



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

## Public Notice

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Public Notice No.  
CENAP-PL-E-15-03

Date  
November 16, 2015

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In Reply Refer to:  
Environmental Resources Branch

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### **Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Sand Borrow Area B – Delaware Atlantic Coast from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island Storm Damage Reduction Project, Sussex County, Delaware.**

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, is issuing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) titled: *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) – Proposed Sand Borrow Area B – Delaware Atlantic Coast from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island Storm Damage Reduction Project*. The purpose of this document is to evaluate a new proposed sand source (borrow area) identified as “Area B” to be used for the periodic nourishment and storm repairs for the Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach Federal Storm Damage Reduction Project (Figure 1), and also for Area B to be used interchangeably with other existing sand borrow areas, as needed. In addition, it is proposed that all existing sand sources (Area E and Fenwick Island Borrow Area) and the proposed Area B be used interchangeably for all of the storm damage reduction projects along the Atlantic Coast of Delaware (Figure 2). The interchangeable use of sand borrow areas provides more operational flexibility for managing sand resource needs for these projects.

There are four existing Federal storm damage reduction projects along the Atlantic Coast of Delaware that require sand resources to maintain beach and dune features to provide storm damage reduction for the communities of Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach, South Bethany, Fenwick Island, and a stretch of beach on the north side of Indian River Inlet to protect State Highway 1 and its approach to the Charles W. Cullen Bridge (Figure 2). These projects require variable quantities of sand for periodic nourishment and to reconstruct the beach templates after significant storm events such as hurricanes and nor’easters.

The need for a new sand borrow area (Area B) is based on the discontinued use of the previous borrow area for Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach, Area G, which was found to have excessive amounts of coarse materials in the sand during the initial construction phase of the project. The Fenwick Island borrow area has been used as an interim sand source, but it is more than 15 miles away from the project area resulting in higher transport costs and longer construction periods. Area B lies about 1.8 to 3.0

nautical miles offshore of Delaware Seashore State Park (north side of Indian River Inlet) in the Atlantic Ocean (Figures 1 and 2). It is approximately 2,132 acres in size, and is about 2.9 nautical miles (17,700 ft.) long (north to south).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) has been prepared for this project, and is being circulated to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the interested public. Requests for this document should be made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Environmental Resources Branch at (215) 656-6559 or by obtaining it from:  
<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx>.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification is being requested from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

In accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A certification of compliance is being requested from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.


The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The EA identified a total of 33 managed species within the affected area. The EA concluded that the effects of the proposed activities on EFH would be temporary and minimal.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. More detailed information on this work is available for public review at the Philadelphia District Office.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, P.E. ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3396 no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

  
Peter R. Blum, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division  
Philadelphia District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

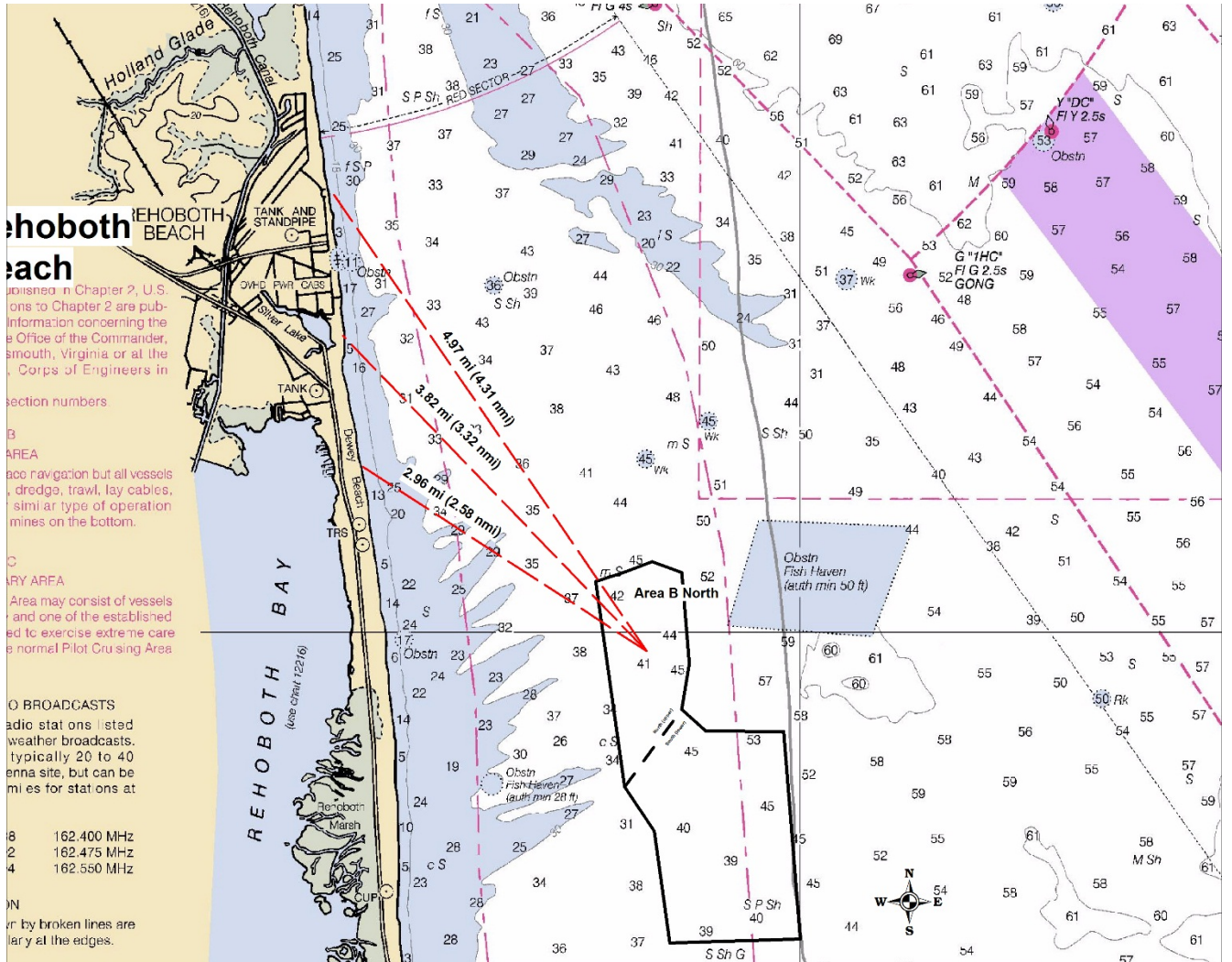


Figure 1. Proposed Borrow Area B.

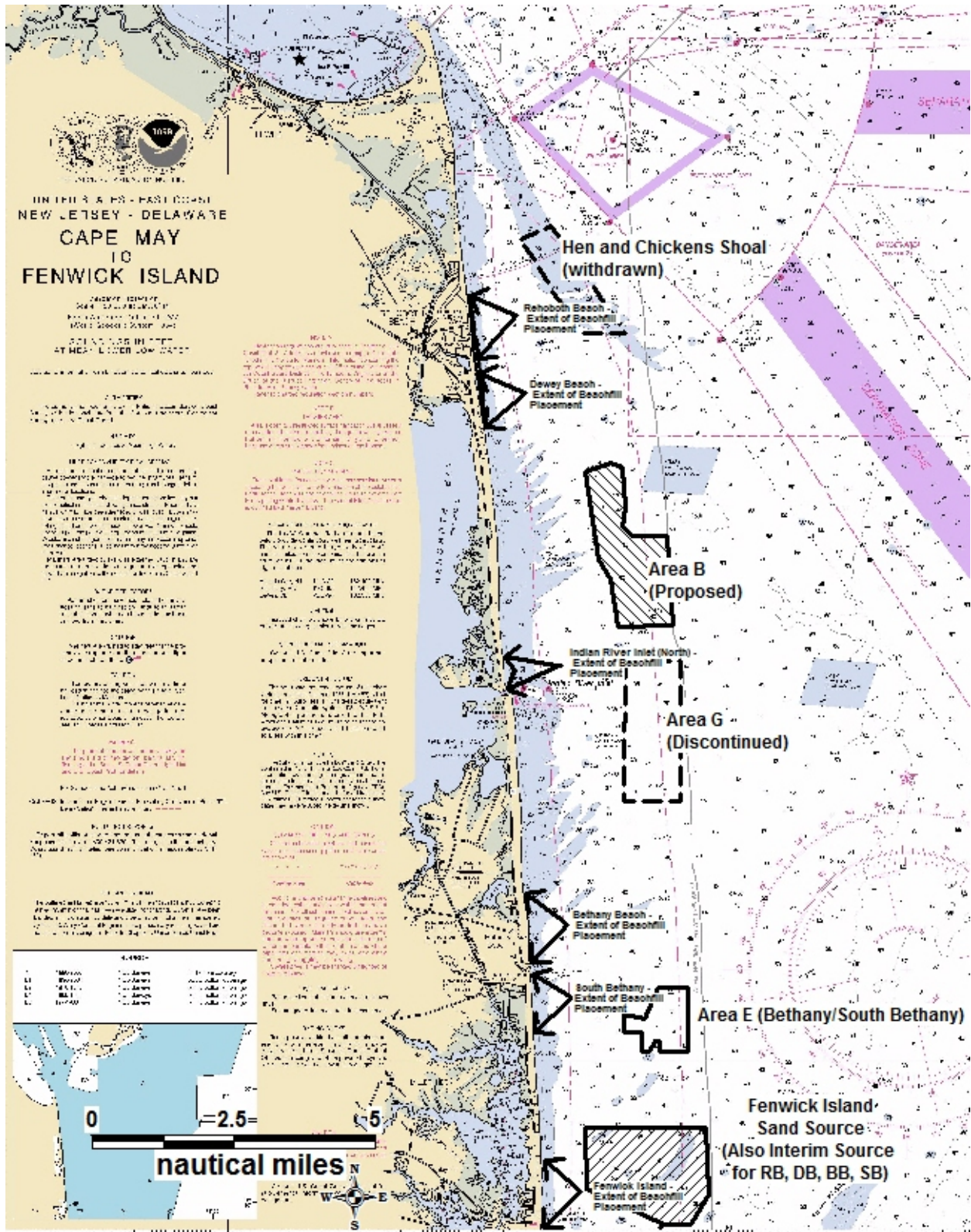


Figure 2. Delaware Coast from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island Project Areas and Sand Borrow Areas.