Fire Island Inlet will be accomplished by pipeline dredge or similar plant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in July 1987. Updates to this EA were prepared by the New York District in January 1993, August 1999, October 2001, December 2003, August 2006, and July 2013. It was determined dredging of Fire Island Inlet with placement of the dredge material as nourishment along a feeder beach located west of the inlet 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:

The dredged material (sand) from this project is proposed to be placed along the feeder beach (Gilgo), which is west of the inlet. The placement site is located in the Town of Babylon, Long Island, New York (attachment 2). The dredged material (sand) will be transported by pipeline and deposited at the designated site.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of previous grain size analyses performed on samples collected within the project area have indicated the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand). Therefore this proposed dredged material (sand) would be suitable for beach 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 the New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>


FR Randall G. Hintz 8 May 2013
Chief, Operations Support Branch

FIRE ISLAND INLET

DEPOSITION BASIN
CHANNEL

PROJECT MAP: FIRE ISLAND INLET

Attachment 1



2018 PLOVER NESTING DATA

FROM USFWS

AS OF 18 MAY 2018

YELLOW HATCH REPRESENTS NO BIRDS NESTED THIS YEAR

RED DOTS ARE WHERE BIRDS ARE NESTING