

US Army Corps

Philadelphia District

Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

of Engineers.

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East

ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

Public Notice

Public Notice No.

Date

CENAP-OP-R-2016-064-86

Application No.

File No.

In Reply Refer to:

REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT:	Township of Middle Old Avalon Boulevard R-O-W Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
WATERWAY:	Ingram Thorofare
LOCATION:	Avalon Manor Fishing Pier Old Avalon Boulevard Right-of-Way Cape May County House, Middle Township, NJ 08210 (39.110756, -74.733986)

ACTIVITY: The applicant proposes to remove the existing 93 LF timber bulkhead and replacing it with a 115 LF vinyl bulkhead. The applicant will also reconstruct an existing bulkhead in place of its current alignment. The applicant also proposes to remove a 2,980 square foot (147' x 20'), linear fishing pier and construct a new "L" shaped fishing pier that is approximately 2,950 square feet (~ 200' x 10'). The removal of the pier includes removing the existing piles associated with the existing fishing pier. The proposed fishing pier will include a shade structure, fish cleaning stations, benches, binoculars, and reserved parking for the fishing pier. The pier will be handicap accessible and allow for better access to deeper water for fishing. The applicant will also reconstruct an existing bulkhead in place of its current alignment.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to allow for better access for fisherman to the waters of Ingram Thorofare. The project will provide additional amenities at the fishing pier that are not available at the existing fishing pier and will be ADA accessible.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that Atlantic Sturgeon (<u>Acipenser</u> <u>oxyrinchus</u>), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<u>Lepidochelys kempii</u>), loggerhead sea turtle (<u>Caretta</u> <u>caretta</u>), green sea turtle (<u>Chelonia mydas</u>), leatherback sea turtle (<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>) and hawksbill sea turtle (<u>Eretmochelys imbricate</u>) may be in the vicinity. Based on the limited nature

and scope of this project, this office has determined it would not adversely affect the species above. This determination will be coordinated with The National Marine Fisheries Service.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

The permit action may have the potential to impact historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The USACE Cultural Resource Specialist will consult with the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and make a determination on potential impacts to historic properties.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 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 effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware", dated March 1999, indicates that the project may adversely affect EFH. In order to avoid or minimize impacts to EFH species nonpolluting materials will be utilized in construction of the pier and bulkhead.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with

and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

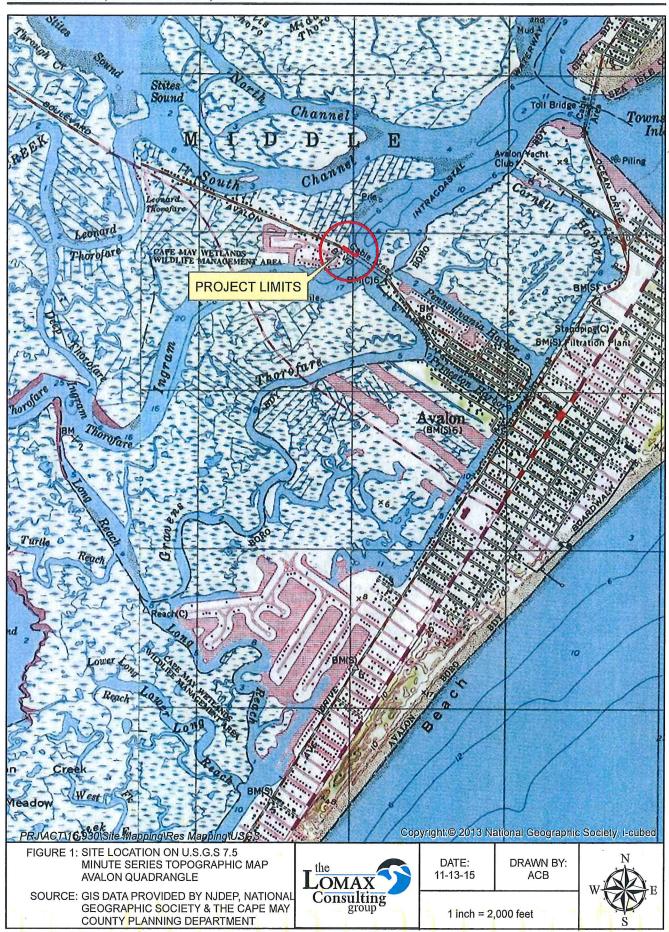
In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

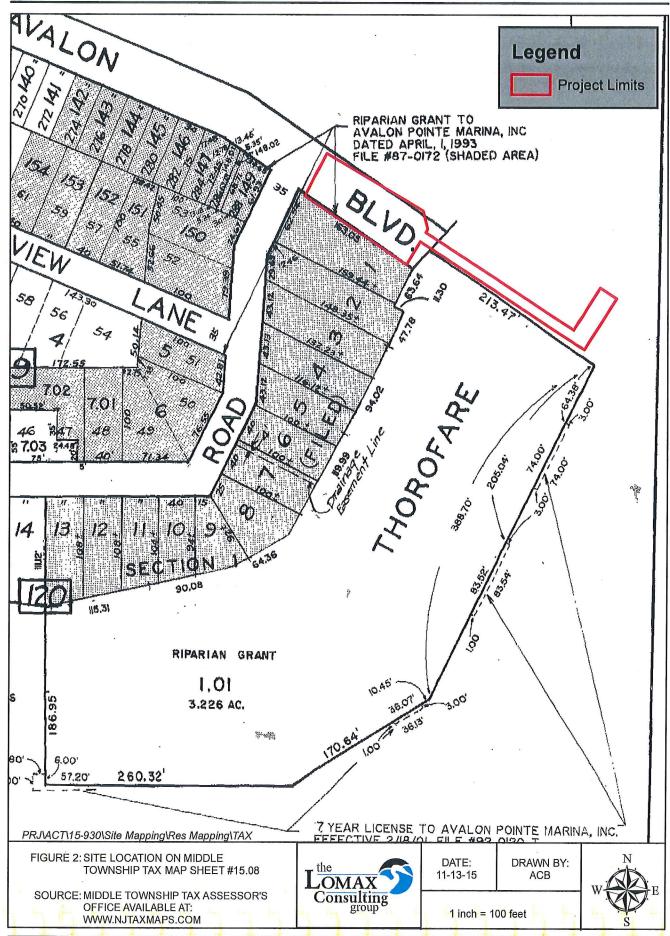
Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Ms. Genevieve Rybicki at 215-656-8597, via email at Genevieve.T.Rybicki@usace.army.mil, or writing this office at the above address.

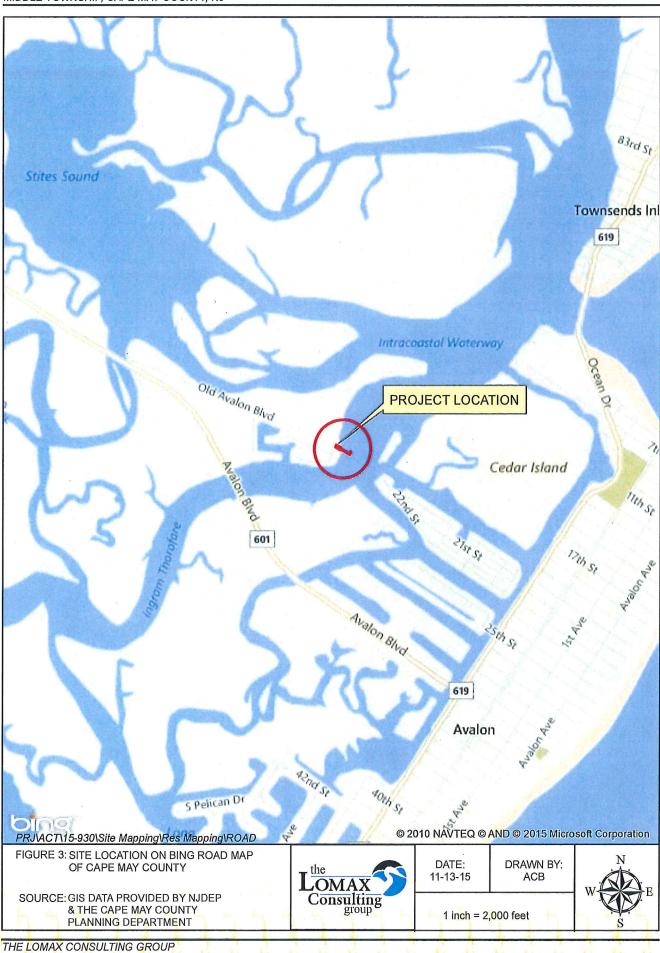
Samuel L. Reynolds Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch AVALON MANOR FISHING PIER ¹ OLD AVALON BOULEVARD RIGHT-OF-WAY MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ



THE LOMAX CONSULTING GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1975 AVALON MANOR FISHING PIER OLD AVALON BOULEVARD RIGHT-OF-WAY MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ



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