



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

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CENAP-PLE-25-05

Date:
October 14, 2025

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

CLAM CREEK NAVIGATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT

ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District is initiating the scoping phase for an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the proposed maintenance dredging of the Clam Creek portion of the Absecon Inlet Federal navigation channel (FNC) and the beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) placement within the Boot Island portion of the Absecon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Figure 1). In accordance with the NEPA and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures Part 1.8, this notice serves as the initiation of the scoping process for any potential project or Federal action proposed in the EA.

The Philadelphia District is preparing this EA for the proposed maintenance dredging of an approximate 15-acre area within the Clam Creek navigation channel to remove shoaling for the purpose of maintaining safe and reliable navigation in the authorized channel. Approximately 98,000 cubic yards of material is proposed to be dredged utilizing a contracted hydraulic cutterhead dredge where depths are less than the authorized 15 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The Clam Creek navigation channel provides ingress and egress to the Senator Frank S. Farley State Marina, Gardner's Basin, Snug Harbor, and the Delta Basin from the Absecon Inlet FNC and is used by a significant commercial fishing fleet and recreational vessels. Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Atlantic City Station and New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Marine Services Bureau Atlantic City Station are located off the north side of the Clam Creek channel and require a reliable channel for their respective missions including critical Search and Rescue operations and Homeland Security duties (USCG) and to address recreational boating issues, fish and game laws, search and rescue missions, and criminal matters (NJSP). The latest USACE surveys depicting the depths in the Clam Creek navigation channel are provided at this link under the "Clam Creek & AC Basins" range:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Surveys/Projects/NJInlets/>

The primary objective of this evaluation and proposed maintenance dredging project is to remove shoaling from the Clam Creek federal channel, providing safe navigation conditions for commercial, recreational, USCG and NJSP use. A secondary objective is the proposed BUDM placement at Boot Island, located within the Absecon WMA, to enhance degraded tidal marsh areas and building marsh edge protection along the degrading and vulnerable eastern side of Boot Island adjacent to the Golden Hammock Thorofare waterway. Boot Island is a component of the Absecon WMA which is managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Fish and Wildlife. The proposed BUDM placement areas on Boot Island will be designed in coordination

with the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources, and other project stakeholders.

In 2020, sediment, water quality, and grain size analysis samples were obtained from shoaled areas within the Clam Creek channel, the Farley Marina, Gardner's Basin, Snug Harbor, and Delta Basin by a private contractor for the City of Atlantic City. The 2020 sediment sampling results for Clam Creek were compared to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Ecological Screening Criteria and the chemical analysis indicated that the proposed maintenance dredging and BUDM placement within Boot Island are not expected to cause any adverse effects to aquatic life or human health. In October 2024, the USACE Philadelphia District completed sediment sampling using the Government Plant - *Elizabeth* with analysis by USACE's Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) in order to gain an improved understanding of grain size and sediment characteristics to support the BUDM operations. Additional sediment sampling and analysis will be conducted by the USACE Philadelphia District in 2026 to supplement the proposed Clam Creek maintenance dredging and BUDM project.

The EA will evaluate several alternatives, including the No Action alternative, in accordance with the NEPA regulations. The EA will evaluate any environmental, cultural resources, and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed maintenance dredging of the Clam Creek navigation channel and the proposed BUDM placement within Boot Island. This notice initiates scoping procedures as outlined in 33 CFR Part 230.12. Scoping is an early and open process for identifying any significant issues related to the proposed Federal action. Participation of the general public and other interested parties and stakeholders in identifying significant issues and alternatives is being solicited by means of this public notice. The public and other interested parties are invited to participate in the project scoping by providing written comments, questions, and concerns to this office within 30 days from the date of this notice.

For further information on this assessment, please contact:

Mr. Stephen Rochette
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENAP
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2004

e-mail: Stephen.Rochette@usace.army.mil

Beth Brandreth
Acting Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Figure 1: Clam Creek Maintenance Dredging and Proposed Boot Island BUDM Placement Area Project Location Map.