



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

# Public Notice

Public Notice No.  
CENAP-PLE-22-02

Date  
16 September 2022

In Reply Refer to:  
Environmental Resources Branch

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**Draft  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
MAURICE RIVER FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL  
and  
BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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 (USACE), is issuing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) titled: *Maurice River Federal Navigation Channel and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Cumberland County, New Jersey*. The purpose of this document is to evaluate the dredging operation of fine-grained sediments obtained from the lower reach of the Maurice River Federal Navigation Channel and beneficial placement of the dredged material for saltmarsh habitat restoration within the northwest reach of the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area.

The USACE is proposing to conduct maintenance dredging of the lower Maurice River Federal Navigation Channel in Maurice River Cove, Cumberland County, New Jersey to the authorized depth of 7 feet MLLW with 2 feet allowable overdepth in the winter of 2022/2023 (Figure 1). Dredging will remove critical shoaling in priority areas identified by channel users to maintain a safe and reliable navigation channel for commercial and recreational vessels. The dredged material will be beneficially placed within the northwest reach of the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a saltmarsh that has become excessively inundated. Approximately 75,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment will be placed this year over approximately 20 acres of marsh to create a natural infrastructure to provide added protection and resilience in an area adjacent to the Heislerville dike (Figure 2). Subsequent placements following consolidation will serve to restore approximately 35 acres of saltmarsh and intertidal mudflat habitat that is rapidly degrading due to excessive flooding. During the placement operation, stabilization measures will be implemented to minimize adverse effects to the environment, such as turbidity curtains, earthen berms, and/or coir logs. The initial sediment placement will be monitored to observe sediment properties and will inform

the second placement operation, currently scheduled to occur approximately 1 year after initial placement. Building elevation with mixed sediments will create varied landscape that will augment the mudflats, intertidal shallows, and may lead to the re-establishment of saltmarsh vegetation.

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. This document can be downloaded for review from: <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx>.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

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 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

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). A preliminary assessment of the effects of the proposed action on Federally managed species and their life stages within this area indicates the project would not adversely affect EFH.

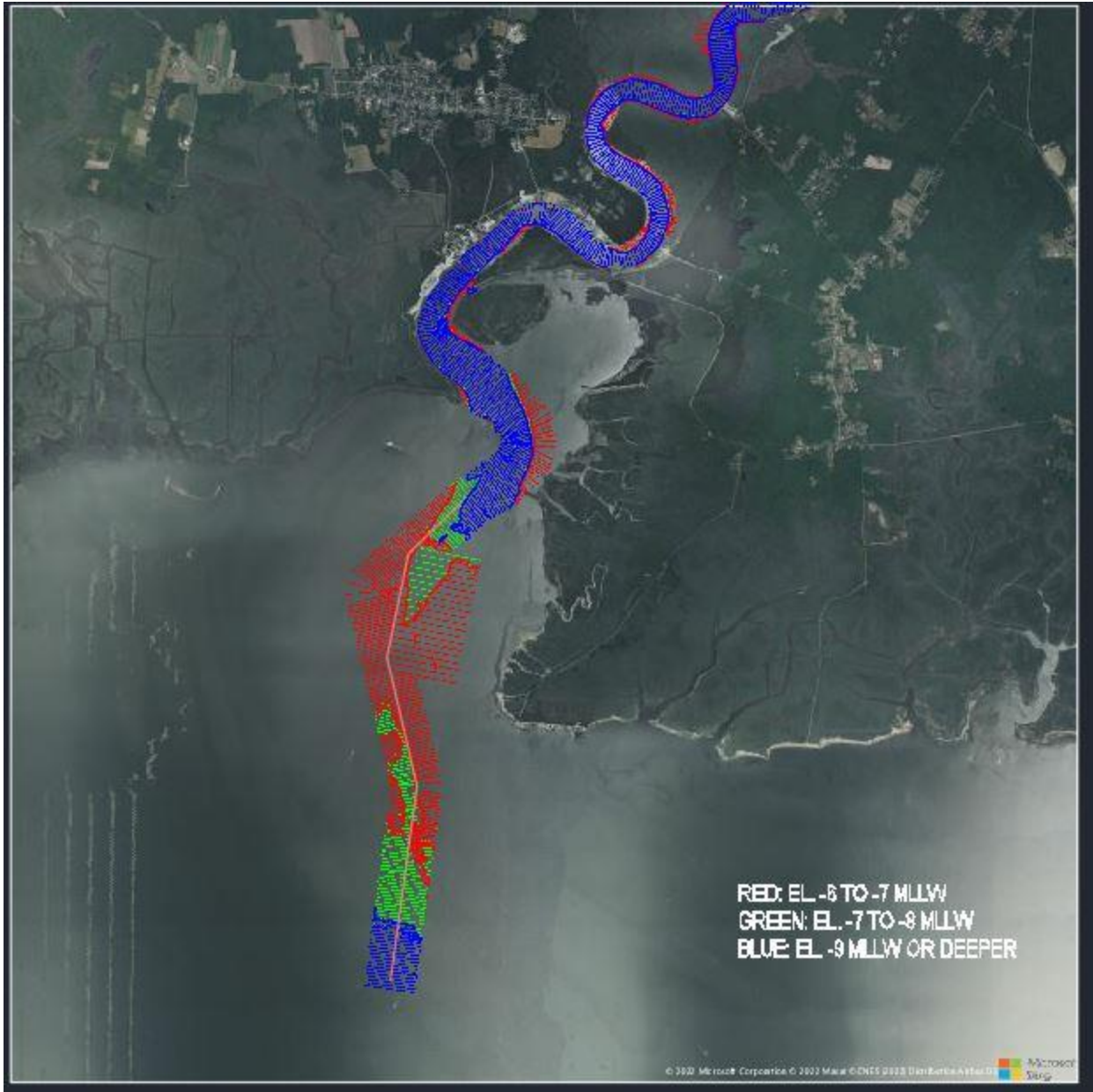
All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. More detailed information on this work is available for public review at the Philadelphia District Office.

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.

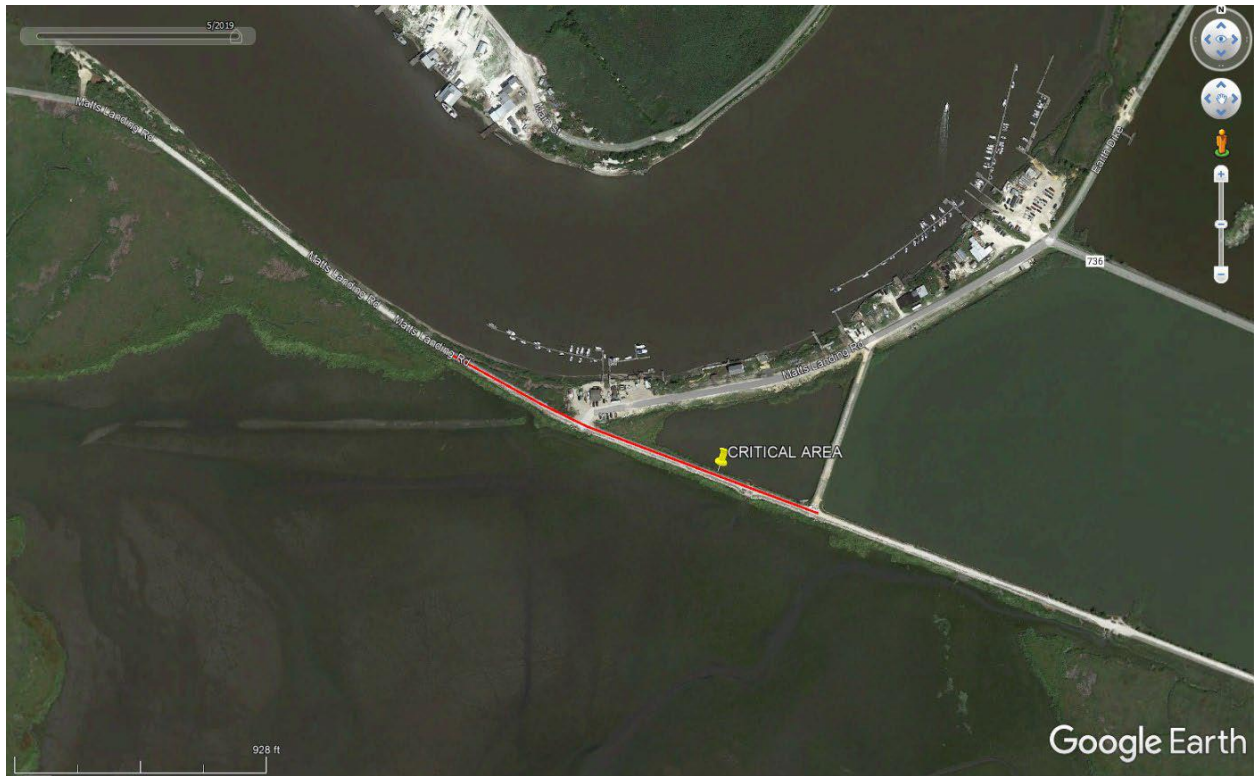
All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, P.E. ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3396 no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

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



**Public Notice Figure 1: proposed Maurice River Federal navigation channel dredging area shown in red.**



**Figure 2: Highly vulnerable area fronting the Heislerville Dike: proposed placement area.**