



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

**May 31, 2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**SUBJECT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps), in collaboration with the Georgia Ports Authority, has evaluated the feasibility of increasing transportation cost efficiencies for the deep draft Federal navigation channel at Brunswick Harbor, Glynn County, Georgia. An Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared under the authority of Section 1201 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The IFR/EA presents the results of the study, analyzes impacts of the proposed measures on the environment, and evaluates the effects of continued operations and maintenance (O&M) of the Federal navigation channel.

**Notice of the following is hereby given:** Pursuant to the NEPA, the Corps has finalized the IFR/EA and has determined that there are no significant impacts requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement. The signed FONSI and IFR/EA can be downloaded at:

<https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>

Copies may also be obtained through email request to the following address:

[CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil)

**DESCRIPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PLAN:** The recommended plan, Alternative 8, includes removal of 205,000 cubic yards of material at the bend widener and 346,000 cubic yards at the turning basin expansion. No dredging is needed at St. Simon's Sound as it is naturally deep and only requires realignment of the authorized channel dimensions. At this time all the dredged material would be placed in the Andrews Island Dredged Material Containment Area. Alternative 8 was the identified recommend plan in the draft IFR/EA that was made available for review in June 2020 and July 21, 2021, and no comments were received that led to a different recommendation. The recommended plan for O&M includes the application of a risk assessment and management process to avoid and minimize impacts to species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementation of the 2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO) for Dredging and Material Placement Activities in the Southeast United State dated July 30, 2020.



**Figure 1: Recommended Plan- Alternative 8**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:**

**Environmental Assessment:** The Corps has prepared an IFR/EA and FONSI and has determined that there are no significant impacts requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

**Threatened, Endangered and other Protected Species:** The Corps is compliant with the ESA. There is no designated critical habitat in the project area.

The Corps determined that the recommended plan for modifications may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the following ESA-listed species: sea turtles (Kemp’s Ridley, green, and loggerhead), sturgeon (shortnose and Atlantic), and Giant manta ray. A no effect determination was made for leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurred with the Corps’ determination on May 24, 2021.

Continued O&M dredging is an activity covered under the NMFS-issued 2020 SARBO. The 2020 SARBO is a programmatic opinion that considers effects to the following species: sea turtles (Kemp’s Ridley, green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead), sturgeon (shortnose and Atlantic), Nassau grouper, Giant manta ray, scalloped hammerhead shark, smalltooth sawfish, oceanic whitetip shark, whales (North Atlantic

right, Blue, Fin, Sei, and Sperm), Johnson's seagrass, and corals (Boulder star, elkhorn, Lobed star, Mountainous star, Pillar, rough cactus, and staghorn). All project design criteria, terms and conditions, and reasonable and prudent measures in the 2020 SARBO shall be implemented to avoid and minimize effects on endangered species.

The Corps determined that the recommended plan for modifications and the O&M recommended plan may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the West Indian manatee. A no effect determination was made for all other ESA-listed species under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jurisdiction with the potential to occur in the action area. USFWS concurred with the Corps' determination on June 18, 2020 and on September 10, 2021.

**Cultural Resources:** Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that historic properties may be adversely affected by the recommended modifications plan. The Corps and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division entered into a Programmatic Agreement (PA) on October 21, 2020. All terms and conditions resulting from the PA shall be implemented to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties. The Corps determined that the recommended O&M plan has no effect on historic properties.

**Essential Fish Habitat:** For the recommended modifications plan, no conservation recommendations were provided. For the recommended O&M plan, the Corps will integrate, to the extent practicable, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) considerations in the risk assessment process and will convene a Georgia stakeholder meeting annually for 5 years to discuss lessons learned from the risk assessment process. The Corps has met the substantive requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**Water Quality Certification:** The Corps will comply with the existing 401 Water Quality Certification that was issued on October 20, 2021.

**Coastal Zone Consistency:** In accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and as detailed in Appendix J and J.1 of the IFR/EA, it has been determined that the proposed project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable.

**Clean Air Act:** With implementation of the proposed action, no significant effects to air quality are anticipated. In addition, Glynn County, Georgia is currently in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Therefore, the project is under no Federal or State restrictions for the purpose of improving air quality to meet any air quality standards.

**Application of the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines:** The Corps has completed a Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and integrated the results into the IFR/EA. The Corps is compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230).

*Kimberly L. Garvey*

Kimberly L. Garvey  
Chief, Planning Branch