



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Savannah District

DISPOSITION STUDY

Multiple Waterways, Coastal Georgia

Waterways: Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River

Draft INTEGRATED REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

July 2024

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1.0 Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Savannah District is undertaking this Disposition Study to determine whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within multiple waterways in coastal Georgia. Those waterways include the Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River.

While there was once a need for federal navigation channels along these waterways, those transportation arteries long ago ceased providing tonnage to the coast. During the late 1800s commerce dictated that additional means were necessary to transport goods quickly and efficiently from inland areas to the coastal cities. Timber and pulpwood were the principal industry, however secondary resources and trade were comprised of hardwood timber from the swamps, pine timber from the flats bordering the swamps and tributaries, fish from inland streams, and furs from the marshes.

At various times along these rivers and harbors, the Corps carried out studies for potential navigational improvements. However, as commerce waned and barge traffic decreased, the benefits of such improvements could not be justified. As such, these channels are no longer dredged to maintain the authorized depths. The absence of maintenance dredging over several decades has not impacted motorized recreational use, and there is no indication of insufficient water depth for recreational use on the long-term planning horizon.

2.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this disposition study is to determine whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within the nine aforementioned waterways in coastal Georgia. If no federal interest exists, the Corps may recommend deauthorization of the navigation channel. If Congress concurs with deauthorization, the Corps should save federal dollars and staff oversight time (e.g., less funds required for annual surveys).

This study follows *Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, Planning, Planning Guidance Notebook, April 22, 2000*, and incorporated the Corps six-step process originated in the *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*. This report and integrated environmental assessment implement the CECW-P 2019 and CECW-CO (12-6b2) 2023 memo (Appendix C) from the Corps Director of Civil Works *Process for Recommending Deauthorization of Federal Navigation Channels Without Structure* and satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

3.0 Project Locations, History, Authorizations, and Representation

Section 1168 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018) directs the Secretary, in carrying out a disposition study for the Corps project or a separable element of such a project, to consider modifications that would improve the overall quality of the environment. Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 authorized disposition studies. Section 216 allows the Corps to evaluate a project or portion of a project which no longer serves its authorized purpose, with the intent to determine whether a project operated and maintained by the Corps should be deauthorized.

As there are nine waterways under review for potential deauthorization (Figure 1), the project locations, authorizations, and descriptions were grouped together for ease of conception. The extent of each federal channel is described in river miles (RM), and where available linked with a known landmark such as a highway or railroad crossing.

No property ownership is involved in any of these waterways. There is one easement interest within the Altamaha project area known as Rifle Cut, but it is related to a different project under a separate authorization. Of note is that multiple authorizations sometimes comprise the same project areas.

All projects are within the 1st Congressional District, served by Representative Buddy Carter. Senator Raphael Warnock and Senator Jon Ossoff also represent citizens in the project area.

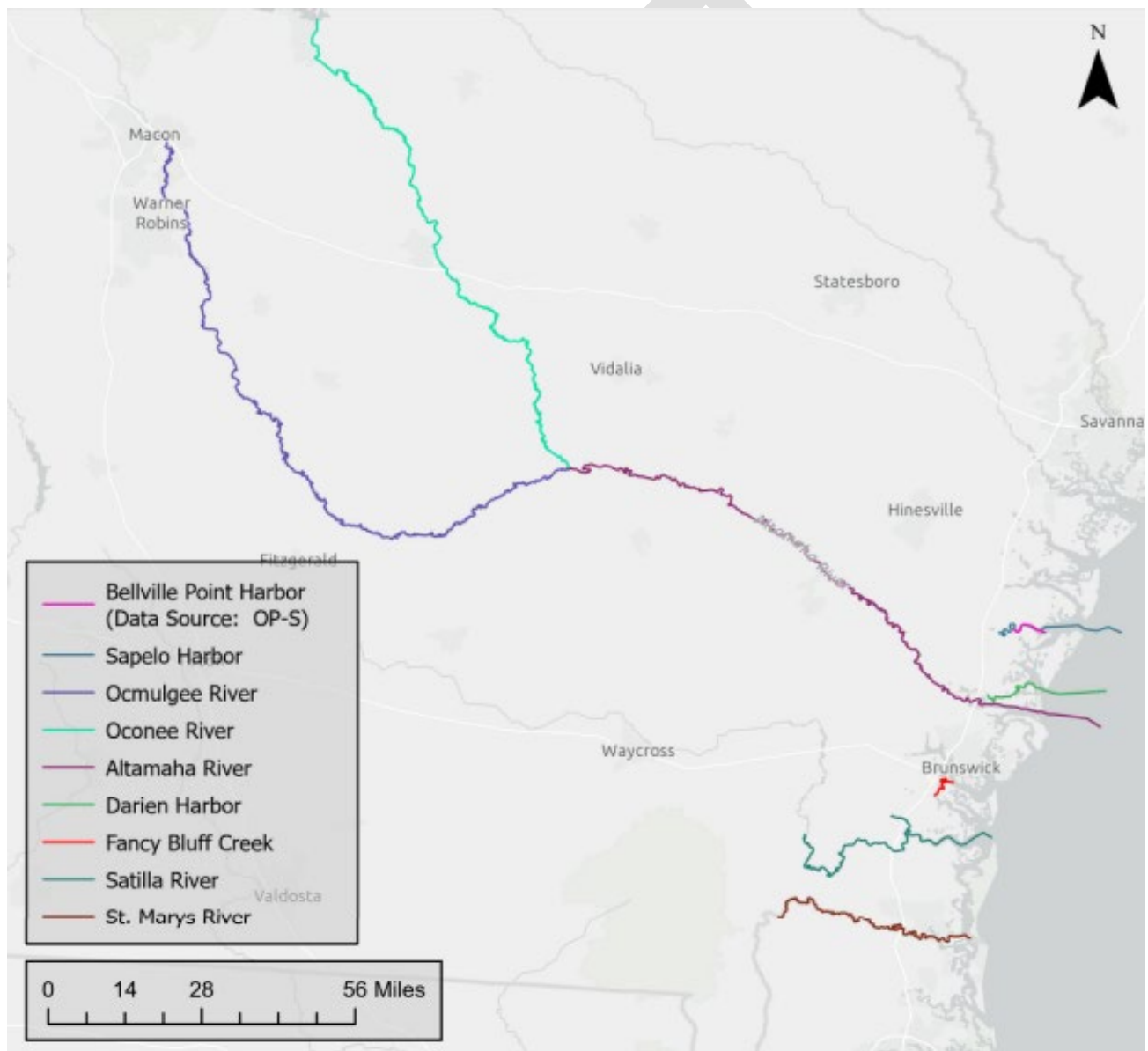


Figure 1: Project Area with 9 waterways

3.1 Altamaha, Oconee, and Ocmulgee Rivers

Two principal tributaries, the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, unite to form the Altamaha River. The confluence of these waters is known locally as The Forks, which also marks the beginning of river miles for the Oconee and Ocmulgee. While initially authorized individually in 1890, all three rivers (Figure 2) were consolidated into one authorization by the River and Harbor Acts of July 25, 1907. However, commercial traffic was practically nil by 1965.

These three rivers once served as a primary navigation means of handling timber from the watershed to the docks at Front River and accommodated steamships drafting 23 feet (ft). As cotton production hit its peak in 1911 and then declined in the mid-1920s with further decline during the Depression, so did commercial transportation reliance on these rivers. This decline led the Corps to pivot from dredging and towards river maintenance. Nevertheless, none of the rivers are currently maintained to the authorized navigation depth and have not been cleared of snags since 1978. The Savannah District conducted a review of the Operations and Maintenance Program in 1979 and concluded that the river system was only used for recreational purposes. As such, the district disposed of its snagging and clearing equipment shortly thereafter.

3.1.1 Altamaha River

The Altamaha River is the largest river in Georgia and the second largest basin in the eastern United States. With an average of 100,000 gallons of fresh water flowing into the sea, it is the third largest contributor of Atlantic Ocean fresh water from North America. The Altamaha River originates at river mile RM 138.6 near Hazlehurst, GA, and flows eastward towards Darien, GA, with an authorized depth of 3.0 ft, before terminating at the Altamaha Sound at RM 0, which has an authorized depth of 14.0 ft. The sound lies between two barrier islands, Sapelo Island to the north and Little St. Simon's Island to the south.

3.1.2 Ocmulgee River

The federal navigation channel of the Ocmulgee River has an authorized depth of 3.0 ft and begins at RM 198.6 at the Spring Street Bridge in Macon, GA. The river terminates at the confluence with the Altamaha River. The Ocmulgee generally follows the west edge of the floodplain, but there are occasional bluffs opposite wide flat swamps with pine covered highlands beyond. Numerous rock shoals are located from RM 155 to RM 105, with very few identified below mile 105 (just north of Hwy 57 bridge).

3.1.3 Oconee River

The head of navigation on the Oconee River has an authorized depth of 3.0 ft at RM 138.6 located at the GA Highway 24 bridge in Milledgeville, GA. Mile 0 for the river is the confluence with the Altamaha River.

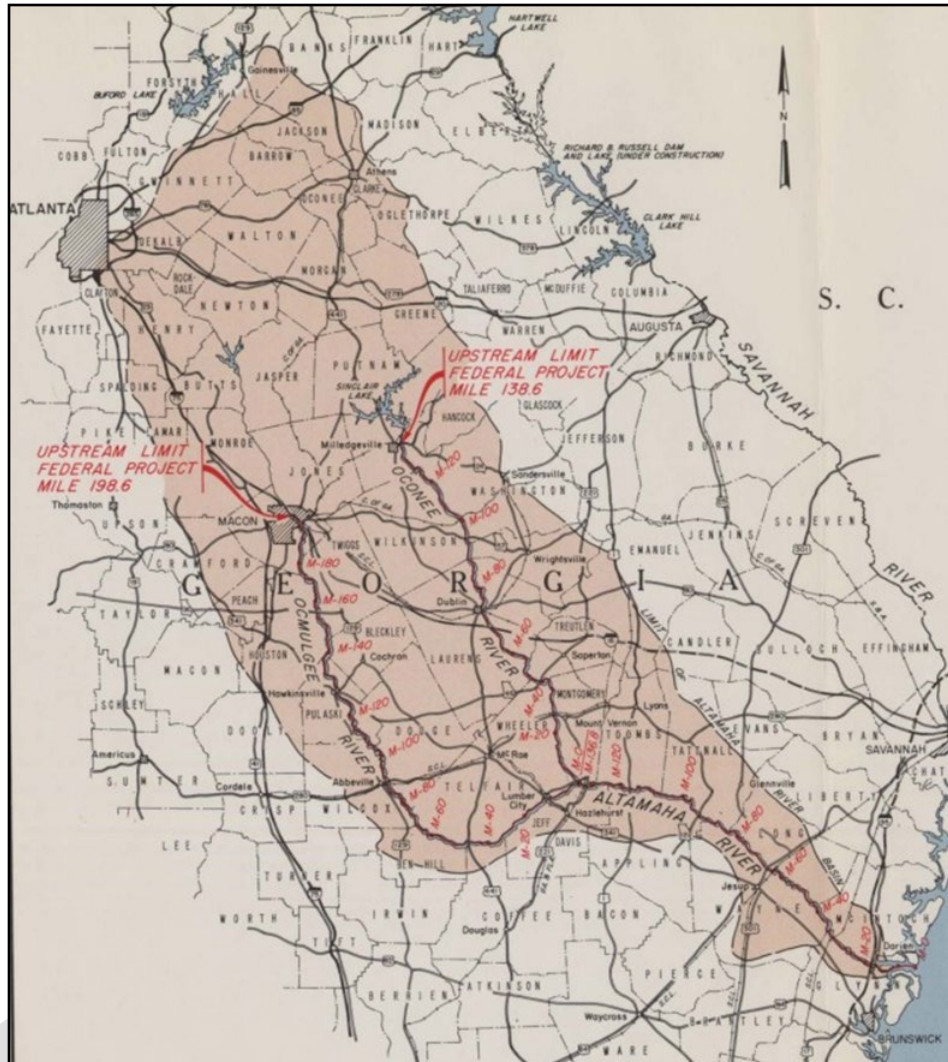


Figure 2: Altamaha River Basin

3.2 Bellville Point Harbor

Bellville Point is a small coastal Georgia commercial fishing community located on the Sapelo River, 14 miles north of Darien in McIntosh County (Figure 3). The local shrimping fleet and associated revenue primarily led to the authorization. While not specifically authorized by Congress, the harbor was authorized for navigation under the Small Navigation Project Authority contained in Section 107, River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended. However, the channel was never dredged due to environmental concerns related to spoil material and potential adverse effects to benthic habitat. The concerns were that dredging would change the species diversity of the benthic population because the habitat would be converted from open water sites to tidal mudflats or upland areas due to continuous maintenance dredging.

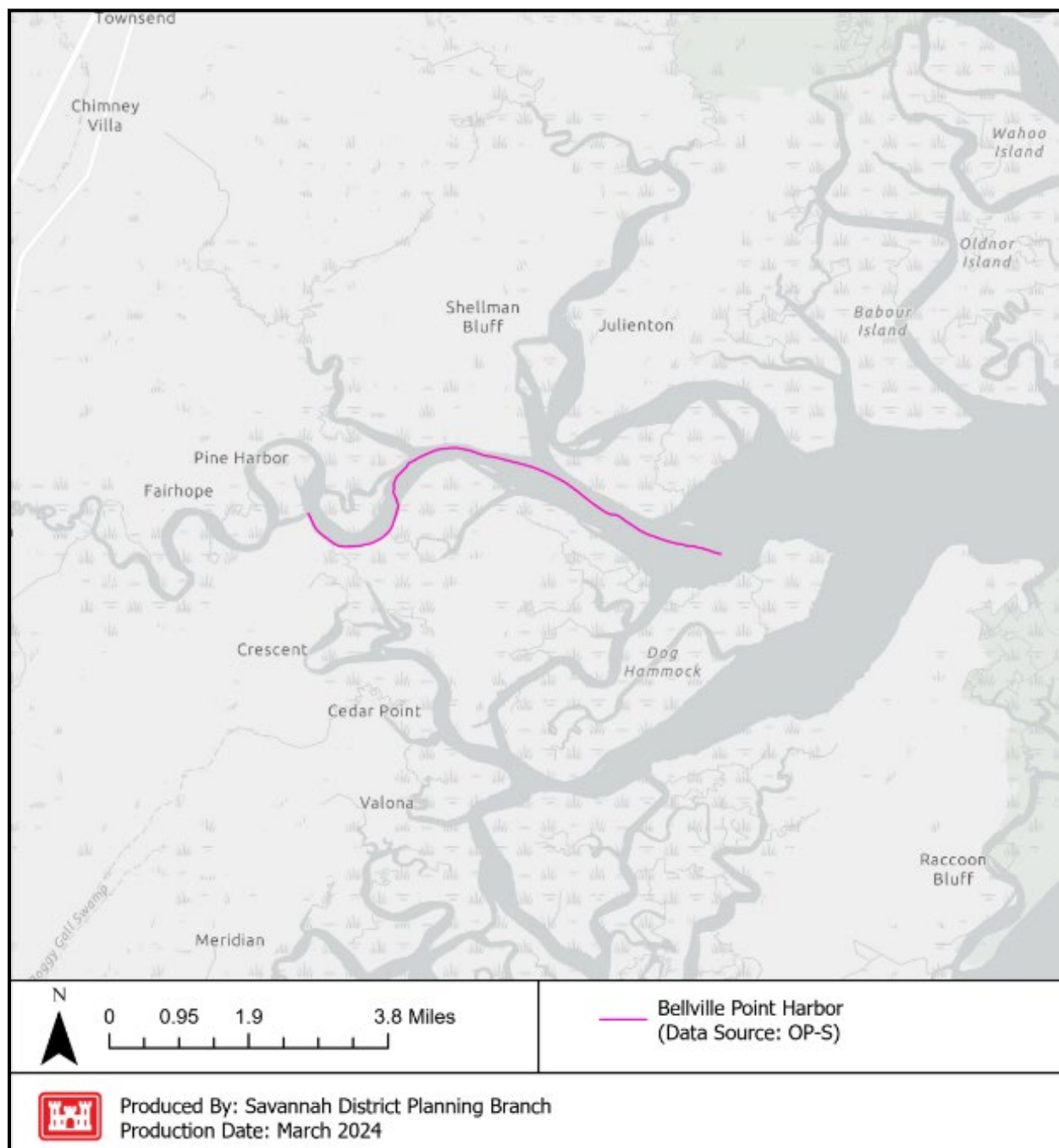


Figure 3: Bellville Point Harbor Project Area

3.3 Darien Harbor

The Darien River offered the best navigable channel of all Altamaha outlets to the sea. The existing project provides a channel 12 ft deep for approximately 12 miles between Darien and Doboy Sound (Figure 4). The head of navigation on Darien River is RM 14.0, at the U.S. Highway 17 Bridge in Darien. Mile 0 of the project is Doboy Sound at Atlantic Ocean. The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1880 and provided for the removal of shoals by dredging 130,953 cubic yards to secure the 12 ft depth. In 1899,

Congress authorized this depth to 17 ft, at mean low water, with a width of 300 ft. Due to dredge vessel limitations and strong littoral currents significantly affecting sand flow, these dimensions were never attained. The Corps determined that a controlling depth of 12 ft at mean low water and a width of 150 ft was sufficient for existing traffic. The last maintenance or improvements to the federal channel occurred in 1925. The harbor last appeared in the Annual Report of 1932; after that it was not included in the district's list of projects.

While numerous sawmills were located at the port, timber and lumber were rafted from inland areas to Doboy Sound and then offloaded onto vessels of small tonnage. This method was necessary due to the existence of Doboy Bar, which was the only obstruction from Doboy to the sea and continually countered any dredge attempts. The bar lay at the mouth of Darien River and limited deep draught vessels from docking at the harbor. As such, larger vessels forced the replacement of Darien Harbor as a shipping point for timber and other commercial goods.

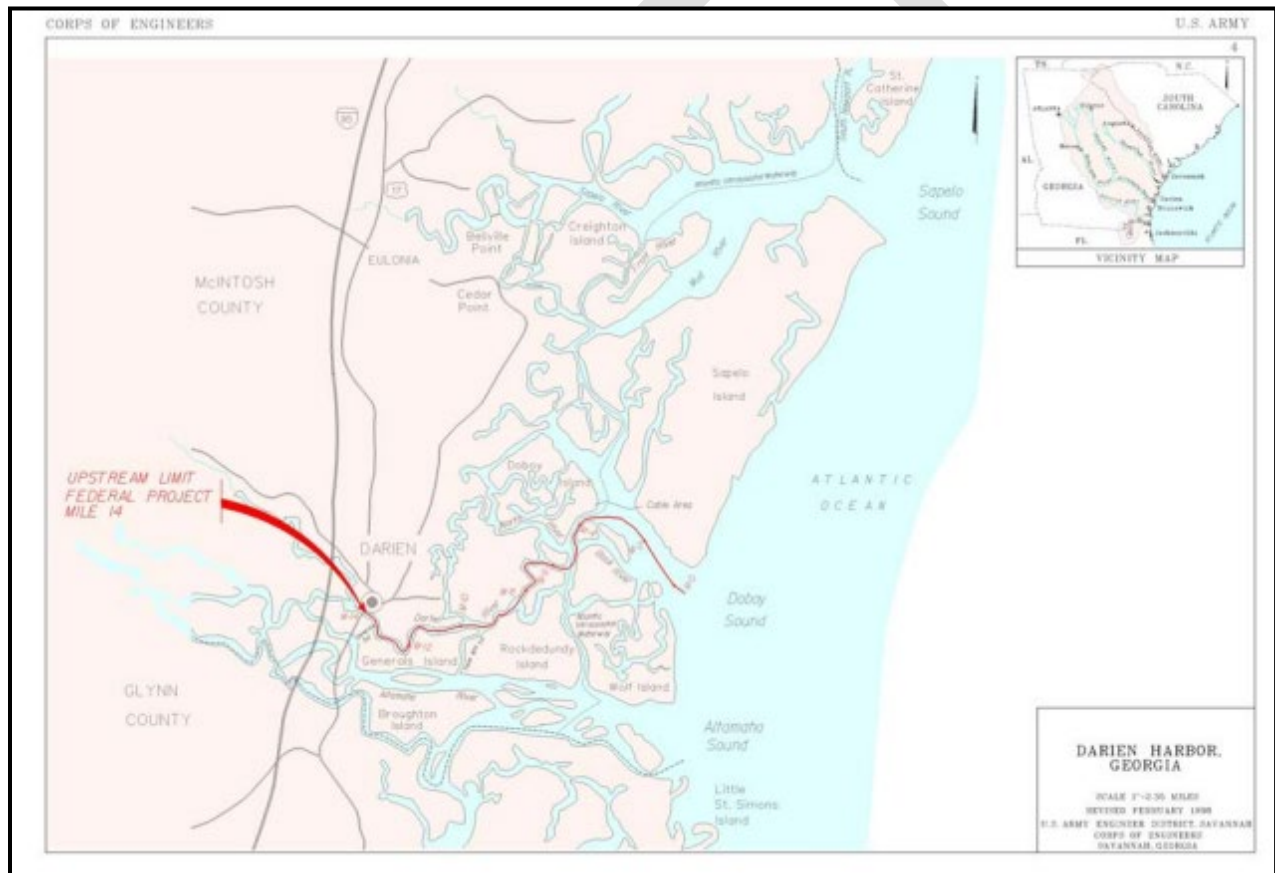


Figure 4: Darien Harbor Project Area

3.4 Fancy Bluff Creek

Authorized with the 1912 Rivers and Harbors Act, Fancy Bluff Creek lies in the drainage basin of the South Brunswick and Turtle Rivers. Its upper end is approximately 4.5 miles (by boat) from the Satilla River, which empties into St. Andrews Sound (Figure 5). Looking to ease the transition of commerce between the Satilla River and Brunswick Harbor, local

authorities opened the waterway prior to 1912. While the harbor was available to deep draft vessels, improvements to the creek allowed light draft boats access to points on the Little Satilla River. Improvements included a canal, dredged approximately 1,200 ft from the upper end of Fancy Bluff Creek to connect it to the Satilla River. The small canal was nearly dry at low tide but maintained itself well and was extensively used.

Initial feasibility studies showed that widening and deepening the canal would greatly improve usage of the creek. The Corps determined that the waterway would be maintained to a depth of 4 ft and a bottom width of 50 ft, at an estimated cost not to exceed \$8,000. Preliminary examination and survey in 1912 determined that flow dynamics of the creek and the increased opening of the cut should not result in deterioration of the creek once the project was completed.

However, the project did not work as originally designed and required dredging in both 1914 and 1915. The Corps did additional maintenance dredging in 1919 and 1923. Despite continued deterioration of the channel, no further work occurred after 1923, and the project was dropped from the Savannah District's Engineer's Report after 1935.

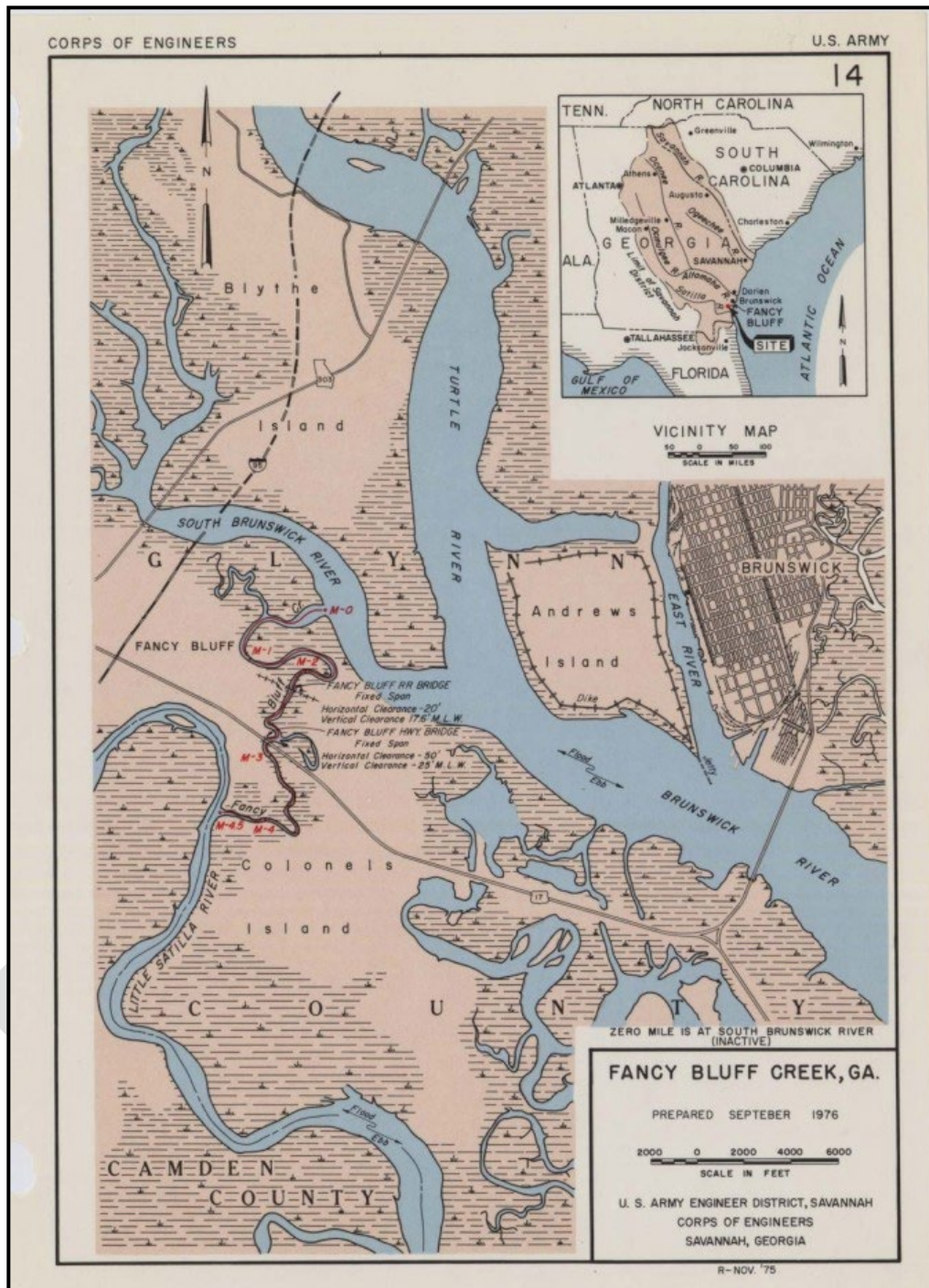


Figure 5: Map of Fancy Bluff Creek

3.5 Sapelo Harbor

Another small and primarily local project was Sapelo Harbor (Figure 6). Today, it is typically referred to as Front River. The river is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), which extends from Norfolk, VA to Key West, FL. The river flows approximately six miles, from one of the many Altamaha River outflows into Sapelo Sound. There was neither a town nor a railway station; it was the site of a few docks and mooring locations

that allowed ships to pick up lumber floated down the Altamaha River and through Darien Harbor.

The harbor was authorized with the 1910 Rivers and Harbors Act and allowed for dredging a channel through the lower two shoals, some 2 miles downriver. The authorized depth was 17 ft at mean low water with a width of 150 ft. Dredging was completed in 1911, but continual shoaling was a constant threat to navigation. As such, the channel was dredged in both 1915 and 1916. A lack of maintenance during WWI led to rapid deterioration of the harbor. The channel was dredged again in 1923. The authorized navigation was recommended for abandonment by the Corps in 1926. It was argued that altered economic conditions led to its disuse and it no longer justified the expenditures. At the time of its authorization in 1910, an estimated 18.8 million board ft of timber was shipped from the harbor, but no commerce traveled through the channel from 1923 to 1927.

The last official Corps report on Sapelo Harbor was in the 1931 *Annual Report of the Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers*. However, the AIWW, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1938, included this harbor. As such, maintenance and dredging will continue as necessary.

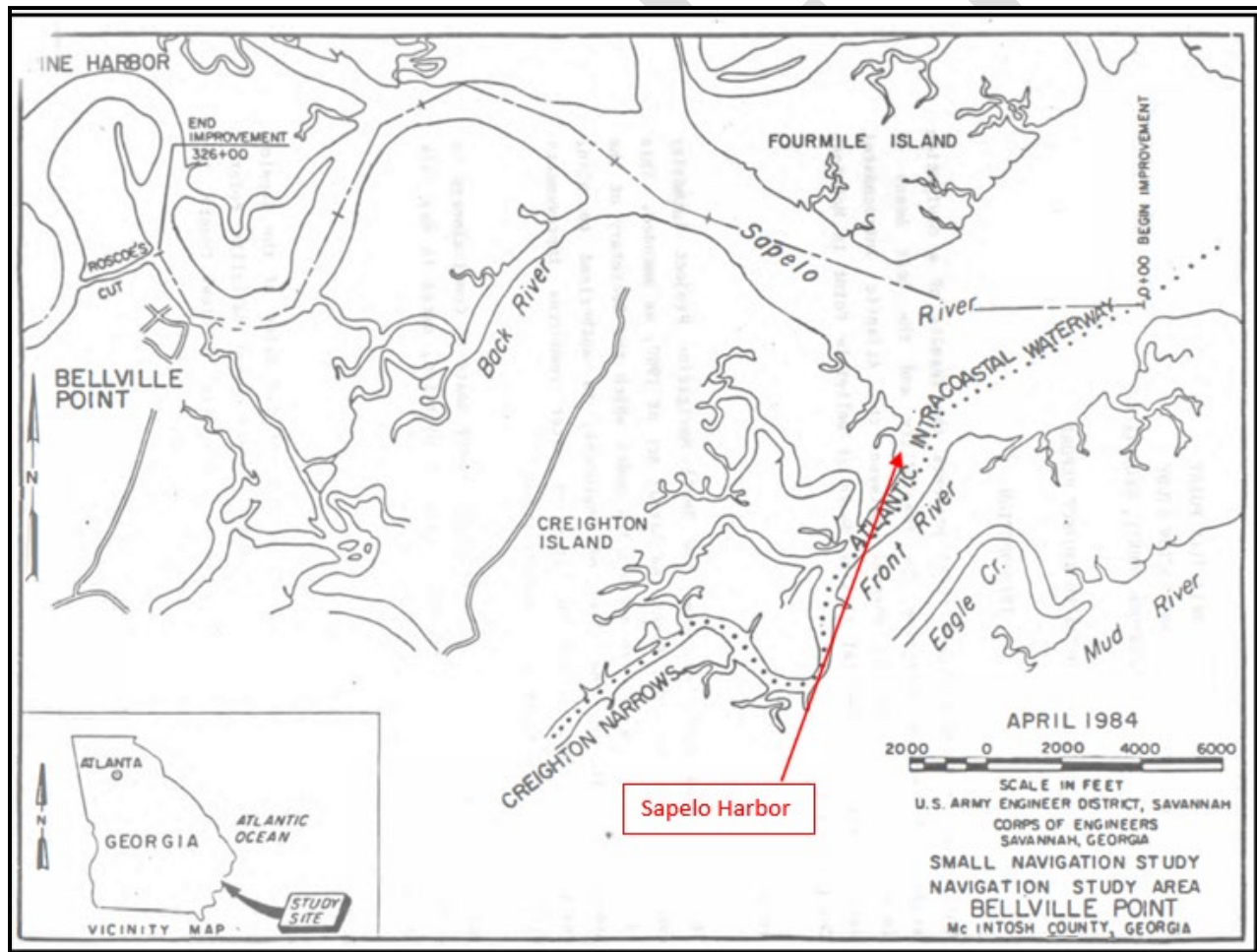


Figure 6: Sapelo Harbor (East of Bellville Point Harbor - along Front River)

3.6 Satilla River

The Satilla River was authorized by Congress in the 1912 Rivers and Harbors Act, but solely for limited clearing of the river (snags and other obstructions) up to Owens Ferry, some 30 miles upriver. Ocean-going vessels could navigate the river up to this point as the controlling depth was 11 to 13 ft at mean low water, but generally over 20 ft. Timber rafts originated as far upriver as Waycross (114 additional miles), but snags, logs, and overhanging trees limited navigation. The 1913 River and Harbors Act extended the improvements up to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACLR) in Waycross. The new authorization (Figure 7) now extends upriver from the mouth of the Satilla to RM 166 with the following project dimensions: 15 ft from the river mouth to RM 30, 6 ft to RM 52, 3 ft to RM 152, and 1 foot to RM 166.

Once authorized, the Corps faced daunting maintenance challenges over the next three decades. While never dredged, Corps-owned snagboats included the Oconee, No. 1, Tugaloo, and Macon routinely removed snags from the waterway in the decade following authorization. Although designated as a river to be studied for development in terms of navigation, flood control, power, and irrigation under the 1927 River and Harbors Act, any such development was soon rejected. The 1929 *Annual Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers* report stated that the navigation project was adequate to handle commerce and unsuitable for hydroelectric power generation due to the wide area of lowlands. In 1940, the district office relegated the Satilla River to the category of least important projects.

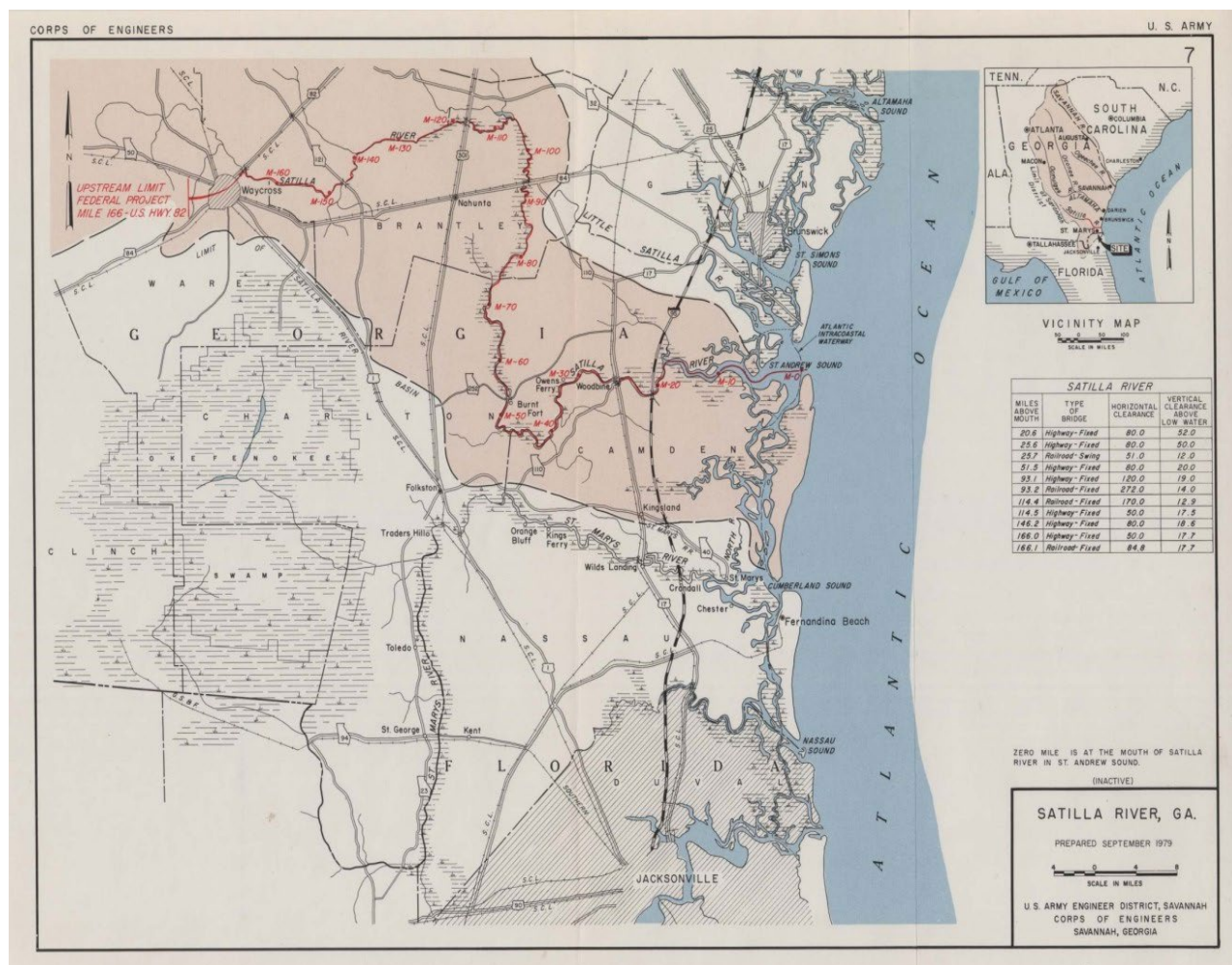


Figure 7: Satilla River Project Area

3.7 St. Marys River

Originating in the Okefenokee Swamp and emptying into the Cumberland Sound, the 126-mile-long St. Marys River is one of the more navigable rivers of southeastern Georgia in its original state. The natural controlling depth at mean low water ranges from 13.5 ft for the first 37 miles up to Kings Ferry to 4 ft some 22 miles farther upstream (Figure 8).

The Corps surveyed the St. Marys River in 1909. This preliminary survey led to the District Commander to recommend dredging the channel to a depth of 17 ft up to Kings Ferry. However, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors challenged that proposal on the basis that the benefits would not justify the expenditures. Legislation was passed in the 1912 Rivers and Harbors Act to improve the channel to 17 ft at mean low water up to Crandall (RM 12.5), along with funds to clear any snags and obstructions up to Kings Ferry (RM 37). Since clearing the channel did not consume the appropriated funds, the district cleared the channel up to Traders Hill (RM 59). The Corps completed the project in December 1914.

Shoaling became a problem in the project's early years. The controlling depth was reduced to 15.5 ft by summer of 1915. The Corps dredged the channel in 1916, 1920, and

1923. No dredging occurred after that, but snagging operations continued periodically through the Great Depression. In 1930, the Corps determined that dredging was no longer needed and that no foreseeable work was necessary to care for existing navigational traffic. Ultimately, the project was rejected as economically infeasible due to surrounding swamps collecting rainfall and lacking the necessary terrain for hydroelectric power generation.

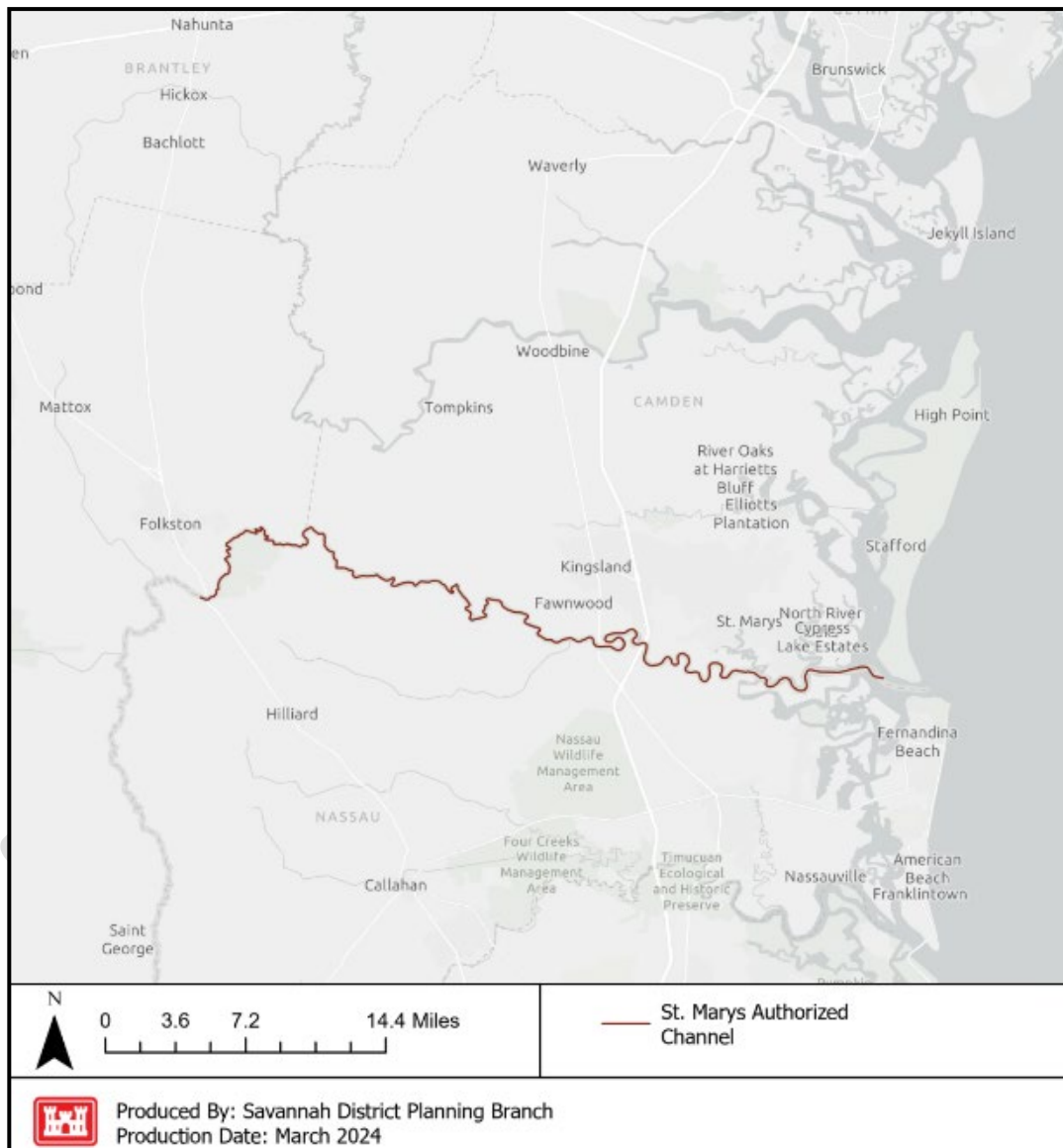


Figure 8: St. Marys River Project Area

4.0 Project History

The Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River all once specifically served the coast of Georgia and the Nation, in general. Beginning in the late 1800s and into the early-1900s, commerce such as timber, turpentine, rosin, cotton, provisions, and merchandise quickly expanded into and out of the upper reaches of these

waterways. Steamships plowed the waters daily, transporting goods quickly and efficiently from inland areas to the coastal cities. While short-lived and all but replaced by continued expansion of railway logging lines in the mid-1920s, these ships, cargo, and people supporting this commerce required the service of the Corps to ensure the waterways and harbors were maintained at safe depths and free of snags.

Post-Civil War, Congress authorized ever-increasing sums of money for river and harbor work, thus enlarging the number and size of funded projects. The 1890 funded amount of \$91.2M was more than the total appropriations of the previous sixty years. One explanation for the improvements of water transportation was offering a potential solution to railroad monopolies. Also, the expanding trade of an industrial society demanded improved waterways and harbors. This authority was delegated to the Secretary of the Army and the Corps, which led to numerous authorizations throughout the Savannah Districts Area of Responsibility (AOR).

At various times along these rivers and harbors, the Corps carried out studies for potential navigational improvements along the aforementioned nine waterways. However, as commerce waned and barge traffic decreased, the benefits of such improvements could not be justified. As such, these channels no longer required dredging to maintain the authorized depths. That being stated, the waterways still provide sufficient water depth for motorized recreational boaters and fishers.

4.1 Commercial Navigation

Except for daily ferry service to Cumberland Island National Seashore (started in 2003) utilizing the St. Marys River, there has not been any commercial navigation since the early 1970s. The other eight federal channels are no longer used for their authorized purpose, i.e., the movement of commodities. The Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center (WCSC) shows that there has been minimal commercial use of the St. Marys River federal channel for movement of commodities (Table 1). Considering that the channel was last dredged five decades ago, and the ferry continues to operate daily, no impacts are anticipated for the ferry service.

Table 1: St. Marys River Cargo Traffic

Calendar Year	Tons, All Commodities
2019	2,332
2020	1,815
2021	2,591

*No other waterways in the study have commercial traffic

4.2 Dredging

The last maintenance on any of the federal channels occurred in 1978 on the Altamaha River, which was snag removal. All the other channels were last dredged between the late 1920s and mid-1940s.

5.0 Planning Criteria

This section defines the study problems, opportunities, objectives, and constraints in accordance with the Corps and federal planning guidance. Problems are undesirable, negative conditions that the study will assess, while opportunities are the desirable future outcomes that address the water resource problems and improve conditions in the study area. An objective is a statement of the intended purposes of the planning process; it is a statement of what an alternative plan should try to achieve over the life of the project. Based on the assessment of the existing and predicted future project area conditions, the Corps has developed the following statements:

- **Problem:** Several coastal Georgia federally authorized channels are no longer maintained.
- **Opportunity:** There is an opportunity to conserve federal funds expended annually on surveys. The action would remove restrictions under Section 408 that are not applicable due to lack of commercial navigation (other state regulations still apply).
- **Objective:** To determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation.
- **Constraints:** Limited funds available for future waterway maintenance as authorized.

This section presents the considerations made during plan formulation, including addressing existing and future conditions, identifying problems, opportunities, objectives, and any constraints found that may affect decision making. The following sections include conditions that may influence the recommended plan, with summaries of the planning objectives at the end.

5.1 Screening Tools

With over 300 data layers from numerous sources, MarineCadastre.gov is one of the premier sources for authoritative ocean data and tools. A cooperative effort between the BOEM, NOAA, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG), MarineCadastre.gov works closely with national, regional, and state partners to develop and provide direct access to the best-available data and tools to meet the growing needs of the blue economy. Blue economy is an economics term relating to exploitation, preservation, and regeneration of the marine environment, i.e., sustainability of coastal resources.

Vessel traffic data, or Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, are collected by the U.S. Coast Guard through an onboard navigation safety device that transmits and monitors the location and characteristics of vessels in U.S. and international waters in real time. BOEM, NOAA, and the USGS Navigation Center have worked jointly to repurpose and make available some of the most important records, such as location, time, and vessel type, from the USGS national network of AIS receivers. Information such as location, time, vessel type, speed, length, beam, and draft have been extracted from the raw data.

5.2 National Security

Communication between the Corps Savannah District and the two military organizations and one nuclear power plant in the area found that the federal channel does not have any national security needs or purposes.

- The Naval Submarine Base King's Bay, located north of St. Marys, was engaged on 3 January 2024. Mission-related activities occur within the Cumberland River. That location of the river corresponds with the AIWW, which is routinely dredged and not part of this study.
- Robins Air Force Base was engaged on 30 January 2024. The base, located some 18 miles south of Macon along the Ocmulgee River, does not require any authorized depths of the channel for any mission-related activities.
- The Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power Plant was engaged on 2 January 2024. The plant, located on the Altamaha River, does not use the waterway for navigational purposes but does use the water provided for their mission-related activities.

5.3 Safety Concerns

There are no safety concerns associated with the navigation channels. Annual federal channel surveys have never revealed life or safety concerns.

5.4 Existing Economic Activity

The project area waterways support numerous river uses, from thermoelectric power (coal and nuclear), livestock use, irrigation, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment, and more. Agriculture dominates the landscape in these basins, and all major commodities (peanuts, corn, cotton, oats, rye, soybeans, and tobacco) are grown and produced here. Additionally, about half of Georgia's commercial and recreational fisheries are based here, and the area is a haven for canoeing and camping. However, these activities do not require any channel maintenance or dredging and should not be affected by deauthorization.

Although there are several smaller vessels that contribute to the local economy by using the channels in the project area, motorized vessel traffic is not substantial. Per CECW-CO (15-6b2) Enclosure 1, substantial is defined as *"an amount of traffic that, without continued maintenance of the federal channel, a local community dependent on that traffic would suffer catastrophic economic impacts."* Dredging of these federal channels has not occurred since 1978 in the case of the Altamaha (most recent maintenance of any waterways in this study) and 1923 with regards to St. Marys, so, by definition, vessel traffic is not substantial in this channel.

5.5 Recreational Traffic

As with the economic activity, recreational traffic, while large in number, is not substantial as defined above in 5.4. Deauthorization is not anticipated to adversely affect recreational traffic as they do not require the authorized depths to enjoy the waterways. Portions of the channel will continue to shoal and clear as is common with any river system. As such, those vessels can continue using the channels as the waterways currently allow. There are no anticipated effects to the multiple boat ramps in the project area. Since not all vessels have AIS, an accurate count of recreational boats is not possible. However, those with AIS show annual marine traffic for all nine waterways to be 3,521 pleasure crafts.

5.6 Nearby National Parks and Refuges

The Cumberland Island National Seashore is located on Cumberland Island east of St.

Marys, GA, and outside the project area. While the ferry service uses the river channel, the park is not reliant on the federal channel.

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1937, encompasses approximately 354,000 acres. It is one of the oldest and most well-preserved blackwater swamps in America and is the headwaters of the St Marys River.

The Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park is in Macon, Georgia, at the furthest portion of the Ocmulgee River authorization. However, the park does not use the river for navigation purposes.

5.7 Local Uses or Needs of the Channel and Channel Use

The Corps has not maintained any of the channels for several decades. As such, there are no known local uses or needs reliant upon the authorized depth of the federal channel. The Corps used the Corps Channel Portfolio Tool (<https://cpt.usace.army.mil/>) to plot vessel traffic by draft for each the project areas for the period 2002 to 2023. Vessel traffic did not exceed five ft in depth.

6.0 Public Involvement

6.1 Coordination with Relevant Agencies

This Draft IWSSRR/EA and FONSI will be reviewed by Federal and state natural resource agencies and the Public. The draft IWSSRR/EA will be made available for a 30-day public comment period. All future Public and Agency coordination and comments will be added to Appendix C (Guidance and Correspondence).

Communications with federal, state, and local shareholders and stakeholders should help identify any future needs for the channels that could potentially require the continued authorizations.

7.0 Alternatives Description

This section describes and compares the two alternatives considered:

- Alternative 1: Project Retained/No Action (NAA)
- Alternative 2: Project Deauthorized/Action

This is a qualitative analysis with no quantitative data collection and spotlights the factors that are different between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. The Corps applied the selection criteria of completeness, effectiveness, efficiency, and acceptability and made a comparison of the alternatives. If this project is serving its authorized purpose, the Corps will recommend retention of the project; however, if it is not serving its authorized purpose, the Corps will recommend deauthorization.

7.1 Alternative 1: Project Retained/No Action

The no action alternative does not address the study problem or meet the objective. It does, however, allow the project to continue as an inactive federal water resources project that is unlikely to be maintained through dredging operations. In this scenario, the project is still under consideration by the Corps for maintenance dredging, but unlikely to get funded; however, the Corps would continue the annual conditions surveys (Table 2), resulting in

temporary and minor adverse effects associated with noise and air quality.

Table 2: Project Retention Costs

Item	Cost	Last Completed	Next Scheduled
Survey	\$32k (EST)	2023	2024
Dredging	\$100M (ROM) + NEPA	1978	Not expected

7.2 Alternative 2: Project Deauthorization

This action alternative allows deauthorization and the project would no longer be considered by the Corps for maintenance dredging funding. The temporary and minor adverse effects from the annual condition surveys would no longer occur. Minimal one-time cost would be associated with channel deauthorization. Under Alternative 2, the waterways would be under the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia and subject to any state laws, such as the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, and compliance with associated federal laws.

None of the federal navigation channels have been maintained through dredging operations since the 1970s; deauthorizing the project is expected to result in no adverse impacts to the environment. Federal funds would be saved due to the ceasing of the annual conditions boat surveys.

7.3 System of Accounts: Analysis and Screening of Alternatives

The following criteria summarize the Corps' four main system of accounts, including National Economic Development (NED) Benefits, Regional Economic Development (RED) Benefits, Environmental Quality (EQ), and Other Social Effects (OSE). In accordance with ER 1105-2-100, Planning Guidance Notebook, the four general Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G 2013) criteria of completeness, efficiency, effectiveness, and acceptability, as seen below, assess the final array of alternatives with the system of accounts.

7.3.1 Main System of Accounts Screening

- NED - costs include both financial costs to implement, maintain, and operate each alternative, and foregone economic benefits of implementing each alternative. NED financial costs include project capital costs including real estate and OMRR&R costs.
- RED - describes and assesses changes in regional economic activity that would occur for the alternatives, including changes in jobs, income, economic output, and population (ER 1105-2-100, page 1-3). RED is used to evaluate changes in the distribution of regional economic activity that result from each alternative plan.
- EQ - describes the non-monetary effects on significant ecological, aesthetic, and cultural resources.

- OSE - describes plan effects on social aspects such as community impacts, health and safety factors, displacement, energy conservation, and others (ER 1005-2-100; IWR Report 2013-R-03, *Applying Other Social Effects in Alternatives Analysis*).

Waterborne commerce exists but is not reliant on the authorized channel depths, therefore no measurable effects are anticipated to quantifiable national economic development (NED) benefits or Regional Economic Development (RED). Other Social Effects (OSE), and Environmental Quality (EQ) were also considered, and none were found to be affected by the project. Whether the federal channels are deauthorized or no would have minimal positive or negative effects on the main system of accounts.

7.4 Comparing Alternatives

Per ER 1105-2-100, Principles and Guidelines (P&G), ASA(CW) memorandum 3 April 2020, ASA(CW) Policy Directive 5 January 2021, all four accounts (NED, EQ, RED, and OSE) have undergone evaluation and comparison, with the results presented in the table below. The two alternatives have identical physical attributes. No quantifiable NED benefits have been found. The RED account shows no alterations in the distribution of regional economic activity resulting from either alternative plan. Regional effects were assessed using nationally consistent projections of income, employment, output, and population. The EQ account delineates effects on significant natural and cultural resources. The OSE account records plan effects relevant to the planning process but not reflected in the other three accounts. The identification of the Recommended Plan was based on the evaluation and comparison of potential positive and negative outcomes, summarized in Table 4 below, which presents each factor that might be affected by Alternative 1 (No Action) and Alternative 2 (Deauthorization). No Benefit-Cost Ratio was required for this study.

Table 3: Summary of Accounts and Comparison of Alternatives

Item	Alternative 1: Project Retained/ No Action	Alternate 2: Project Deauthorization
National Economic Development (NED)		
Average Annual Benefits – Transportation Cost Saving	\$0	\$0
Recreation	Direct recreation provides an unknown estimated amount per year	Direct recreation provides an unknown estimated amount per year
Annual O&M	\$75,000	No O&M costs
Harbor Dredging Cost - 2021 estimates	Potential Corps costs associated with the waterways = \$100M plus NEPA	No Dredging costs

Effects on Commercial Navigation	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging
Effects on Large Boat Navigation	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging
Effects on Small Boat Navigation	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging	None. No vessels rely on channel dredging
Regional Economic Development (RED)		
Impact on Sales Volume	Status quo maintained. No effect to sales volume	Status quo maintained. No effect to sales volume
Impact on Income	No effect to existing income	No effect to existing income
Impact on Employment	No effect to existing employment	No effect to existing employment
Tax Changes	No effect as compared to current conditions	No effect as compared to current conditions
Environmental Quality (EQ)		
	Future maintenance dredging is not expected due to lack of funding; however, channel condition surveys would continue. During channel condition surveys, temporary and negligible effects to air quality and noise would be expected	Deauthorization of the waterways would result in the termination of all maintenance activities. There would be no negative effect to threatened and endangered species, essential fish habitat, or historic properties
Other Social Effects (OSE)		

Community Cohesion	The community will continue as in the past. For example, the retention of the federal channel would not affect daily recreation or any water-related activities	The community will continue as in the past. For example, the deauthorization of the federal channel would not affect daily recreation or any water-related activities
Life Safety Risk	Retaining the project does not affect life safety risks. Boats will continue to use the channels and harbors unimpeded	Deauthorizing the project does not affect life safety risks. Boats will continue to use the channels and harbors unimpeded

7.5 PR&G Screening of the Recommended Plan

Screening Alternative 2 against the four P&G criteria shows the following:

- **Completeness** – Alternative 2 is complete. It accounts for all necessary investments and actions to realize the plan and the Corps is likely to successfully implement the plan.
- **Effectiveness** – Alternative 2 is effective. By deauthorizing the project, Alternative 2 alleviates the problem of maintaining a channel where there is no commercial navigation and simultaneously achieves the opportunity of allowing private developers to pursue their planned waterfront development. Alternative 2 is effective at achieving the study objective.
- **Efficiency** – Alternative 2 is the most cost-efficient, therefore efficient, means of alleviating the problems and achieving the opportunities. It requires the Corps to expend resources once to release easements associated with a project that no longer serves its intended purpose.
- **Acceptability** – Alternative 2 is acceptable. Congress authorized channel projects for commercial navigation, and it is no longer serving that purpose. The need for maintenance dredging long ago ceased and existing commercial navigation, as limited as it is, does not require the authorized channel depths to be maintained.

If recommended, Alternative 2 would meet all four screening criteria and project objectives as outlined in Section 5.0.

7.6 Summary of Comparison

Analysis of the alternatives indicates that the channel no longer meets the objectives of the original authorization. Further, there are no meaningful benefits beyond NED to be gained by retaining the channel. However, Alternative 2, deauthorization, saves the Government money on a project that no longer serves its intended purpose of commercial

navigation for the movement of commodities. It also has the potential, if not to increase environmental quality within the channel, at least to reduce the potential for impacts from dredging. This federal navigation channel has not been maintained for nearly two decades, does not contain structures, and in addition to not supporting commercial traffic for the movement of commodities, also does not support substantial recreational traffic. The federal interest has ceased and deauthorization would not result in significant impacts on the human environment.

Waterborne commerce in the form of the movement of commodities requiring the authorized depth has not occurred since the 1940s. Therefore, there are no quantifiable NED benefits, and there are no quantifiable benefits associated with RED. No OSE were identified. Deauthorization reduces the potential for impacts to EQ in the channel.

8.0 Existing Natural and Cultural Resources and Environmental Consequences

The Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers are located within two physiographic provinces: the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain provinces. The federal navigation channel for the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers extends only 1 mile and 4 miles, respectively, north of the fall line; therefore, the existing conditions are expected to be similar to those in the coastal plain province. The Altamaha River, Satilla River, St. Marys River, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Bellville Point Harbor, and Darien Harbor are located entirely within the Coastal Plain province. This section has been organized to describe in general terms the resources in the Coastal Plain provinces and the potential consequences of the Proposed Action, in comparison with the NAA. Because the St. Marys River falls on the Florida-Georgia border and the habitats are similar, it is assumed that the resource information would be similar.

The assessment of environmental effects is based on a comparison of effects of the NAA and proposed action, identified from here forward as Alternative 2. As neither would not result in physical or operational changes from the current conditions, this EA concludes no effects to the resources described below and the conditions described for each resource would not change under any of the alternatives, with the exception of cultural resources. Alternative 2 would result in less than significant effects to cultural resources. Any future activities post deauthorization in any of the waterways that are also waters of the United States would require compliance with applicable federal laws for the protection of the environment.

8.1 Climate

According to the Köppen climate classification, Georgia and Florida is classified as a humid subtropical climate. Georgia's and Florida's Coastal Plain experiences hot and humid summers with mild winters. The area typically experiences its coldest month in January and the warmest months in July and August. Annual average high temperatures eclipse 77°F, whereas annual average low temperature dips to around 54°F. Precipitation on the Coastal Plain annually averages in excess of 45 inches per year (GSCO, 1998).

According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment for the Southeast United States (Figure 9), the number of rainfall events are increasing across Georgia and Florida. The Southeast is experiencing more and longer summer heat waves, and that is expected to

continue. The number of days with high minimum temperatures (nighttime temperatures that stay above 75°F) has been increasing across the Southeast as well, and this trend is expected to intensify. Many Southeast cities are projected to experience more than 30 days of high tide flooding per year and more extreme coastal flood events are expected to increase in frequency and duration.

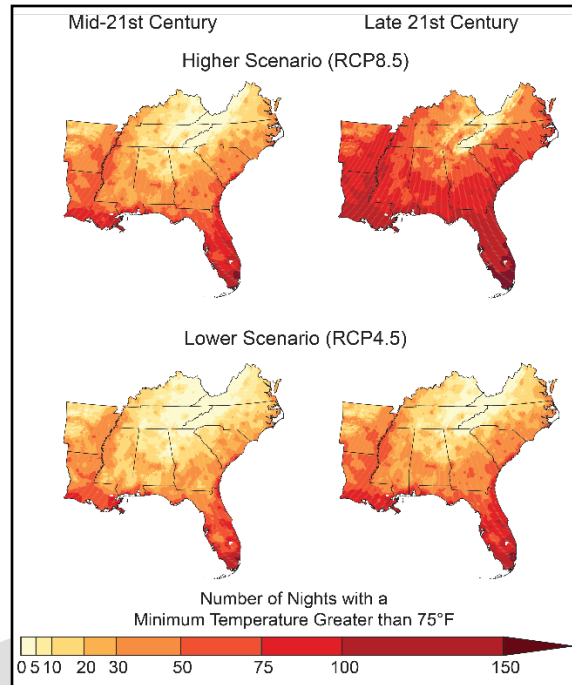


Figure 9. Fourth National Climate Assessment Number of Nights with a Minimum Temperature Greater than 75 degrees F. Under both the high and low scenarios, an increase of 50 or more days of warmer nights is expected.

8.2 Geology

The Coastal Plain is overlaid by many sedimentary strata tilted toward the sea. These deposits were formed during the many changes in sea level associated with glaciation during the Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The thickest deposits are in the coastal area, tapering to a thin edge at the Fall Line, where the oldest sediments are exposed. (Johnson et al., 1974).

8.3 Soils

Some general trends in landscapes and soil properties can be recognized from northwest Georgia to southeast Georgia: (1) clay content of the soils decreases, (2) sand content increases, (3) slope gradient decreases, (4) depth to water table decreases (soils become wetter), and (5) flood plains become more prominent (GAEPD, 2003a).

The Coastal Plain is dominated by well-drained soils that have sandy surface and subsurface layers and a loam or clay subsoil. These sediments are dominantly terrestrial to shallow marine in origin and consist of sand, kaolinitic sand, kaolin, clay casts, and pebbly sand (GAEPD, 1998; GAEPD, 2003a). The southernmost end of the Coastal Plain has soils that are mostly moderately well-drained to poorly drained and generally have thick sandy surface and subsurface layers overlying a loam subsoil.

Tidal marsh soils consist primarily of marine sediments which are predominantly mineral soils with varying amounts of organic matter. They also consist of clay or silt and are high in Sulphur and salt content (GAEPD, 2002b). Marsh soils are usually covered twice daily with tidal water.

8.4 Water Quality

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is the agency responsible for enforcing water quality standards pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), as amended, in Georgia. Georgia EPD compares water quality data collected across the state against Georgia's Water Quality Standards and publishes a list of impaired waters (Figure 10) every two years in the integrated CWA Section 305(b)/303(d) integrated report. If monitoring data show that standards are not met, the water body is said to be "not supporting" the designated use. All of Georgia's waters are classified as one or more of the following designated uses: drinking water, fishing, coastal fishing, recreation, and wild river/scenic river. In 2022, 39% of all waters in Georgia were supporting the designated use, 52% were not supporting the designated use, and 9% were pending assessment (Booth, 2020).



Figure 10: GA Integrated 305(b)/303(d) List

Detailed information of the reaches in this project including their designated uses and their attainment status for water quality standards are listed in Appendix A.

The Bellville Point Harbor, Sapelo Harbor, and Darien Harbor are all supporting their designated use of fishing. Portions of the Altamaha River, Ocmulgee River, Oconee River, Satilla River, and St. Marys River are not supporting their designated uses of fishing or fishing and drinking water. For those assessed as Not Supporting, the impairments were for fish community (BioF), fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, pH, metals, and various pollutants in fish tissue. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculation was created for many of the pollutants. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet water quality standards for that pollutant. Appendix A identifies those waterways with a TMDL.

There is no data in the 305(b)/303(d) list for Fancy Bluff Creek. However, the South Brunswick River runs to the north and there is information available for this waterway. The use of fishing is not supported by the waterway due to a shellfishing ban, fish tissue containing contaminants, and reduced dissolved oxygen (GAEPD, 2022).

The St. Marys River is also managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The designated use of the river in Florida is aquatic life. The 2020 Integrated Water Quality Assessment for Florida reported that the St. Marys River had a negative trend for nitrate-nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total nitrogen, specific conductance, chlorophyll-a, and dissolved oxygen. The rest of the water quality parameters did not show a trend (FDEP, 2020).

Under the deauthorization of the waterways, the state would still manage for the discharge of pollutants and would issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

8.5 Aquatic Habitats

Habitats found within the project area include various wetlands, freshwater riverine systems, intertidal marsh, estuarine rivers, and open waters. Wetlands occur throughout the project area along all the riverine systems. Freshwater riverine systems occur throughout the Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, and the northern section of the Altamaha River. Great expanses of intertidal marsh occur along the coast of Georgia and along the banks of the estuarine rivers. Bellville Point Harbor, Sapelo Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Satilla River, lower Altamaha River, and St. Marys River would all have adjacent intertidal marsh. Open waters are those tributaries supplementing the general southeastern drainage pattern of the region and include all marine and estuarine waters together with all underlying bottoms below the intertidal zone.

8.6 Vegetation

Many of the waterways have a wide expanse of marsh vegetation along their banks. Marsh vegetation varies with elevation and salinity but is generally dominated by emergent, narrow-leaved rushes, sedges, and grasses. Low marsh is the lowest topographically and occurs from mean sea level to about mean high water. Low marsh is regularly flooded by lunar tides with smooth cordgrass vegetation throughout most of the project area. High marshes are situated at elevations above the normal high tide level but within the area flooded by spring tides. In the project area, this community occurs as a

fringe community on the margins of the low marsh. The principal plant found in the high marsh is black needlerush. Other high marsh species include sea ox-eye, glasswort, sea blite, salt meadow cordgrass, marsh elder, dog fennel, salt marsh aster, salt marsh fimbriatylis, dropseed, salt grass, silverlin, broomsedge, wax myrtle, and live oak seedlings.

8.7 Protected Species

8.7.1 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) regulates activities affecting plants and animals that are Federally classified as threatened or endangered, as well as the designated critical habitat of such species. The waterways of the federal channel encompass the ranges of several federally threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Current USFWS and NMFS ESA-listed species lists were reviewed for the project area. The USFWS's Information for Planning and Consulting (IPaC) tool indicated several federally listed species potentially within the project area. These included a total of twelve federally listed endangered species, eight federally listed threatened species, two federally listed candidate species, one federally listed proposed threatened species, and one federally listed experimental population. Appendix A has more detailed information for the listed species occurring within the project area (Table 5 and their distribution in the waterways. Five of these species are also under NMFS jurisdiction. NMFS ESA listed species were assessed (Table 6) using the NMFS Threatened and Endangered Species List for the State of Georgia (NMFS, 2023).

Under the NAA, it is assumed that no maintenance dredging would occur; therefore, there would be no impacts to any threatened and endangered species in the project area. If maintenance dredging does occur, the action agency would consult with USFWS and NMFS on ESA and make a determination of effects.

Table 5: USFWS Federally Listed Species Occurring within the Project Area. Source: USFWS IPaC tool (USFWS, 2024).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Likely to Occur in Project Area
Mammal	West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened	Yes, most likely along coast
Bird	Eastern Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis</i>	Threatened	Yes, most likely along coast
	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Threatened	Yes
	Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Yes
	Rufa Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Yes, most likely along marsh and beach areas

	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered	No
	Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Experimental population	No
Clam	Altamaha spiny mussel	<i>Elliptio spinosa</i>	Endangered	Yes
Reptile	Eastern Indigo Snake	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Threatened	No
	Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Potentially, along the mouth of systems
	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	Potentially, along the mouth of systems
	Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	Potentially, along the mouth of systems
	Leatherback Sea Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	No
	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Potentially, along the mouth of systems
Fish	Robust Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	Candidate	Potentially, along woody debris on the edge of deep channels in rivers
Insect	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	No
Plant	American Chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	Endangered	No
	Hairy Rattleweed	<i>Baptisia arachnifera</i>	Endangered	No
	Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered	No
	Canby's Dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Endangered	No
	Fringed Campion	<i>Silene polypetala</i>	Endangered	No
	Ocmulgee Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria ocmulgee</i>	Proposed Threatened	No
	Relict Trillium	<i>Trillium reliquum</i>	Endangered	No
	Harperella	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	Endangered	No

Table 6: NMFS Federally Listed Species occurring within the state. Source: Threatened and Endangered Species Directory for Georgia (NMFS, 2023).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Likely Present in Study Area (yes/no)
Mammal	North Atlantic Right whale*	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	No
	Sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	No
	Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	No

	Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	No
	Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	No
Reptile	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	No
	Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	No
	Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Yes
	Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	Yes
	Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Yes
Fish	Oceanic Whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Threatened	Yes
	Giant manta ray	<i>Manta birostris</i>	Threatened	No
	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	Endangered	Yes
	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	Yes

Additionally, there is critical habitat for species in the waterways. The Altamaha spiny mussel and the Atlantic sturgeon both have critical habitat in the Oconee, Ocmulgee, and Altamaha Rivers.

8.7.2 Marine Mammals

Marine Mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (MMPA). The Act prohibits the unauthorized hunting, harassment, capture, or killing of marine mammals as well as the import or export of the species, including their parts and products. Federal entities responsible for implementing the MMPA include NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, and the Marine Mammal Commission. The marine mammals most likely to be found in the coastal section of the Altamaha, Bellville Point Harbor, Sapelo Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Satilla River, and St. Marys River include the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and the West Indian manatee.

8.7.3 Migratory Birds

Migratory bird species are protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. § 703) (MBTA). MBTA prohibits the killing, capturing, trading, selling, or transport of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization of the USFWS. The Act applies only to migratory bird species that are native to the United States or U.S. territories. There are several bird species in the study area that are protected under the MBTA; those species are listed in Appendix A.

8.8 Aquatic Species of State Concern

Many aquatic species in the study area are protected by state laws and regulations. These species are ecologically important and experiencing decline. The Georgia Biodiversity Portal has a list of the species that are protected by law in Georgia. Some of these species include Oconee burrowing crayfish, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, robust redhorse, Altamaha shiner, Altamaha arc mussel, Altamaha spiny mussel, Savannah lilliput, diamondback terrapin, leatherback sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley, alligator snapping turtle, and West Indian manatee.

8.9 Birds

Bird species that may utilize the waterways for foraging or other activities include: brown pelican, black skimmer, royal tern, red breasted merganser, herring gull, laughing gull, ringbill gull, osprey, and double crested cormorant. Shore birds, waterfowl, gulls, herons, and egrets inhabit the adjacent marsh communities and plovers, dowitchers, and sandpipers forage around shorelines and on open flats.

8.10 Invasive Species

Invasive species can be defined as nonindigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. For this document, invasive species are limited to the waterways. While there are many invasive species of concern in Georgia, Table 7 lists the priority 1 species for the state. Priority 1 species are those that the state currently spends a significant amount of time and/or money on for some aspect of management or that the organization plans to spend time and money on in the next five years (GADNR, 2009). Similar species would be expected to be of concern for Florida aquatic systems.

Table 7. Priority 1 Invasive Species of Concern in Georgia (GADNR, 2009).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Present/Not Present
Fishes	Goldfish	Carassius auratus	P
	Grass carp	Ctenopharyngodon idella	P
	Red shiner	Cyprinella lutrensis	P
	Asian swamp (rice) eel	Monopterus albus	P
	Blue tilapia	Oreochromis aureus	P
	Nile tilapia	Oreochromis niloticus	P
	Flathead catfish	Pylodictis olivaris	P
Mollusks	Giant East African snail	Achatina fulica	NP
	Asian clam	Corbicula fluminea	P
	Zebra mussel	Dreissena polymorpha	NP
	Charua mussel	Mytella charruana	P
	Green mussel	Perna viridis	P
	Channeled apple snail	Pomacea armatus	P

Insects	Swede midge	Contarinia nasturii	NP
Plants	Brazilian elodea	Egeria densa	P
	Common water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	P
	Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	P
	East Indian hygrophylia	Hygrophila polysperma	P
	Chinese privet	Ligustrum sinense	P
	Creeping water primrose	Ludwigia peploides	P
	Blue-green algae	Lyngbya spp.	P
	Asian spiderwort, marsh dewflower	Murdannia keisak	P
	Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	P
	Variable leaf milfoil	Myriophyllum heterophyllum	P
	Spiny leaf naiad	Najas marina	NP
	Water lettuce	Pistia stratiotes	P
	Common salvinia	Salvinia minima	P
	Giant salvinia	Salvinia molesta	P
	Giant cut grass (Southern wild rice)	Zizaniopsis millacea	P

The state of Georgia and the State of Florida currently manage for invasive species. Under the deauthorization of the waterways, the state would continue to manage the introduction and spread of the species. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are the departments that facilitate the management of invasive species.

8.11 Essential Fish Habitat

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) as those waters and substrates necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. Bellville Harbor, Sapelo Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Satilla River, and St. Marys River are named as EFH managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC), and NMFS. Additionally, the coastal inlets of the rivers are named as habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) for penaeid shrimp. EFH includes estuarine and marine column, soft bottoms, intertidal flats, estuarine emergent wetlands, and tidal creeks. Federally managed species that may be found in the study area include penaeid shrimp, snapper grouper species, coastal migratory pelagics, and several shark species (NMFS, 2024).

8.12 Wetlands

The abundance of wetlands in Georgia is primarily due to high rainfall statewide and relatively flat topography in the southern part of the State. The central and southeastern section of the state, where the waterways are located, contains the greatest extent of wetlands in Georgia (Darst and Light, n.d.).

Most of Georgia's and Florida's coastal wetlands are in estuaries at the mouths of rivers. Salt marshes in which the predominant emergent plant species is smooth cordgrass are the most common estuarine wetlands. Tidal flats are estuarine wetlands that are regularly exposed and flooded by tides (Darst and Light, n.d.).

8.13 Cultural Resources

These waterways have significant cultural histories as represented in the known terrestrial and submerged cultural resources that have been documented throughout these areas. Appendix B provides a full description of each waterway and the known cultural resources, which encompass prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic structures, and historic districts. Some waterways include cultural resources that are eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

8.14 Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) was assessed for the project study area. Environmental indicators show that there are several communities with concern with air and water quality as well as other environmental factors along the waterways. The study area also shows surrounding areas have a mix of income levels and minority populations (EPA, 2024).

Because the Alternative 2 is administrative in nature does not result in any physical changes to the waterways, Alternative 2 would not have disproportionate effects on low-income or minority populations and is not anticipated to affect environmental justice. Additional details on this determination are provided in Section 9.1.

9.0 Environmental Compliance

9.1 Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires each federal agency to conduct its programs, policies, and activities that substantially affect human health or the environment, in a manner that ensures that such programs, policies, and activities do not have the effect of excluding persons from participation in, denying persons the benefits of, or subjecting persons to discrimination under, such programs, policies, and activities, because of their race, color, national origin, or income level. Agencies must assess whether disproportionately high and adverse effects would be imposed on minority or low-income areas by federal actions.

The recommended plan would not have the potential for disproportionate health or environmental effects on minorities or low-income populations and would be in full compliance with Executive Order 12898.

9.2 Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children

Executive Order 13045 requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and ensures that policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risk to children that results from environmental health or safety risks.

There are no protection of children concerns associated with deauthorization of the federal project.

9.3 Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management

Executive Order 11988 states that each Federal agency shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, and restore and preserve the natural values of floodplains while carrying out its responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands; (2) providing Federal investments in construction and improvements; and (3) conducting activities affecting land use, including water resources planning and regulating activities. To comply with this order, each Federal agency has a responsibility to evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in the floodplain, to ensure its planning programs consider flood hazards and floodplain management, and to implement the policies and requirements of the order.

Deauthorization of the Federal navigation project does not conflict with applicable state or local standards concerning floodplain protection and would not result in impacts to the 100-year floodplain.

9.4 Executive Order 11990 Wetlands Protection

Executive Order 11990 states that each Federal agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities; and (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities. To comply with this order, each Federal agency has a responsibility to evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in wetlands to ensure its planning programs consider wetlands survival and quality, and to implement the policies and requirements of the order.

The deauthorization of the Federal navigation would have no effect on wetlands and therefore, is in full compliance with Executive Order 11990.

9.5 Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

Executive Order 13175 sets forth the principles and criteria to which agencies must adhere in policymaking that has tribal implications. The executive order charges all executive departments and agencies with engaging in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications. Tribal consultation under this order strengthens the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations.

On 26 March 2024, correspondence soliciting comments for the proposed deauthorization

of these federal navigation channels was sent to 20 Tribes that consider these waterways within their areas of interest.

Three tribal responses were received. The Catawba Indian Nation responded in a letter dated 18 April 2024 that they have no immediate concerns with the undertaking but that they should be notified of any inadvertent discoveries. The Cherokee Nation responded in an email dated 23 April 2024 stating that the waterways are outside of their area of interest and that they defer to other tribes. The Seminole Tribe of Florida responded in a letter dated 16 April 2024 expressing concerns regarding the undertaking and requested a meeting. Remote meetings were held between the Seminole Nation of Florida and the Corps on 7 May 2024 and 17 May 2024 to discuss the project and any concerns. The Seminole Nation of Florida provided a follow-up response on 3 June 2024 regarding their request for a list of applicable laws and regulations that will provide continue protection for cultural resources, as well as reiterate their request for the draft environmental assessment when available. The list of applicable federal and state protections was provided on 4 June 2024.

9.6 Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10 (33 U.S.C. 403)

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899 requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, for the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. Structures or work outside the limits defined for navigable waters of the United States require a Section 10 permit if the structure or work affects the course, location, or condition of the water body. The law applies to any dredging or disposal of dredged materials, excavation, filling, rechannelization, or any other modification of a navigable water of the United States, and applies to all structures, from the smallest floating dock to the largest commercial undertaking. It further includes, without limitation, any wharf, dolphin, weir, boom breakwater, jetty, groin, bank protection (e.g. riprap, revetment, bulkhead), mooring structures such as pilings, aerial or subaqueous power transmission lines, intake or outfall pipes, permanently moored floating vessel, tunnel, artificial canal, boat ramp, aids to navigation, and any other permanent, or semi-permanent obstacle or obstruction. “Navigable waters of the United States” are defined in 33 CFR 329. Part 329.4 provides a general definition: “Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.”

Any waterway that is currently considered a navigable water under section 10 of the RHA, would continue to be a “navigable water” as defined in 33 CFR 329. The deauthorization of the federal navigation channel would have no effect on any future section 10 RHA permitting reviews. Compliance under section 10 of the RHA would not be affected by the deauthorization.

9.7 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.)

The Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) is the primary legislative vehicle for Federal pollution control programs and the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States. The CWA was established to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” The CWA sets goals to eliminate discharges of pollutants into navigable waters, protect fish and

wildlife, and prohibit the discharge of toxic pollutants in quantities that could adversely affect the environment.

Deauthorization of the Federal navigation project would not result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States and would not violate any applicable state water quality standards. Therefore, disposition would not require a Section 404(b)(1) evaluation or Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Any future activities post deauthorization in the waterways conducted by private entities would still need to comply with any permitting requirements under the CWA, as appropriate.

9.8 Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.)

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) requires that activities undertaken by a federal agency that affect land, water use, or natural resources of the coastal zone, be carried out in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. The Georgia Coastal Management Program was authorized in 1977 under Georgia's Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act (CTWA). Georgia's Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resource Division (CRD) is responsible for implementation of the state's program. Deauthorization of the federal project would have no effect on coastal resources managed by CRD.

9.9 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321)

Environmental information on the recommended plan has been compiled and the draft IR/EA has been prepared and is being coordinated for public, state, and Federal agency review. The recommended plan is in compliance with NEPA through the analysis of environmental impacts proposed by the Corps.

9.10 National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108)

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 800, provides a regulatory framework for the identification, documentation, and evaluation of historic and cultural resources that may be affected by federal undertakings. Under the act, federal agencies must consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, including resources that are NRHP-listed or eligible.

On 26 March 2024, correspondence soliciting comments for the proposed disposition of these federal navigation channels was sent to the Georgia and Florida State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and 20 Tribes that consider these waterways within their areas of interest (Appendix B). This consultation included a Section 106 Determination of Effects, which can also be found in Appendix B. Due to the presence of NRHP-eligible and listed historic properties and districts, as well as other significance archaeological sites (terrestrial and submerged) that have not had eligibility determinations made, the Corps determined that there was no adverse effect. If the Corps proceeds with deauthorization of these federal navigation channels, the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways.

The GA SHPO responded in a letter dated 24 April 2024 that they look forward to

receiving additional compliance documentation for this project and that they view property transfers outside of federal control to constitute an adverse effect (HP-240326-004). A meeting was held with GA SHPO on 9 May 2024, in which they stated that they will provide a final determination or concurrence once the Corps has reached a decision on whether the deauthorization will proceed. GA SHPO provided an additional response on 5 June 2024 to state that the study posed no effect to historic properties eligible for or listed on the NRHP. Their office maintained an adverse effect is posed by deauthorization and recommended a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve adverse effects, depending on the results of the study. No response was received from the FL SHPO.

Three tribal responses were received. The Catawba Indian Nation responded in a letter dated 18 April 2024 that they have no immediate concerns with the undertaking but that they should be notified of any inadvertent discoveries. The Cherokee Nation responded in an email dated 23 April 2024 stating that the waterways are outside of their area of interest and that they defer to other tribes. The Seminole Tribe of Florida responded in a letter dated 16 April 2024 expressing concerns regarding the undertaking and requested a meeting. A remote meeting was held between the Seminole Nation of Florida and the Corps on 7 May 2024 to discuss the project and any concerns. The Seminole Nation of Florida provided a follow-up response on 3 June 2024 regarding their request for a list of applicable laws and regulations that will provide continue protection for cultural resources, as well as reiterate their request for the draft environmental assessment when available. The list of applicable federal and state protections was provided on 4 June 2024.

9.11 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531–1544)

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531–1544), amended in 1988, establishes a national program for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants and the habitat upon which they depend. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires that Federal agencies consult with NMFS and USFWS, as appropriate, to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or to adversely modify or destroy their designated critical habitats.

The Corps determined that deauthorization of the federal project would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The effects determination is found in Section 7.0. Therefore, Section 7 consultation under ESA is not required. Any future activities post deauthorization in the waterways would most likely require permitting under the CWA, which would require, if necessary, consultation in accordance with ESA.

9.12 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)

Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) (MSA) requires federal agencies to consult with the NOAA and NMFS for any action they authorize, fund or undertake that may adversely affect EFH. No adverse effects to EFH would occur from deauthorization of the federal project. Any future activities post deauthorization in the waterways would most likely require permitting under the CWA. Coordination with Magnuson-Stevens is being conducted through this environmental assessment.

9.13 Environmental Effects

Under Alternative 2, deauthorization of the Federal navigation project would result in cessation of all federal maintenance activities. No further actions associated with the Federal project would occur and there would be no adverse effect on environmental or cultural resources. Additionally, under Alternative 2 federal and state laws for the protection of the environment would continue to be applicable and deauthorization would have no effect on the applicability of these laws. Post-deauthorization, any future activities that would result in discharge of dredged or fill material conducted by private entities in any of the waterways that are also waters of the United States would still need to comply with any permitting requirements under the CWA (i.e. CWA section 404 permits) or a section 10 River and Harbors Act (RHA) permit, as appropriate. USACE, Regulatory Division is the issuing authority for CWA 404 and Section 10 RHA permits. As the issuance of these permits constitutes a federal action, compliance with other environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act would be required. Furthermore, state laws for the protection of the environment, such as Georgia's Coastal Marshland Protection Act, would continue to be enforced by the states of Georgia and Florida and deauthorization would not affect the application of state laws related to the protection of the environment.

Under the NAA, no future maintenance dredging activities are anticipated. Therefore, there are no effects anticipated to any of the environmental resources based on the NAA. Effects to specific resource categories resulting from the NAA and Alternative 2 are presented below in Table 8.

Table 8: Comparison of the No Action and Alternative 2

Environmental Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 2
Climate	No effect	No effect
Geology	No effect	No effect
Soils	No effect	No effect
Water Quality	No effect	No effect
Aquatic Habitats	No effect	No effect
Vegetation	No effect	No effect
Threatened and Endangered Species	No effect	No effect
Marine Mammals	No effect	No effect
Migratory Birds	No effect	No effect

Aquatic Species of State Concern	No effect	No effect
Birds	No effect	No effect
Invasive Species	No effect	No effect
Essential Fish Habitat	No effect	No effect
Wetlands	No effect	No effect
Cultural Resources	No effect	No adverse effect
Environmental Justice	No effect	No effect

10.0 Conclusion

Given the conclusions above, the Corps recommends Alternative 2. The recommended plan includes deauthorization of the Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River federal navigation channels. This Corps has not maintained (snag removal) the channels since the 1970s or dredged in over eighty years. The channels do not contain structures or support substantial, recreational traffic that would suffer adverse effects from deauthorization.

Deauthorization is in the best interest of the Government because these federal channels no longer meet the Congressionally authorized purpose for commercial vessel traffic and lack any national security needs. If Congress concurs, the Corps expects to save approximately \$100k in annual federal dollars for surveys and staff oversight. The federal interest has ceased and deauthorization would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. Environmental protections would continue under state jurisdiction and accompanying federal laws.

11.0 FONSI

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT MULTIPLE WATERWAYS DISPOSITION STUDY MULTIPLE COUNTIES, GEORGIA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The draft Integrated Report and Environmental Assessment (IR/EA) dated 9 July 2024, for the disposition of multiple waterways in Georgia addresses the deauthorization of the Federal navigation channel and any associated Government-owned real property and improvements.

The Final IFR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluates the deauthorization of the waterways. The action alternative (preferred alternative) includes:

- Deauthorization of the navigation channel within the Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River.

In addition to a “no action” plan, Alternative 2 was further evaluated. Section 8.0 describes the alternatives development, the no action alternative, and Alternative 2.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protected Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Species of State Concern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Essential Fish Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into Alternative 2.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft IR/EA and FONSI was completed on 8 August 2024. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final IFR/EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office's official position has not been provided, which is pending review of the EA and the study recommendation. Coordination will be required with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to request their official position on concurrence with the no adverse effect determination if GA SHPO provides a statement of nonconcurrence.

Pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Corps has determined that deauthorization of the federal project would have no effect on essential fish habitat.

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Corps has determined that deauthorization of the federal project would have no effect on land, water use, or natural resources of the coastal zone.

A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation is not required. Deauthorization of the federal project would not involve placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.

A Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division is not required because there would be no discharge of effluent or materials as a result of deauthorization of the federal project.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. This information can be found in section 9.0 of the environmental assessment.

Technical, environmental, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Ron Sturgeon, PMP
Commander, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

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Appendix A: Summary Tables for Environmental Resources

Table 4: Summary of water quality assessment for waterways. Source: Georgia Integrated 2022 305(b)/303(d) List (GAEPD, 2022).

Reach ID	Name	Location	Basin	Assessment	Category	Cause	TMDLs
GAR030602040715	Sapelo River	Broro River to Sapelo Sound (formerly Broad River to Sapelo Sound)	Ogeechee	Supporting	1		
GAR030602040720	Sapelo River	White Chimney River to Broro River	Ogeechee	Supporting	1		
GAR030701020203	Oconee River	Fishing Creek to Gumm Creek	Oconee	Supporting	1		
GAR030701020901	Oconee River	Long Branch to Turkey Creek	Oconee	Not Supporting	4a	Fecal Coliform (FC)	FC 2002 (revised 2007)
GAR030701020902	Oconee River	Gumm Creek to US Hwy 319/80	Oconee	Supporting	1		
GAR030701021201	Oconee River	Turkey Creek to Red Bluff Creek	Oconee	Not Supporting	5	FC	
GAR030701021401	Oconee River	Red Bluff Creek to Altamaha River	Oconee	Supporting	1		
GAR030701031614	Ocmulgee River	Walnut Creek to Tobesofkee Creek	Ocmulgee	Supporting	1		Fish Tissue (PCBs) 2007
GAR030701031615	Ocmulgee River	Tobesofkee Creek to Echeconnee Creek	Ocmulgee	Not Supporting	4a	FC	Fish Tissue (PCBs) 2007, FC 2002
GAR030701031617	Ocmulgee River	Beaverdam Creek to Walnut Creek	Ocmulgee	Supporting	1		FC 2002
GAR030701040110	Ocmulgee River	Sandy Run Creek to Big Indian Creek	Ocmulgee	Supporting	1		FC 2002 (revised 2007)
GAR030701040111	Ocmulgee River	Echeconnee Creek to Sandy Run Creek	Ocmulgee	Supporting	1		Fish Tissue (PCBs) 2007
GAR030701040505	Ocmulgee River	Big Indian Creek to Pulaski/Wilcox Co. Line	Ocmulgee	Supporting	1		
GAR030701040603	Ocmulgee River	Cedar Creek to House Creek	Ocmulgee	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002

GAR030701040803	Ocmulgee River	House Creek to Altamaha River	Ocmulgee	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060105	Altamaha River	Confluence of Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers to Little Alligator Creek	Altamaha	Not Supporting	5	FC	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060205	Altamaha River	Little Alligator Creek to the Ohoopie River	Altamaha	Assessment Pending	3		Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060312	Altamaha River	Ohoopie River to Beards Creek	Altamaha	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060402	Altamaha River	ITT Rayonier to Penholoway Creek	Altamaha	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060403	Penholoway Creek	Little Creek to Altamaha River	Altamaha	Not Supporting	4a	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	DO 2002
GAR030701060409	Altamaha River	Beards Creek to ITT Rayonier	Altamaha	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060501	Altamaha River	Penholoway Creek to Butler River	Altamaha	Assessment Pending	3		Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030701060505	South Altamaha River	Altamaha River to Buttermilk Sound	Altamaha	Supporting	1		
GAR030701060506	Reimolds Pasture Beach	Eastern Shore of Buttermilk Sound	Altamaha	Supporting	1		Enterococci 2017
GAR030701060511	Darien River	Cathead Creek to May Hall Creek (formerly Cathead Creek to May Creek)	Altamaha	Supporting	1		
GAR030702011105	Satilla River	Six miles downstream of Ga. Hwy. 15 to Buffalo Creek	Satilla	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030702011201	Satilla River	Rose Creek to White Oak Creek	Satilla	Not Supporting	4a, 5	FC, DO, Fish Tissue (Mercury)	DO 2001, FC drafted by 2022, Fish Tissue (Mercury) by 2031.

GAR030702011207	Satilla River	Buffalo Creek to Bullhead Bluff	Satilla	Not Supporting	4a	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2002
GAR030702030216	Blythe Island Sandbar Beach	South Brunswick River from Hwy 303 Bridge to Blythe Island Regional Park	Satilla	Supporting	1		
GAR030702030242	Turtle River	Channel Marker 9 to South Brunswick River	Satilla	Not Supporting	4a	Shellfishing Ban, Fish Tissue (PCBs), DO	Fish Tissue (PCBs) 2001, Shellfishing Ban 2001, DO 2001 (Revised 2019), Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2001
GAR030702030243	South Brunswick River	Hillery Slough to the Turtle River	Satilla	Not Supporting	4a	Shellfishing Ban, Fish Tissue (PCBs), DO	Fish Tissue (PCBs) 2001, Shellfishing Ban 2001, DO 2001 (Revised 2019), Fish Tissue (Mercury) 2001
GAR030702030301	Little Satilla River	Headwaters to Fancy Bluff Creek	Satilla	Assessment Pending	3		
GAR030702030302	Little Satilla River	Fancy Bluff Creek to Maiden Creek	Satilla	Assessment Pending	3		
GAR030702030406	Satilla River	White Oak Creek to Baileys Cut	Satilla	Assessment Pending	3		
GAR030702030407	Satilla River	Baileys Cut to Dover Creek	Satilla	Supporting	1		
GAR030702040903	St. Marys River	Upstream Cabbage Bend to Catfish Creek	St. Marys	Not Supporting	4a, 5	Fish Tissue (Mercury), DO	DO 2001.
GAR030702040904	St. Marys River	Catfish Creek to Millers Branch	St. Marys	Not Supporting	4a, 5	DO, Fish Tissue (Mercury)	DO 2006 (revised 2018).
GAR030702040906	St. Marys River	Millers Branch to Burrells Creek	St. Marys	Not Supporting	5	Fish Tissue (Mercury)	

Notes:

Any blank sections are due to gaps in the data available.

Category 1- Data indicate that waters are meeting their designated use(s).

Category 2- A water body has more than one designated use and data indicate that at least one designated use is being met, but there is insufficient evidence to determine that all uses are being met.

Category 3- There were insufficient data or other information to decide as to whether or not the designated use(s) is being met.

Category 4a- Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but TMDL(s) have been completed for the parameter(s) that are causing water to not meet its use(s).

Category 4b-Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but there are actions in place (other than a TMDL) that are predicted to lead to compliance with water quality standards.

Category 4c-Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but a pollutant does not cause the impairment.

Category 5 -Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met and TMDL(s) need to be completed for one or more pollutants.

Category 5R-Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met; however, TMDL development is deferred while an alternative restoration plan is pursued. If the alternative restoration plan is not successful, then the water will be placed back in Category 5 and a TMDL will be developed.

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Designation	Species Present in Waterways								
					AL	OCO	OCM	SA	FB	DH	SH	BP	ST
Mammal	West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bird	Eastern Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis</i>	Threatened	No	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bird	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Threatened	No	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bird	Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Yes	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bird	Rufa Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Yes	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bird	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered	No	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Bird	Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Experimental population	No	✓	✓	✓						
Clam	Altamaha spinymussel	<i>Elliptio spinosa</i>	Endangered	Yes	✓	✓	✓						
Reptile	Eastern Indigo Snake	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Threatened	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reptile	Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reptile	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reptile	Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Reptile	Leatherback Sea Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reptile	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Yes	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fish	Robust Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	Candidate	No	✓	✓	✓						
Insect	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plant	American Chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	Endangered	No		✓							
Plant	Hairy Rattleweed	<i>Baptisia arachnifera</i>	Endangered	No	✓			✓					
Plant	Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered	No		✓	✓						
Plant	Canby's Dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Endangered	No			✓						
Plant	Fringed Campion	<i>Silene polypetala</i>	Endangered	No			✓						
Plant	Ocmulgee Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria ocmulgee</i>	Proposed Threatened	Yes			✓						
Plant	Relict Trillium	<i>Trillium reliquum</i>	Endangered	No		✓	✓						
Plant	Harperella	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	Endangered	No			✓						

AL = Altamaha River, OCO = Oconee River, OCM = Ocmulgee River, SA = Satilla River, FB = Fancy Bluff, DH = Darien Harbor, SH = Sapelo Harbor,

BP = Bellville Point Harbor, ST = St. Marys River

✓ = indicates that species is present in the waterway

Note: Highlighted boxes indicate that the species is present in the waterway and there is critical habitat in the project area

Table 5: USFWS Migratory Bird Species Occurring in the Project Area. Source: USFWS IPaC (USFWS, 2024).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Waterways								
		AL	OCO	OCM	SA	FB	DH	SH	BP	ST
American Kestrel	Falco sparveris paulus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American Oystercatcher	Haematopus palliatus	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bachman's Sparrow	Aimophila aestivalis	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Scoter	Melanitta nigra				✓					
Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis				✓					
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Sitta pusilla	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cerulean Warbler	Dendrocia cerulea		✓	✓						
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Loon	Gavia immer				✓					
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Antrostomus vociferus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii	✓						✓	✓	✓
Kentucky Warbler	Oporornis formosus	✓	✓	✓						
King Rail	Rallus elegans	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	✓			✓		✓			✓
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendrocia discolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>									✓
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				✓					
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>				✓					
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>				✓					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
AL = Altamaha River, OCO = Oconee River, OCM = Ocmulgee River, SA = Satilla River, FB = Fancy Bluff, DH = Darien Harbor, SH = Sapelo Harbor, BP = Bellville Point Harbor, ST = St. Marys River ✓ = indicates that species is present in the waterway										

Table 6: NMFS Federally Listed Species occurring within the state. Source: Threatened and Endangered Species Directory for Georgia (NMFS, 2023).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Likely Present in Study Area (yes/no)
Mammal	North Atlantic Right whale*	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	No
Mammal	Sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	No
Mammal	Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	No
Mammal	Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	No
Mammal	Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	No
Reptile	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	No
Reptile	Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	No
Reptile	Loggerhead sea turtle**	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Yes
Reptile	Leatherback sea turtle**	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	Yes
Reptile	Green sea turtle**	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Yes
Fish	Oceanic Whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Threatened	Yes
Fish	Giant manta ray	<i>Manta birostris</i>	Threatened	No
Fish	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	Endangered	Yes
Fish	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	Yes
<p>** Species under both U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service Jurisdiction that nest in Georgia</p> <p>Note: List developed by NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region Protected Resources Division, Threatened and Endangered Species Directory for Georgia, Southeast U.S (NMFS, 2023). Accessed 20 March 2024.</p> <p>Highlight indicates there is critical habitat within the waterways</p>				

References

GAEPD. 2022. Water Quality in Georgia 2020-2021 (2022 Integrated 305b/303d Report).

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2023. Threatened and Endangered Species List Georgia. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/consultations/threatened-and-endangered-species-list-georgia>. Accessed 20 March 2024.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Information for Planning and Consultation Tool. <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/> accessed 20 March 2024.

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Appendix B: Cultural Resources

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- Florida Division of Historical Resources
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tuscarora Nation
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

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- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

Section 106 Determination of Effects

Disposition Study, Multiple Waterways

Appling, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Camden, Charlton, Coffee, Dodge, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Houston, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Toombs, Twiggs, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox Counties, Georgia and Nassau County, Florida

1. Undertaking Location and Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). This undertaking does not involve transfer of land ownership or control out of federal control. Control will remain with the current landholder.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

Waterway	Counties
Altamaha River	Appling, Glynn, Toombs, Wayne, Wheeler, McIntosh, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Long, Montgomery
Bellville Point Harbor	McIntosh
Darien Harbor	McIntosh
Fancy Bluff Creek	Camden, Glynn
Ocmulgee River	Wheeler, Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, Bibb
Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)

1. Area of Potential Effects

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking is defined as the federal navigation channels (Figure 1).

2. Efforts to Identify Historic Properties

Survey data from Georgia's Natural, Archaeological and Historic Resources GIS (GNAHRGIS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Automated Wrecks and Obstructions Information System (AWOIS) databases show that each waterway has had investigations performed within and/or near the federal navigation channel. These investigations provide a fairly comprehensive picture of the types of sites that are known or could be anticipated within the federal navigation channel or along the shoreline. The known resources for each waterway are described below. When possible, eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well stewardship, are indicated.

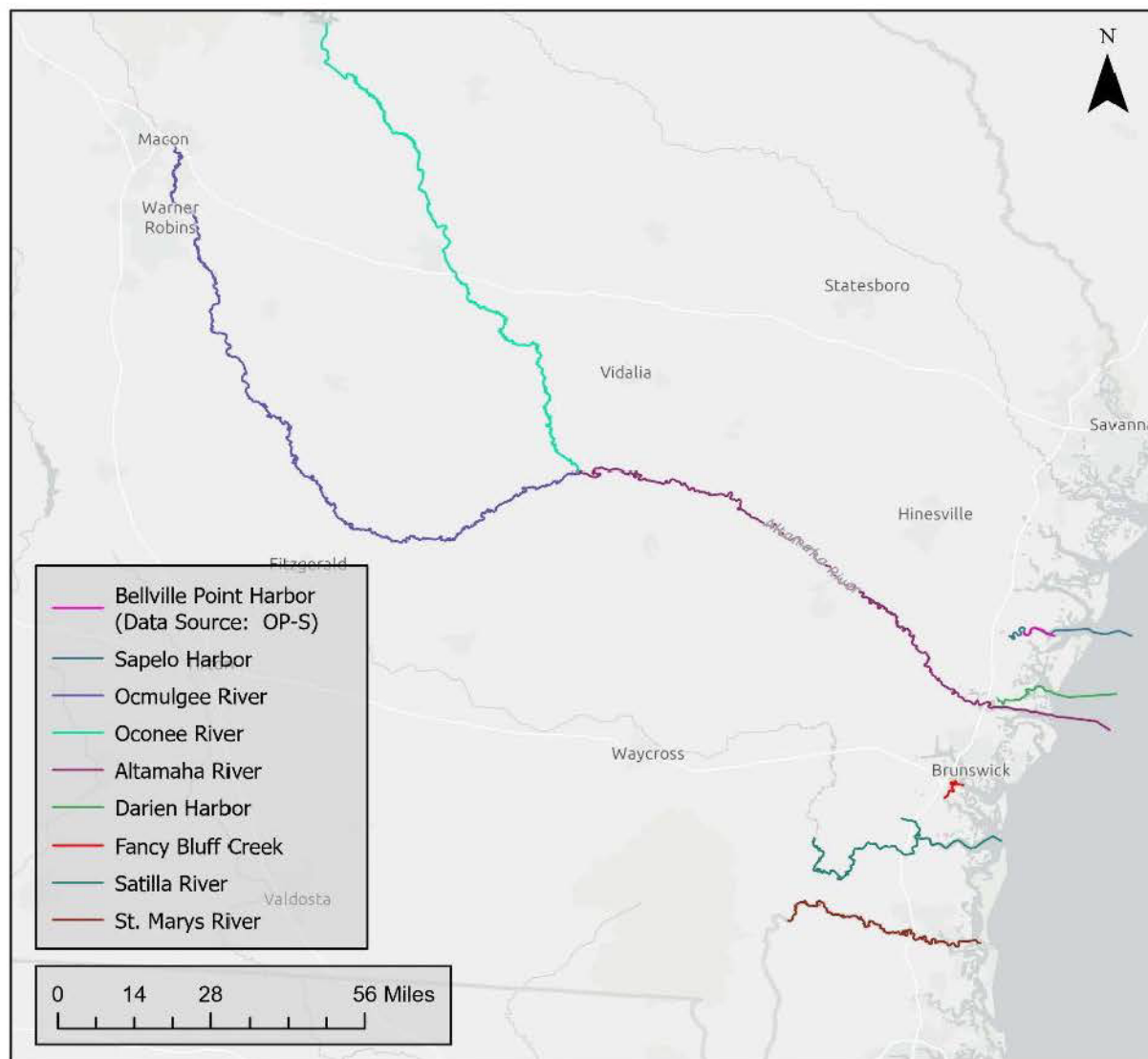


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.

Altamaha River. There are 27 sites documented within or along the shoreline of the Altamaha River Federal Navigation Channel across Appling, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Toombs, and Wayne Counties, Georgia (Figure 2, Table 2). The sites include both terrestrial and submerged, most of which have unknown NRHP eligibility. At least four sites (9AP6, 9GN278, 9LG17, 9LG18) are known to be NRHP eligible. Site 9AP6 is documented as a prehistoric Indian artifact or shell scatter and lithic scatter. Site 9GN278 is documented as prehistoric Indian artifact or shell scatter and prehistoric Indian village. Site 9LG17, named Joyner Island Site, is documented as a multi-component site, which includes earthworks, prehistoric Indian earth mound, and possible Confederate obstructions. It was documented by the Smithsonian Institute's C.B. Moore. Site 9LC18 is documented as a ship or boat, named the Wreck of Louise. Most sites have unknown stewardship, but some site stewardship resides with the State of Georgia, several counties, and some private entities. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. Two wrecks are documented for this area on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database (Figure 3). Little is known about these, but one is indicated as a shrimp boat.

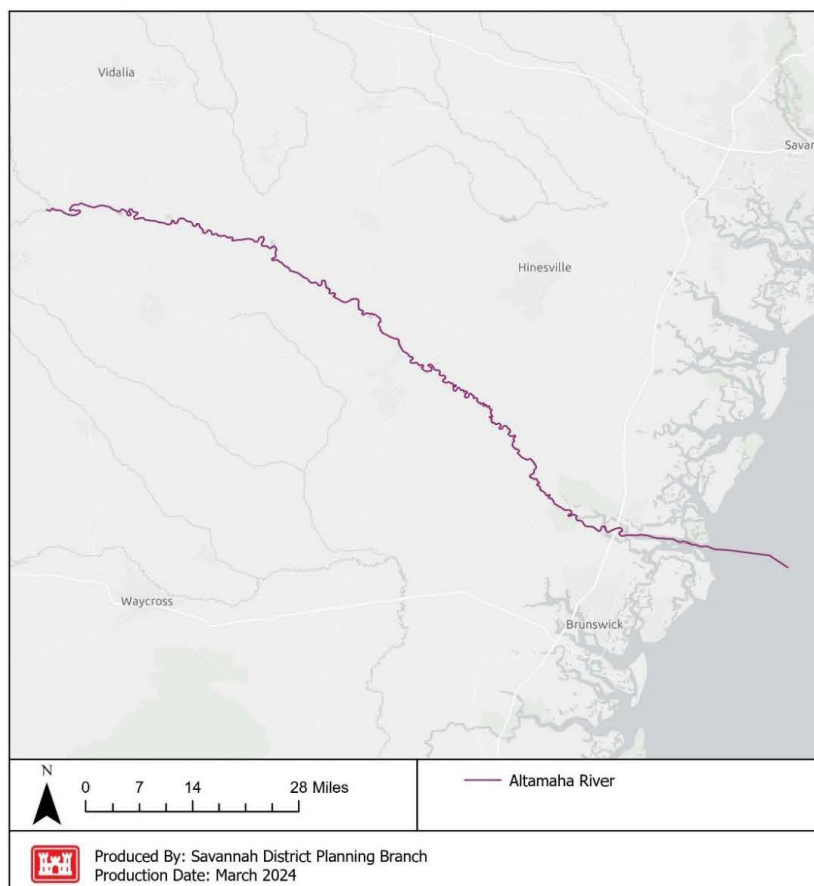


Figure 2. Altamaha River.

Table 2. Known cultural resources within/along the Altamaha Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9AP6		Appling	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Appling County	*
2	9AP17		Appling	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
3	9AP53	Tomberlin	Appling	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
4	9GN278	Altamaha Park	Glynn	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Village	County	*
5	9GN348		Glynn	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Isolated Artifact	Glynn County	
6	9JD16		Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden	Unknown	
7	9JD31	Half Moon Landing	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
8	9JD47	Long Walk	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter		
9	9JD59	Uvalda Vridge Lodge Shell Pit	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden	Unknown	
10	9JD89		Jeff Davis	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	State	
11	9JD90		Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	State	
12	9JD132		Jeff Davis	Bridge	Unknown	
13	9LG7		Long	House or Structure	Long County	
14	9LG17	JOYNER ISLAND SITE (Documented by CB Moore)	Long	Earthworks Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Confirmed), Possible Confederate Obstructions	Unknown	*
15	9LG18	Reck of Louise	Long	Ship or Boat	Unknown	*
16	9MC97		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden	Unknown	
17	9MC355	Butler Island Bank Site	McIntosh	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden	Unknown	
18	9MC502	Hornsby-Valentine Creek	McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Unknown	
19	9MC552		McIntosh	Historic Artifact Scatter	State of Georgia	
20	9MY44	East of Powerline	Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
21	9TS3		Toombs	Unknown	Unknown	
22	9TS4		Toombs	Unknown	Unknown	
23	9TS39		Toombs	Dam	State of Georgia	

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
24	9WY5		Wayne	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
25	9WY11		Wayne	Unknown	Unknown	
26	9WY13		Wayne	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Unconfirmed), Prehistoric Indian Village	Private (Brunswick Pulp and Paper)	
27	9WY14		Wayne	Historic House or Structure	Private (Brunswick Pulp and Paper)	

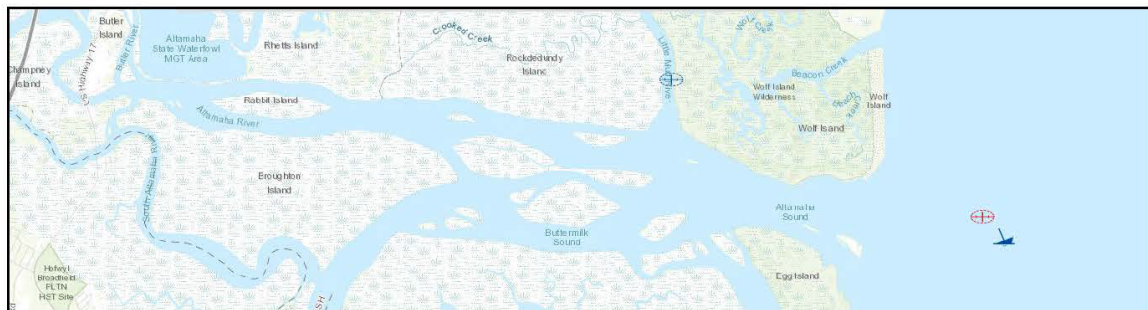


Figure 3. Results from NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database for the Altamaha River.

Bellville Point Harbor. There are no documented sites within or along the shoreline of the Bellville Point Harbor Federal Navigation Channel in McIntosh County, GA (Figure 4). The Bellville Point Harbor is located within the Sapelo Harbor footprint, which contains sites and wrecks or obstructions, but none of these are located within the Bellville Point Harbor APE.

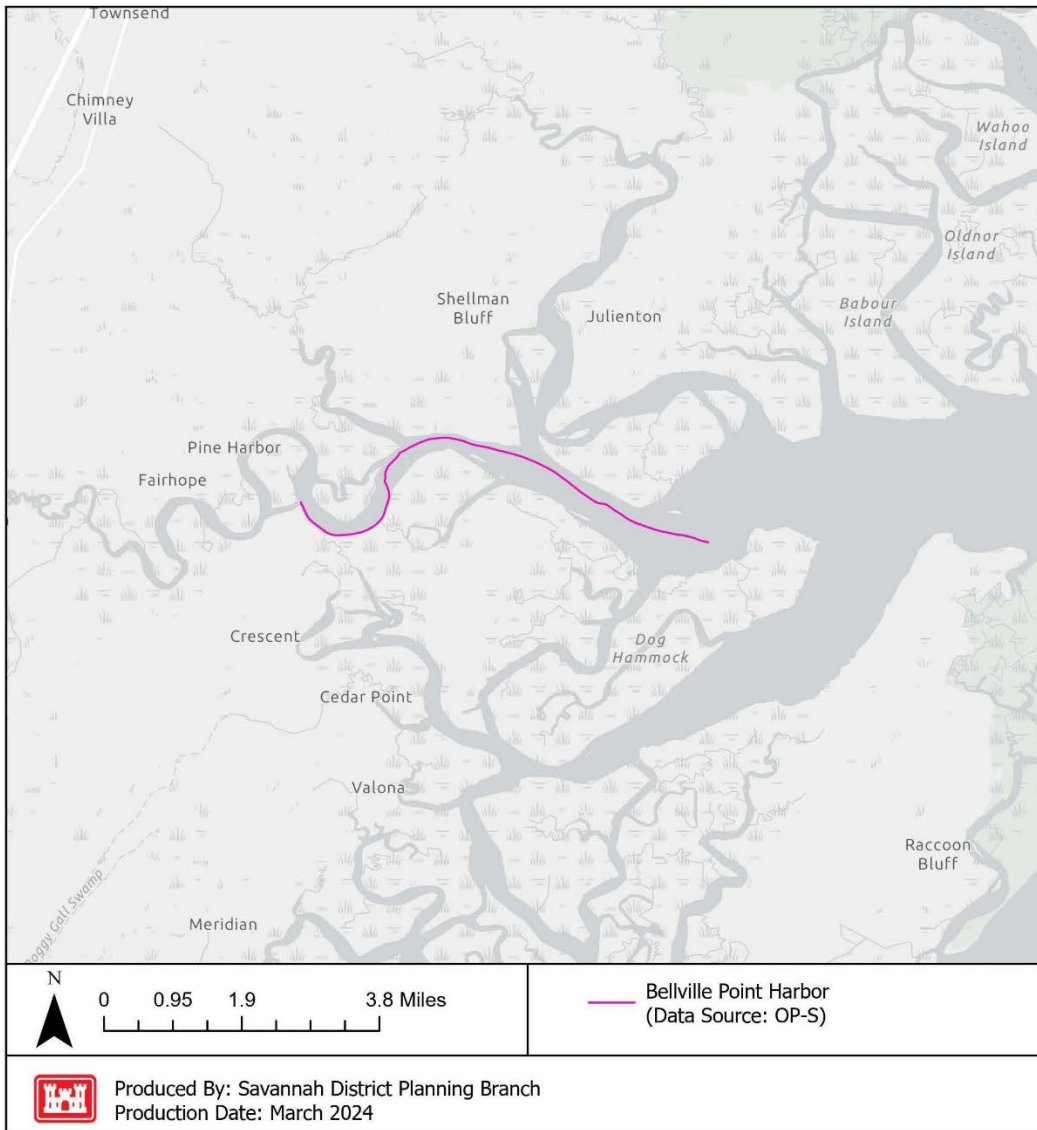


Figure 4. Bellville Point Harbor.

Darien Harbor. There are two sites documented within or along the shoreline of the Darien Harbor Federal Navigation Channel in McIntosh County, GA, which includes terrestrial cultural resources and are recommended NRHP eligible (Figure 5, Table 3). Site 9MC364 is documented as an 18th century historic artifact scatter associated with a dump. There is also an intact midden that contains prehistoric artifacts. It is recommended eligible due to the data it can provide on 18th to 19th century occupation in Darien. Site 9MC367 is documented as the ruins of a 19th century Darien waterfront commercial/domestic tabby ruin. It is recommended on both a state and national level of significance. Stewardship for these sites is unknown. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. Two obstructions and one wreck are documented for this area on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database (Figure 6). Little is known about these, but one is indicated as a shrimp boat.

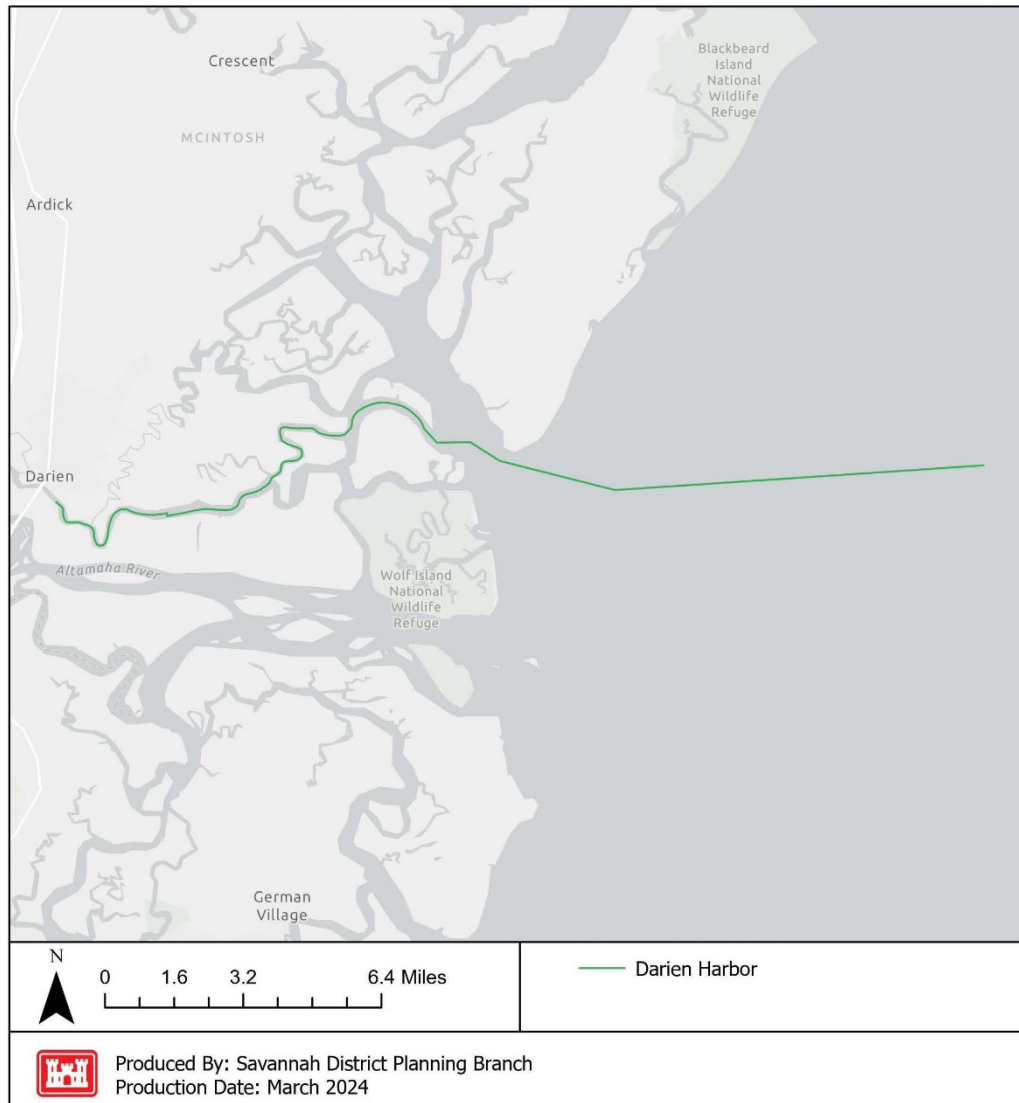


Figure 5. Darien Harbor.

Table 3. Known cultural resources within/along the Darien River Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9MC364	Gaudy Dutch Site	McIntosh	Historic Artifact Scatter	Unknown	*
2	9MC367	Darien Waterfront Phase I	McIntosh	Historic Artifact Scatter, House or Structure	Unknown	*



Figure 6. Results from NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database for Darien Harbor.

Fancy Bluff Creek. There is one documented site along the federal navigation channel, marsh, and shoreline of the Fancy Bluff Creek Federal Navigation Channel in Camden and Glynn Counties, GA (Figure 7, Table 4). The site (9GN191) is documented as a multicomponent site consisting of a prehistoric shell midden and a historic well or still. It is recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. Current stewardship resides with the State of Georgia. No wrecks or obstructions are documented on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database.

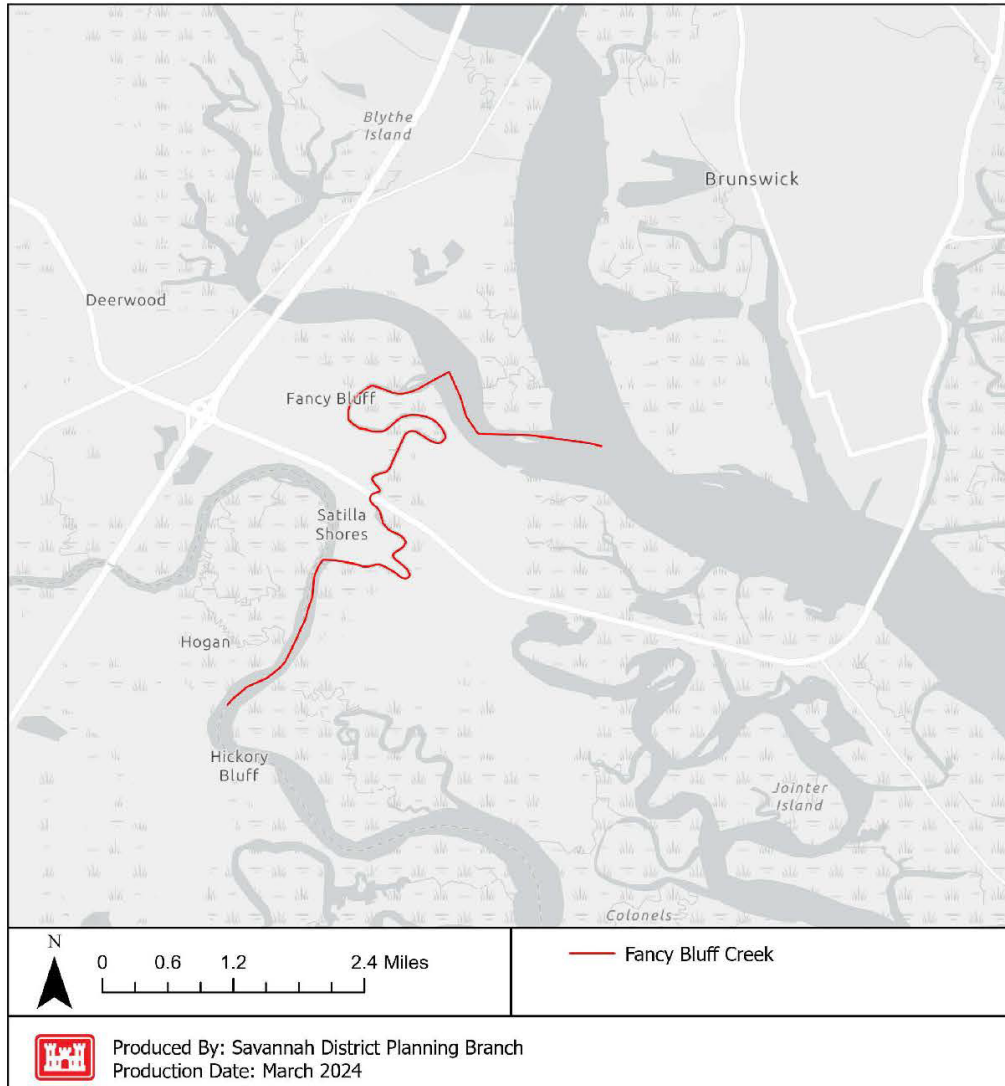


Figure 7. Fancy Bluff Creek.

Table 4. Known cultural resources within/along the Fancy Bluff Creek Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9GN191	Fancy Bluff	Glynn	Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden, Well	State of Georgia	

Ocmulgee River. There are 70 documented sites along the marsh and shoreline of the Ocmulgee River Federal Navigation Channel in Wheeler, Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, and Bibb Counties, GA (Figure 8, Table 5). Most sites appear to be terrestrial; however, several may have submerged components or are completely submerged. Most sites have an unknown eligibility designation, and a few are determined to be ineligible for NRHP listing. One site, known as the Macon Plateau Site (9BI1), is an NRHP listed resource and managed by the National Park Service. It is located within the Ocmulgee National Monument District and documented as a Prehistoric Indian Village, Earth Mound, Cemetery, and Earth Lodge. Two other sites are recommended eligible as having local significance. These are 9PU44 and 9PU45, which are both documented as prehistoric artifact or shell and lithic scatters. Other sites with unknown eligibility status include prehistoric sites (including artifact, shell, and lithic scatters, villages, homesteads, earth mounds, cemeteries, and daub concentrations) and historic sites (including furnaces, stills, wells, and brick piles). Current stewardship of sites includes private entities, local, state, and federal governments, and Georgia Department of Transportation. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. No wrecks or obstructions are documented on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database.

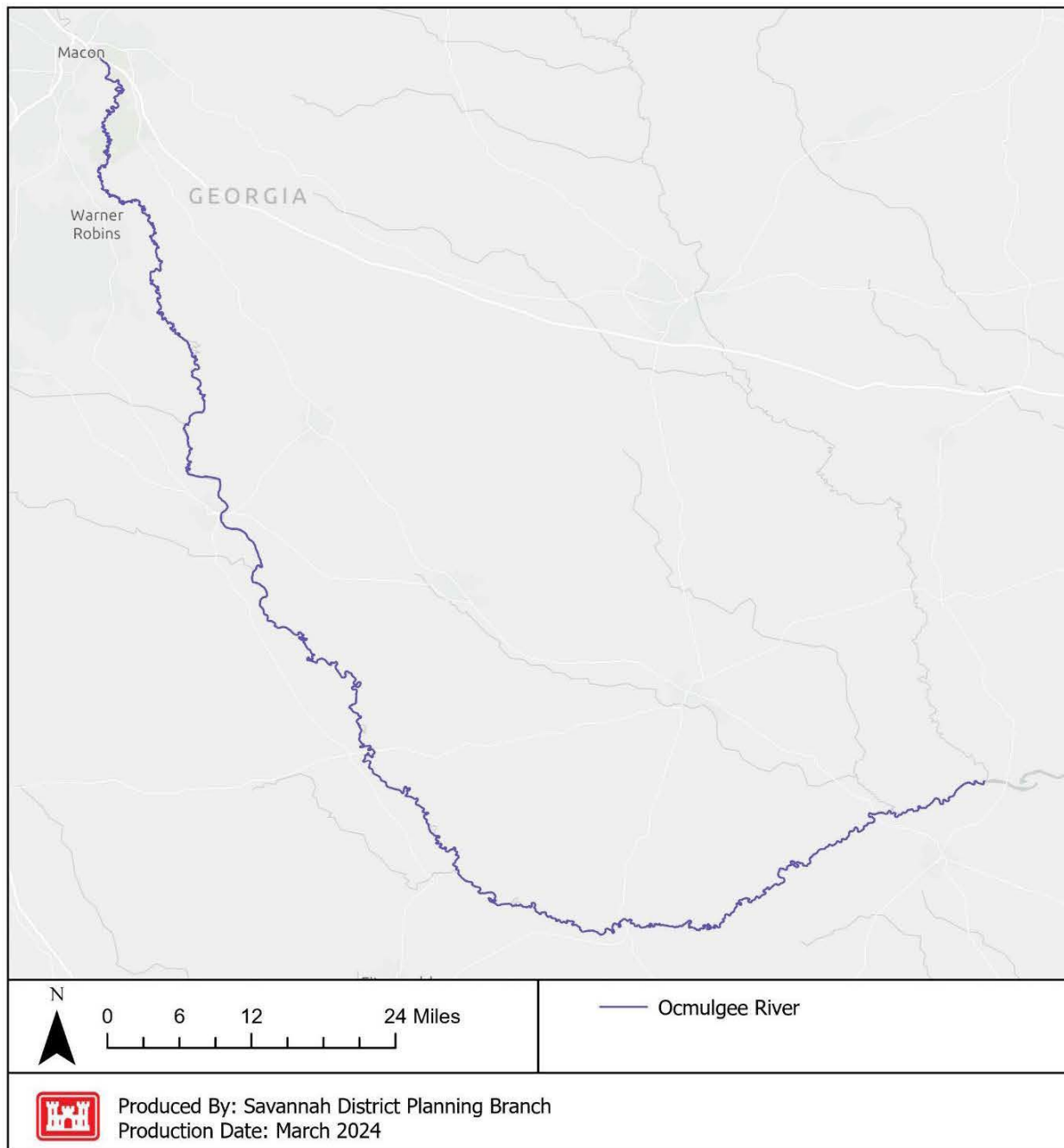


Figure 8. Ocmulgee River.

Table 5. Known cultural resources within/along the Ocmulgee River Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9BH3	Guilders Bluff	Ben Hill	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
2	9BH5	Browns Landing ("The Dollar Hole")	Ben Hill	Historic Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
3	9BH10	Tiger Leap	Ben Hill	Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Unknown	
4	9BH11	Red Bluff	Ben Hill	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Unknown	
5	9BI1	Macon Plateau	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound, (Confirmed), Prehistoric Indian Cemetery, Prehistoric Indian Earthlodge	National Park Service	*
6	9BI7	Mile Track	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Homestead or House	City of Macon?	
7	9BI8	Deer Park	Bibb	No Information Available	Unknown	
8	9BI9	Napier	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village	C.M. Napier	
9	9BI10	Horshoe Bend	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	
10	9BI11	Mossy Oak	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Gledhill "shotgun-toting dairy farmer"	
11	9BI14	Cowarts Landing	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Unconfirmed)	Woolfolk	
12	9BI15	Hawkins Point	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	
13	9BI20	Cherry Bluff	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Cemetery	Unknown	
14	9BI22	Drawbridge	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Historic Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Bridge	Unknown	
15	9BI39	Burns Brick A	Bibb	Furnace, Still, Well	Burns Brick Company	
16	9BI40	Burns Brick B	Bibb	Still, Well	Burns Brick Company	
17	9BI41	Burns Brick C	Bibb	Furnace, Still	Burns Brick Company	
18	9BI42	Burns Brick D	Bibb	Furnace, Still, Water Tank, Trough	Burns Brick Company	
19	9BI44	Burns Brick F	Bibb	Unspecified Dump	Burns Brick Company	
20	9BI45	Burns Brick G	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Historic Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Burns Brick Company	
21	9BI46	Burns Brick H	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Burns Brick Company	
22	9BI77	Hamlin-Story	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Homestead or House	Cherokee Brick	

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
					Company	
23	9BI81	Randall Gaskins	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Open Habitation	Dale Gledhill	
24	9BI123	Red Bluff	Bibb	No Information Available	Unknown	
25	9BI128	Adele	Bibb	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound, Confirmed	Cherokee Brick and Tile Co.	
26	9BI232		Bibb	Brick Pile	Alan Gruber Arch Conservancy	
27	9BY7		Bleckley	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
28	9BY52		Bleckley	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Georgia DOT	
29	9BY71		Bleckley	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Georgia DOT	
30	9CF268	Spar Lake Road Fork	Coffee	No Information Available	Unknown	
31	9CF269	Dickey Landing Bluff West	Coffee	No Information Available	Unknown	
32	9CF289	Ridge Spar Lake Road Fork	Coffee	No Information Available	Unknown	
33	9DG1	Fuller/ Abbeville Mound 1	Dodge	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Confirmed)	Private	
34	9DG8	Abbeville Mound 1	Dodge	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	
35	9DG15	Hopewell Church	Dodge	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
36	9DG38		Dodge	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
37	9JD10	Rocky Hammock Landing	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Continental Can Co.	
38	9JD13	Burket Ferry Lodge	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Camp, River Ferry	Unknown	
39	9JD28	Round Bluff Landing	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
40	9JD45	Rocky Hammock Bluff 1	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Continental Can Co.	
41	9JD46	Rocky Hammock Bluff 2	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Continental Can Co.	
42	9JD67	Sears Terrace	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Bob Sears	
43	9JD76	Winslow Cut	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
44	9JD77	Round Top Bluff Site	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
45	9JD81	Bloodroot	Jeff Davis	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian	R.L. Smith	

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
				Homestead or House, Prehistoric Indian Daub Concentration		
46	9JD102	Burketts Ferry Bluff	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
47	9JD121	Burketts Ferry East	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
48	9JD124	Burketts Ferry East #2	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
49	9JD125	Mceachins Woodyard West	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
50	9JD126	Jr William Wood Landing	Jeff Davis	No Information Available	Unknown	
51	9PU1	Hartford Mound	Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound, Confirmed, Historic Artifact Scatter	Mr. Ed Darsey	
52	9PU4		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	
53	9PU5	Jordan Creek	Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
54	9PU6		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	
55	9PU9		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	
56	9PU10	Sandy Hammock	Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Confirmed)	Cap Brown	
57	9PU44		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown/ Dunaway	*
58	9PU45		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown/ Dunaway	*
59	9PU76	Hartford Mound (West)	Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Unconfirmed)	Unknown	
60	9PU101	Treich Lake Southeast	Pulaski	No Information Available	Unknown	
61	9PU115		Pulaski	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Historic Artifact Scatter	GDOT	
62	9TF21	China Hill Lane	Telfair	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
63	9TF229		Telfair	No Information Available	Unknown	
64	9TW36	Bullards Landing	Twiggs	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
65	9WI5	Bryants Indian Bluff	Wilcox	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Shell Midden	Unknown	

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
66	9WI13	Fullers Pasture	Wilcox	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
67	9WI15	Abbeville Trash Dump	Wilcox	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Historic Artifact Scatter	City of Abbeville, GA	
68	9WI21		Wilcox	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	D. E. Turk-- Abbeville, GA	
69	9WL11	Fishing Bank	Wilkinson	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
70	9WL51	Joyce Field	Wilkinson	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Raliegh Joyce	

Oconee River. There are 61 documented sites along the marsh and shoreline of the Oconee River Federal Navigation Channel in Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, and Montgomery Counties, GA (Figure 9, Table 6). Most sites appear to be terrestrial; however, several may have submerged components or are completely submerged. Most sites have an unknown eligibility designation, and a few are determined to be ineligible for NRHP listing. Nine sites are indicated as being eligible for NRHP listing. Site 9BL1, known as the Shinholser Mounds, is a prehistoric Earth Mound. Site 9BL16, known as the Old Oconee Town/Ennis, is a prehistoric Indian artifact or shell scatter and prehistoric Indian Village. Site 9BL69 is documented as a prehistoric artifact or shell scatter, Indian Camp, and Indian Village. Site 9BL80 is documented as a mill and unspecified power plant. Sites 9BL135 and 9BL152 are documented as a prehistoric Indian artifact or shell scatters. Site 9LS1, known as the Sawyer Site, is documented as a prehistoric Indian Village and Earth Mound (Confirmed). Site 9WG228, known as the Fish Camp Site, is documented as a prehistoric Indian Village. Site 9WL63, known as the Deluge Site, is documented as a prehistoric Indian artifact or shell scatter. Other sites with unknown eligibility status include prehistoric sites (including artifact, shell, and lithic scatters, homestead, and camps) and historic sites (including a fort or battery, dump site, road or trail, river ferry, pier/landing/pilings/dock, house/structure, and store). Current stewardship of sites includes private entities and local and state governments. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. No wrecks or obstructions are documented on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database.



Figure 9. Oconee River.

Table 6. Known cultural resources within/along the Oconee River Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9BL1	Shinholser Mounds	Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Unconfirmed)	Unknown	*
2	9BL10		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
3	9BL16	Old Oconee Town/Ennis	Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	*
4	9BL38		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
5	9BL40		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	
6	9BL69		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Camp, Prehistoric Indian Village	GA Power	*
7	9BL73		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	GA Power	
8	9BL80		Baldwin	Mill, Unspecified Power Plant	City of Milledgeville	*
9	9BL87		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Camp	GA Power	
10	9BL88		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Camp	GA Power	
11	9BL135		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	*
12	9BL149		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
13	9BL151		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
14	9BL152		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	*
15	9BL160	Hayden	Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Camp	Unknown	
16	9BL161		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
17	9BL162		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
18	9BL216		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Camp	Unknown	
19	9BL227		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	GA Power	
20	9BL228		Baldwin	Prehistoric Indian Camp	GA Power	
21	9BL241	Fort Massachusetts	Baldwin	Fort or Battery	Unknown	
22	9BL248	Town Dump	Baldwin	City Trash Dump	State	
23	9JH12		Johnson	Prehistoric Indian Camp	Unknown	
24	9LS1	Sawyer	Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Village, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound (Confirmed)	Sportsman's Club	*

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
25	9LS23		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
26	9LS24		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
27	9LS25		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
28	9LS26		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
29	9LS27		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
30	9LS28		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
31	9LS29		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
32	9LS30		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
33	9LS31		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
34	9LS32		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
35	9LS33		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
36	9LS34		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
37	9LS35		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
38	9LS36		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
39	9LS37		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Media General Inc.	
40	9LS59		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
41	9LS221		Laurens	Prehistoric Indian Camp	Unknown	
42	9LS372	Blackshear Ferry	Laurens	Road or Trail, River Ferry, Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock	Unknown	
43	9MY4		Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Camp	Unknown	
44	9MY9	Moses Lake Curve 2	Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
45	9MY11	Moses Lake Curve 1	Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
46	9MY15	Mobley Cabin Bluff	Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, House or Structure	Robert Mobley	
47	9MY18	Bubbly Spring Bluff	Montgomery	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Robert Mobley	
48	9MY32	Moses Lake Second Curve	Montgomery	No Information Available	Unknown	
49	9TU15	Berry Hill Bluff 5	Treutlen	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
50	9WG228	Fish Camp	Washington	Prehistoric Indian Village	Unknown	*
51	9WK2		Wilkinson	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Balls Ferry Hunting Club	
52	9WK18		Wilkinson	No Information Available	Unknown	
53	9WK19		Wilkinson	No Information Available	Unknown	
54	9WK96		Wilkinson	Prehistoric Indian Homestead or House, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Balls Ferry Hunting Club	
55	9WL2	Bells Ferry Landing	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	
56	9WL17	Brewers Field	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
57	9WL22	Union Bag Landing	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
58	9WL30	McCrea's 1	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Dr. McCrea	
59	9WL63	Deluge	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	*
60	9WL69	Boat Launch Store	Wheeler	House or Structure, Store	Unknown	
61	9WL79	McCrea's 2	Wheeler	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Workshop	Dr. McCrea	

Sapelo Harbor. There are seven documented sites within and along the shoreline of the Sapelo Harbor Federal Navigation Channel in McIntosh County, GA (Figure 10, Table 7). The sites appear to be terrestrial; however, several may have submerged components that have not been investigated. Most sites have an unknown eligibility designation; however, there are several culturally significant sites that must be assumed to be NRHP eligible. One site (9MC60) is documented as a prehistoric sand burial mound that was recorded by the Smithsonian Institute’s C.B. Moore in 1897. It is referred to as Hopkins Mound, which is most likely associated with the property owner’s name when the site was originally recorded. Another site (9MC421) is documented as the Fairhope Plantation and Cemetery. Possible foundations and/or chimneys are still extant, and at least one grave is present. Current stewardship is unknown for all sites. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. Several wrecks are documented in NOAA’s Wrecks and Obstructions Database; however, little is known about these wrecks (Figure 11).

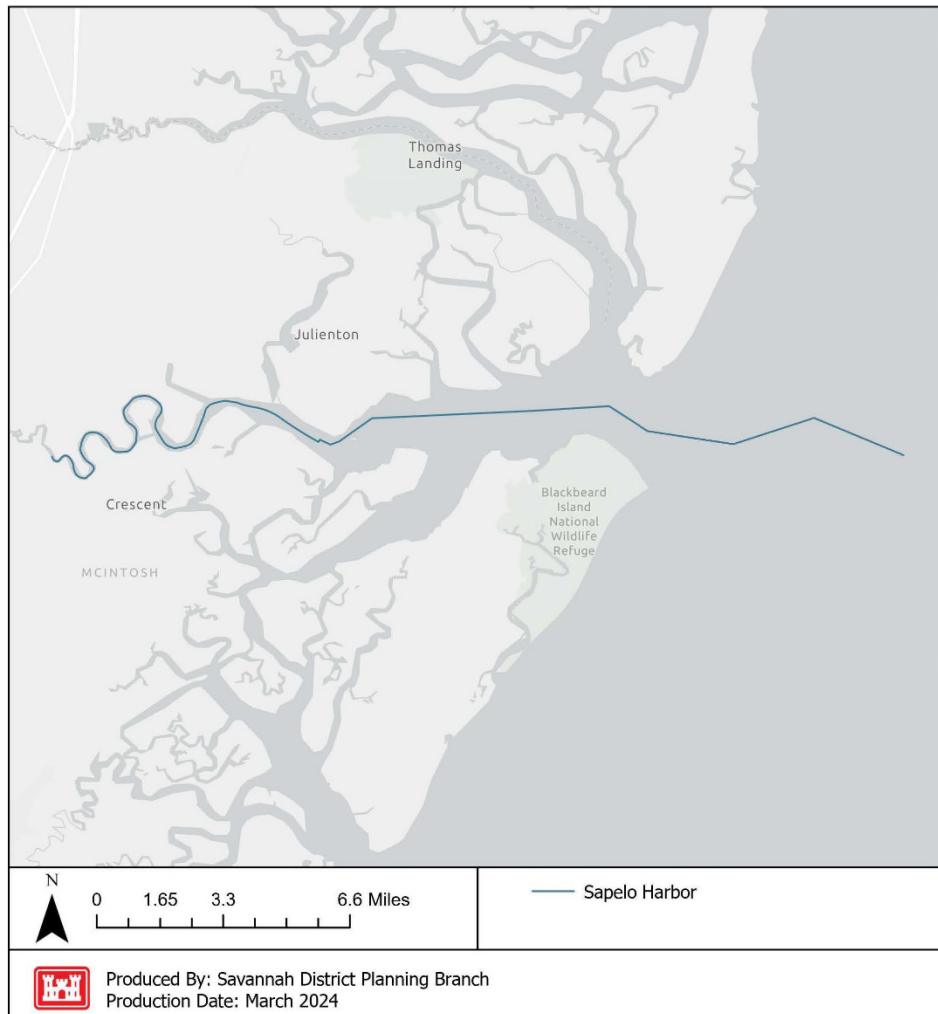


Figure 10. Sapelo Harbor.

Table 7. Known cultural resources within/along the Sapelo Harbor Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9MC60	Hopkins Mound	McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Borrow Pit, Prehistoric Indian Cemetery, Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound, Confirmed	Unknown	*
2	9MC258		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Isolated Artifact	Unknown	
3	9MC262		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
4	9MC263		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
5	9MC264		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
6	9MC265		McIntosh	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
7	9MC421	Fairhope Plantation and Cemetery	McIntosh	Plantation	Private	*

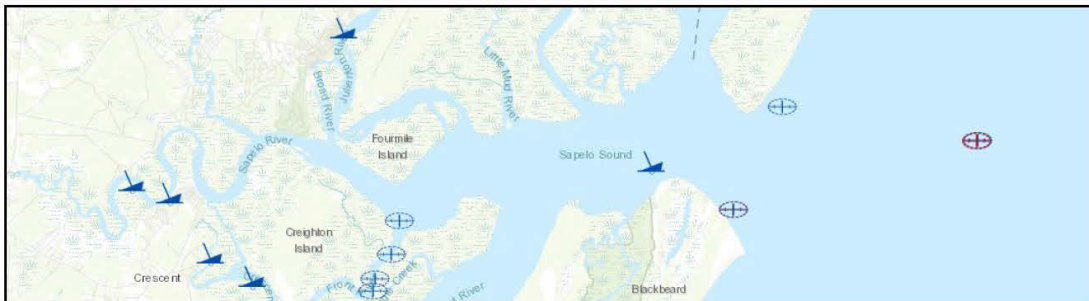


Figure 11. Results from NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database for Sapelo Harbor.

Satilla River. There are 20 sites documented within or along the shoreline of the Satilla River Federal Navigation Channel in Camden, Glynn, and Charlton Counties, GA, which include both terrestrial and submerged cultural resources (Figure 12, Table 8). Most sites have an unknown eligibility designation; however, there are several culturally significant sites that must be assumed to be NRHP eligible. One site (9CM4) is documented as a prehistoric earth mound that was recorded by the Smithsonian Institute's C.B. Moore in 1897. It is referred to as Owens Ferry Mound and is thought to contain burials. Two sites (9CM224, 9CM527) are recommended eligible. One site (9CM224) is documented as Jim Bailey's Mill, which is a 19th and 20th Century mill, while the other site (9CM527) is documented as a historic settlement and artifact scatter. Stewardship for these sites ranges from the State of Georgia and Camden and Charlton Counties to private stewardship. Other historic structures and archaeological sites are documented along the shoreline but were slightly outside of the APE. Five wrecks or obstructions are documented in NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database; however, little is known about them (Figure 13).

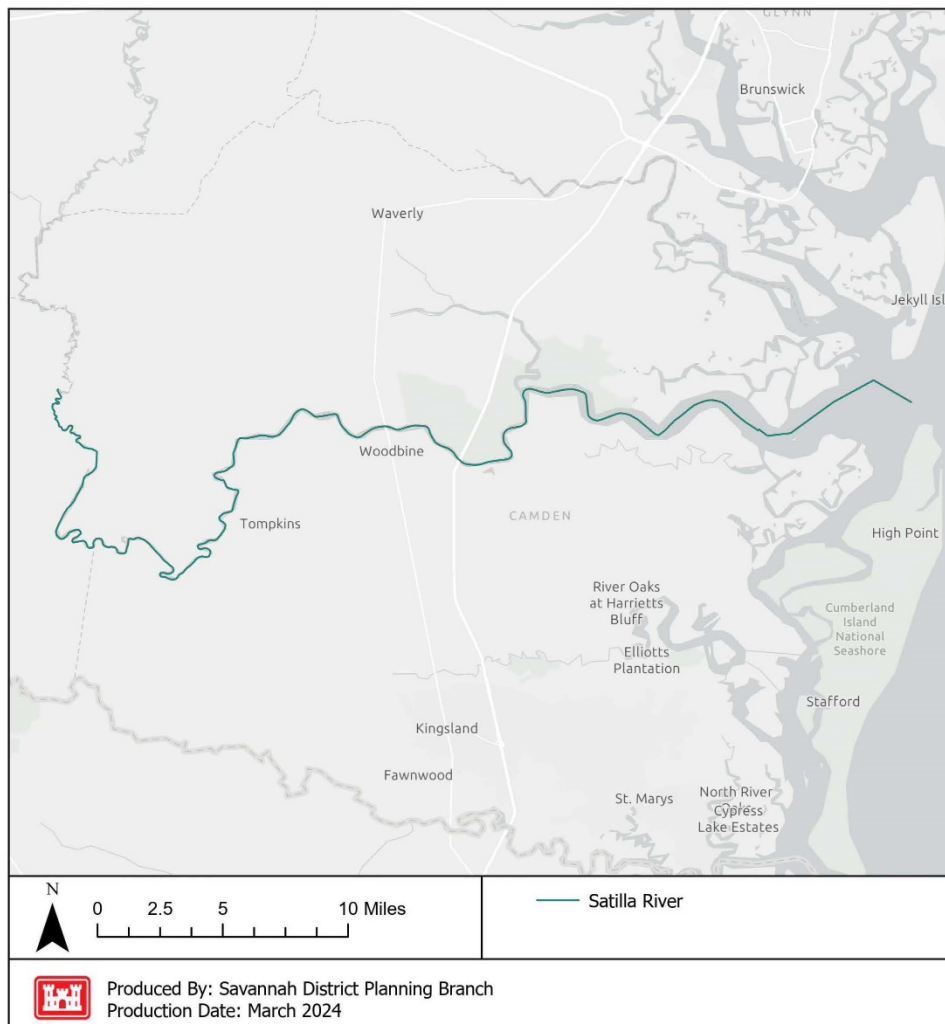


Figure 12. Satilla River.

Table 8. Known cultural resources within/along the Satilla River Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9CM4	Owens Ferry Mound	Camden	Prehistoric Indian Earth Mound, Confirmed C.B. Moore 1897	Private	*
2	9CM224	Jim Bailey's Mill	Camden	19th and 20th Century Mill, Recommended Eligible	State of Georgia(? Covenant Central Aquafactory of Georgia)	*
3	9CM293	Clarks Bluff	Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter, Historic Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Camden County	
4	9CM326	Bullhead Bluff Cemetery	Camden	Historic Cemetery	Private (Cemetery Association)	
5	9CM329	Owens Ferry Dock	Camden	Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock	Private	
6	9CM330	Owens Ferry Episcopal	Camden	Church or Mission	Private	
7	9CM331	Owens Ferry Rice Mill	Camden	Foundation, Rice Mill	Private	
8	9CM332	Owens Ferry Sawmill	Camden	Foundation, Saw Mill	Private	
9	9CM353	Burnt Fort Store and Dock	Camden	Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock, Store	Private	
10	9CM354	Atlantic Steamship Underwater	Camden	Ship or Boat	State of Georgia	
11	9CM381	Clarks Bluff Dock	Camden	Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock	Private	
12	9CM382	Clarks Bluff Turpentine Still	Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter, Turpentine Still	Private	
13	9CM399	Clarks Bullf Ridge Slope	Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	
14	9CM400	Maryfield Dock	Camden	Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock	Private	
15	9CM409		Camden	19th and 20th Century Mill	Private	
16	9CM527		Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter Settlement Recommended Eligible	Camden County	*
17	9CM592		Camden	Plantation	Private	
18	9CR165	Mixell Trust 2	Charlton	Historic Artifact Scatter, Historic Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Charlton County	
19	9CR166	Mizell Trust 1	Charlton	Historic Indian Lithic Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter, Settlement	Charlton County	
20	9CR190		Charlton	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	



Figure 13. Results from NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database for Satilla River.

St. Marys River. There are 29 sites and one National Register of Historic Places historic district documented within or along the shoreline of the St. Mary's River Federal Navigation Channel in Camden and Charlton Counties, GA, and Nassau County, FL (Figure 14, Table 9). The sites include both terrestrial and submerged, most of which have unknown NRHP eligibility, and range from prehistoric artifact scatters to remnants of a War of 1812 gunboat and historic forts. While eligibility is unknown, sites 9CM575 (Gunboat Number 1) and 9CM577 (Gunboat Number 62) should be considered culturally significant and potentially eligible for NRHP listing. Current stewardship resides mostly with the State of Georgia, with a few sites being privately owned and one site being under Camden County's jurisdiction. Only the Georgia sites of the sites are recorded. A majority of the Florida sites are either eligible or have not been evaluated for eligibility status, with only one site being deemed as ineligible. Site 8NA785 (Brickyard Landing) is documented as a prehistoric campsite/habitation area and historic town. Site 8NA1058 (Kings Ferry Site) is a ceramic scatter and wharf/dock/pier dating from 18th -19th century. Site 8NA1059 (Oxbow Site) is a ceramic and lithic scatter and quarry. Site 8NA1837 (proposed Fort Caroline site) is a historic fort and earthworks. Several wrecks or obstructions are documented on NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database, including a possible shipwreck as evidenced by a large mound of submerged wood being eaten by tube worms (Figure 15).

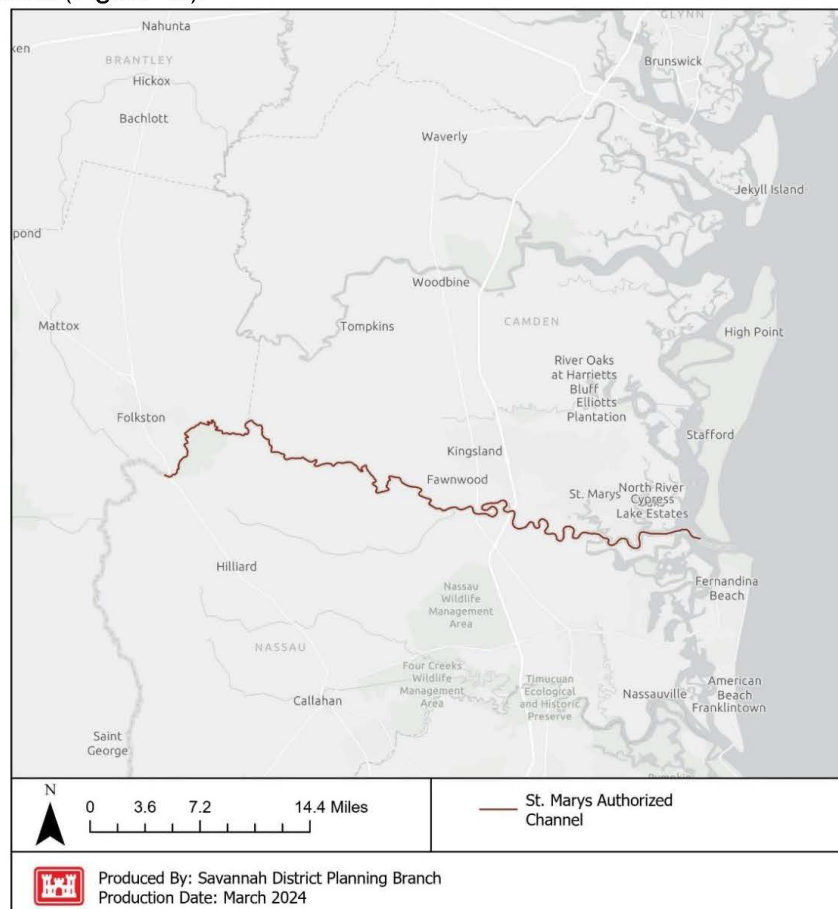


Figure 14. St. Marys River.

Table 9. Known cultural resources within/along the St. Mary's River Federal Navigation Channel.

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
1	9CM35	Little Griffith Bluff	Camden	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Ceramic Scatter	Private	
2	9CM294	Orange Bluff Underwater	Camden	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	State of Georgia	
3	9CM295	Flea Hill Underwater	Camden	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	State of Georgia	
4	9CM296	Kings Ferry Underwater	Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter	State of Georgia	
5	9CM297	Cabbage Bend Underwater	Camden	Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	State of Georgia	
6	9CM298	Brickyard Underwater	Camden	Historic Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	State of Georgia	
7	9CM333	Oakwell	Camden	Well	Private	
8	9CM334	Oakwell Dock	Camden	Pier, Landing, Pilings, Dock	Private	
9	9CM349	Temple Landing	Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Camden County	
10	9CM391	Wooden Hull Underwater	Camden	Ship or Boat	State of Georgia	
11	9CM411		Camden	House or Structure, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
12	9CM412		Camden	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Unknown	
13	9CM413		Camden	Historic Isolated Artifact Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
14	9CM414		Camden	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
15	9CM415		Camden	Prehistoric Indian Lithic Scatter	Unknown	
16	9CM575	Gunboat No. 1	Camden	Ship or Boat (War of 1812)	Unknown	*
17	9CM577	Gunboat No. 62	Camden	Ship or Boat (War of 1812)	Unknown	*
18	9CR191		Charlton	Historic Artifact Scatter, Prehistoric Indian Artifact or Shell Scatter	Private	
19	8NA121	Fort Tonym	Nassau	Historic fort	Unknown	
20	8NA710	Widgeon Shipwreck	Nassau	Historic shipwreck	Unknown	
21	8NA783	Brickyard Golf One	Nassau	Artifact scatter-low density	Unknown	
22	8NA785	Brickyard Landing	Nassau	Prehistoric Campsite/Habitation Area, Historic Town	Unknown	*
23	8NA1058	Kings Ferry Site	Nassau	Ceramic Scatter,	Unknown	*

#	State Site Number	Site Name	County	Site Type(s)	Stewardship	Eligible
				Wharf/Dock/Pier dating from 18th -19th century		
24	8NA1059	The Oxbow Site	Nassau	Ceramic Scatter, Lithic Scatter, Quarry	Unknown	*
25	8NA1060	Rayonier Picnic Site	Nassau	Building Remains, Historic Refuse/dump	Unknown	
26	8NA1088	I-95 Underwater	Nassau	Prehistoric shell midden	Unknown	
27	8NA1307	St Marys River near Roses Bluff, FL	Nassau	Historic Spanish Site	Unknown	
28	8NA1387	Big Mill at Mizell & Brothers	Nassau	Mill of unspecified function	Unknown	
29	8NA1837	Proposed Fort Caroline Site	Nassau	Historic Fort, Historic Earthworks	Unknown	*



Figure 15. Results from NOAA's Wrecks and Obstructions Database for St. Mary's River.

3. Effects to Historic Properties.

If these waterways are determined to no longer have a federal interest due to lack of commercial navigation, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those channels that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process. There is no transfer of ownership or control associated with this action. For waterways currently under state ownership or jurisdiction, stewardship of these waterways would remain with the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable.

Under the applicable federal and states jurisdictions, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) still applies under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Future activities conducted by private entities in any of the waterways that are also waters of the United States would still need to comply with any permitting requirements under these laws, as appropriate. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division is the issuing authority for applicable permits. As the issuance of permits constitutes a federal action, compliance with other environmental laws, including but not limited to Section 106 of NHPA, would be required. State laws and regulations also remain in place.

Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

4. Resolution of Adverse Effects.

If responses for nonconcurrence are received associated with the no adverse effect determination, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be requested to provide an official response to concur with the no adverse effect determination. If waterways are proposed for deauthorization and potential unforeseen adverse effects are identified, further Section 106 consultation will be required. Should any undertakings proceed, resolution of adverse effects may involve the execution of a programmatic agreement. The agreement would contain information for determining adverse effects and consultation to streamline the Section 106 process.

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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Dr. Angela Tomlinson
Deputy & Assistant Director, Division of Historical Resources
Florida Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Dr. Tomlinson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Office on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

Waterway	Counties
Altamaha River	Appling, Glynn, Toombs, Wayne, Wheeler, McIntosh, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Long, Montgomery
Bellville Point Harbor	McIntosh
Darien Harbor	McIntosh
Fancy Bluff Creek	Camden, Glynn
Ocmulgee River	Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, Bibb
Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)

If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Office provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY
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Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

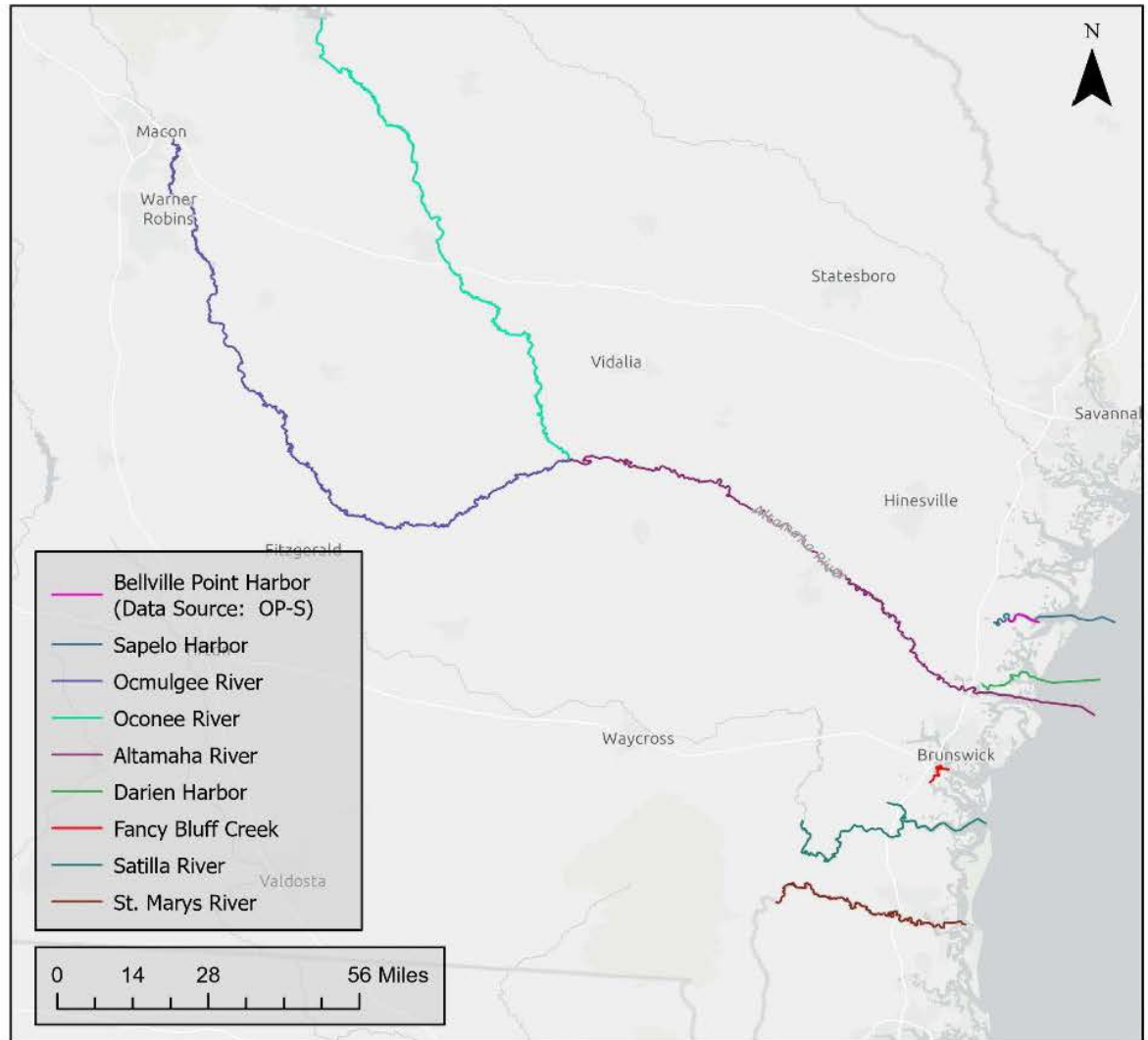


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Jennifer Dixon
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Director, Historic Preservation Division
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Office on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

Waterway	Counties
Altamaha River	Appling, Glynn, Toombs, Wayne, Wheeler, McIntosh, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Long, Montgomery
Bellville Point Harbor	McIntosh
Darien Harbor	McIntosh
Fancy Bluff Creek	Camden, Glynn
Ocmulgee River	Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, Bibb
Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)

If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Office provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2024.03.26 14:01:58 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

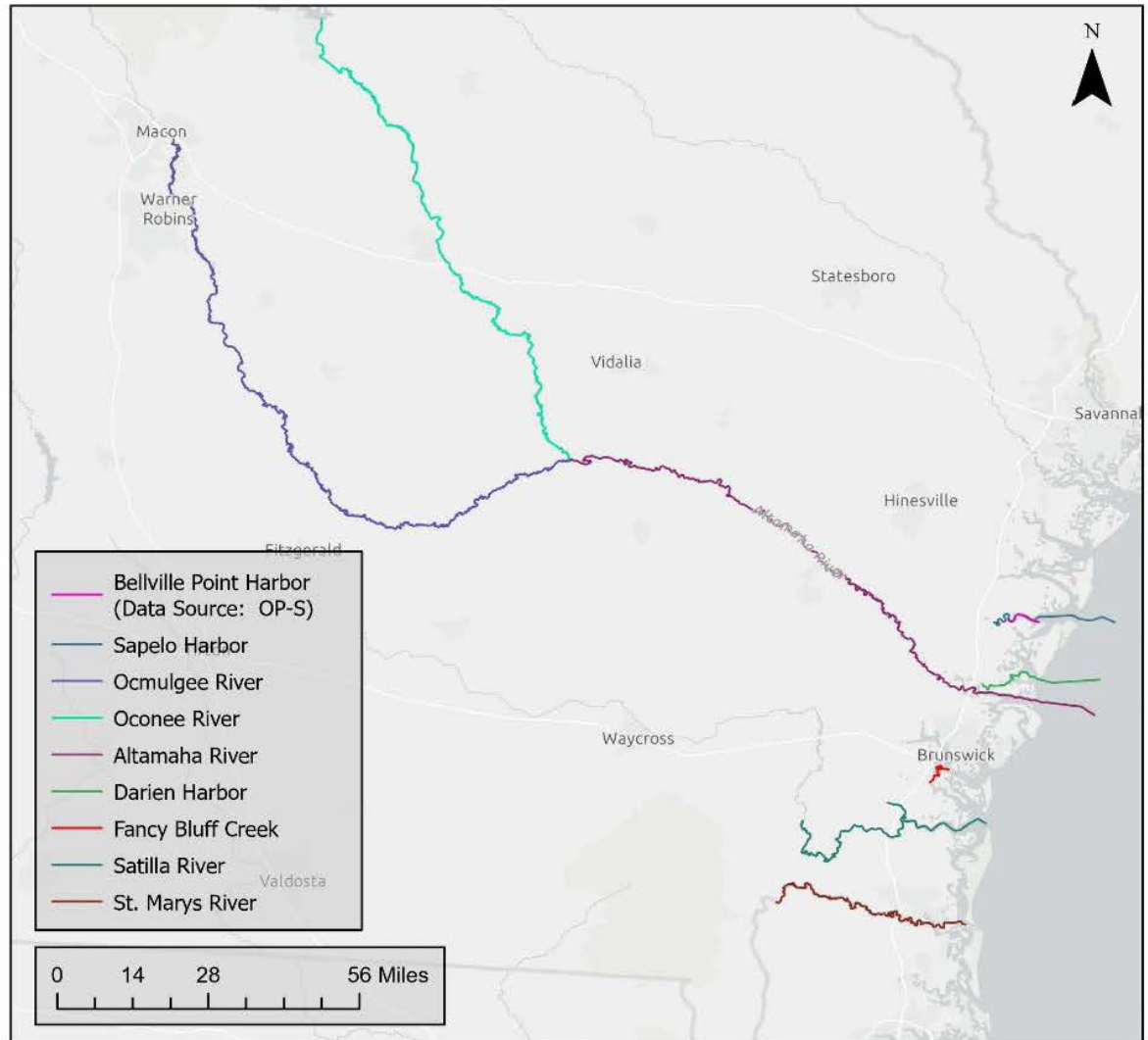


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Devon Frazier
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Dear Ms. Frazier:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

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Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -04'00'

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

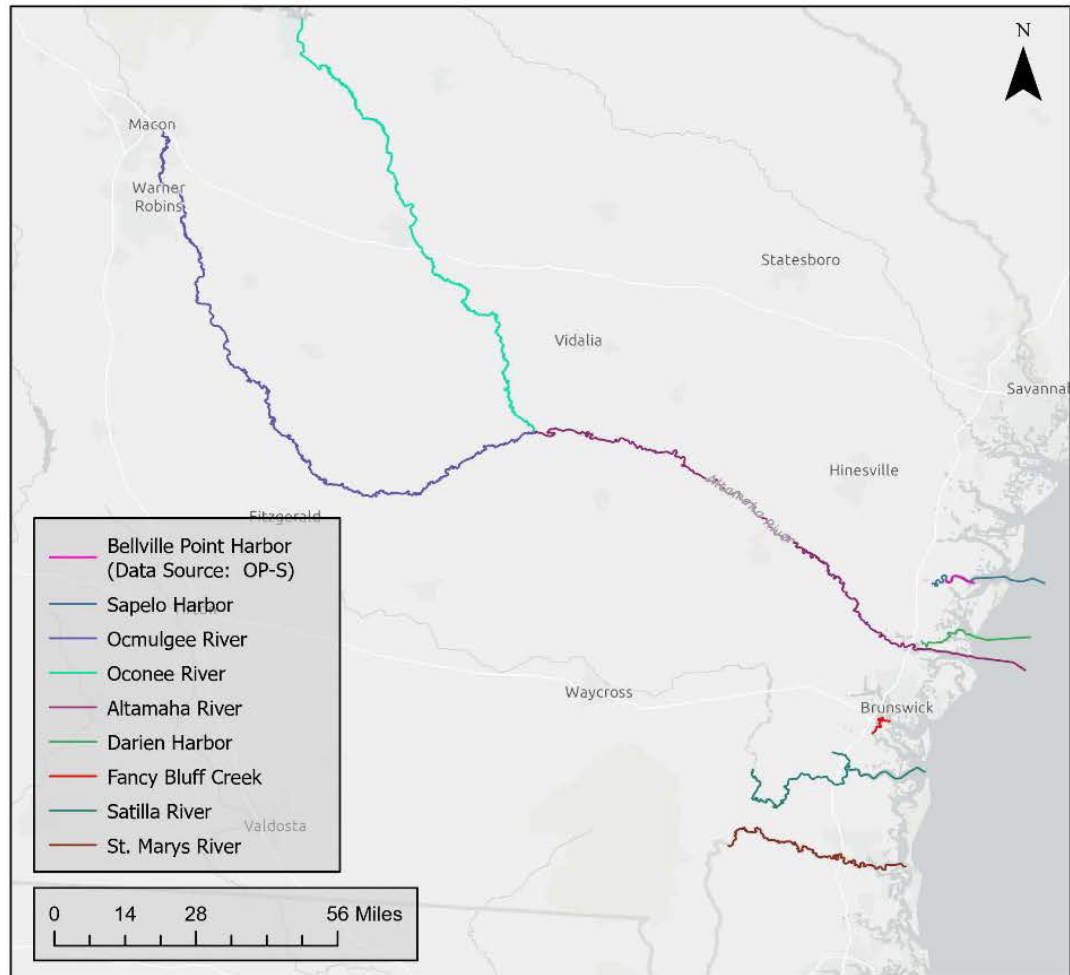


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Delvin Johnson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
571 State Park Road, 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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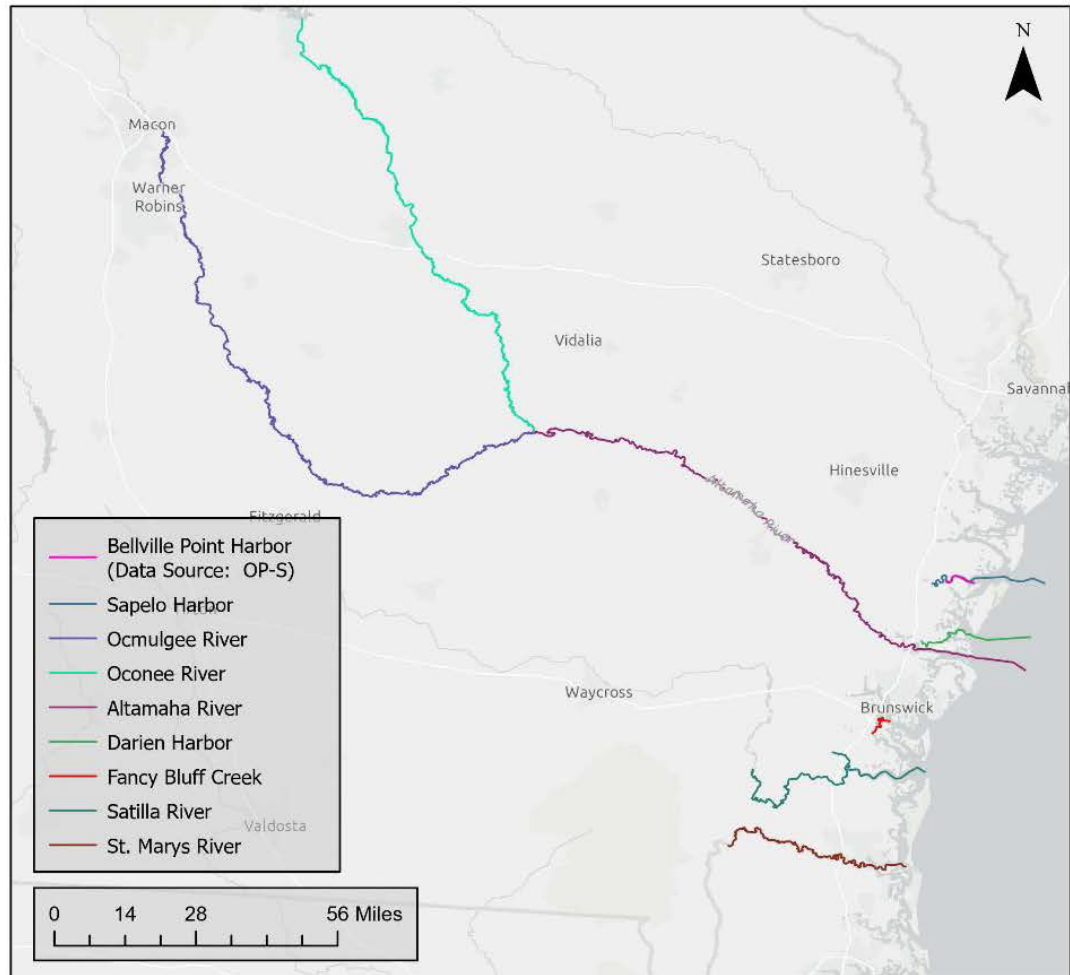


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Janice Lowe
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 187
101 East Broadway
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

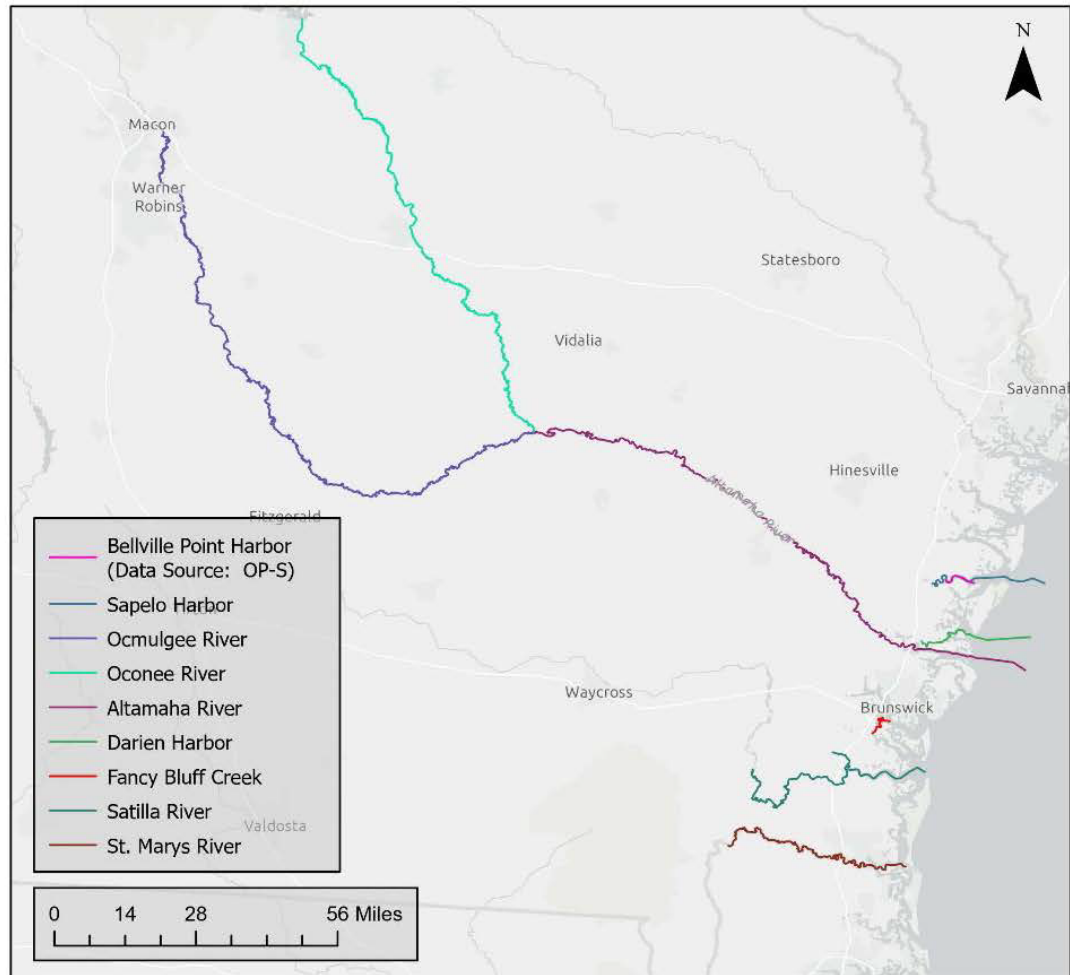


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
1536 Tom Stevens Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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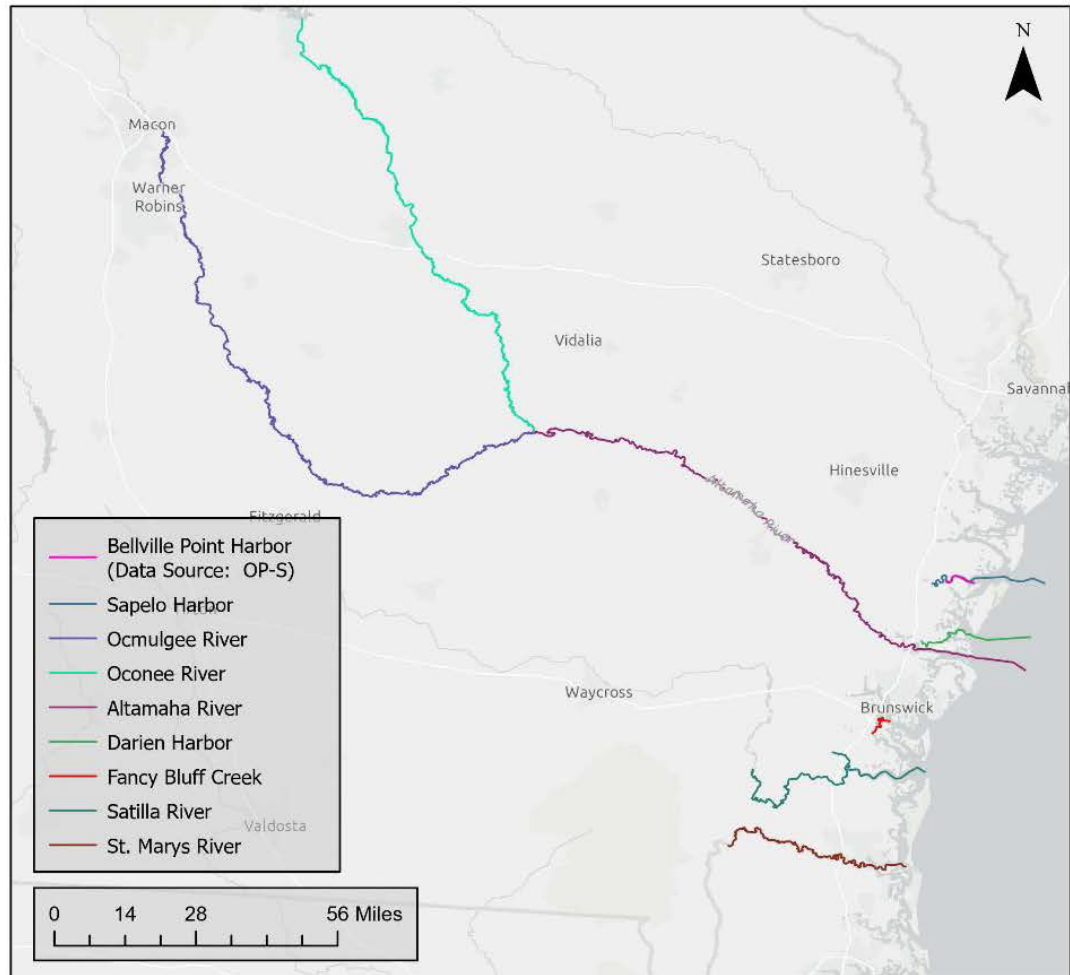


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Elizabeth Toombs
Cherokee Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Ms. Toombs:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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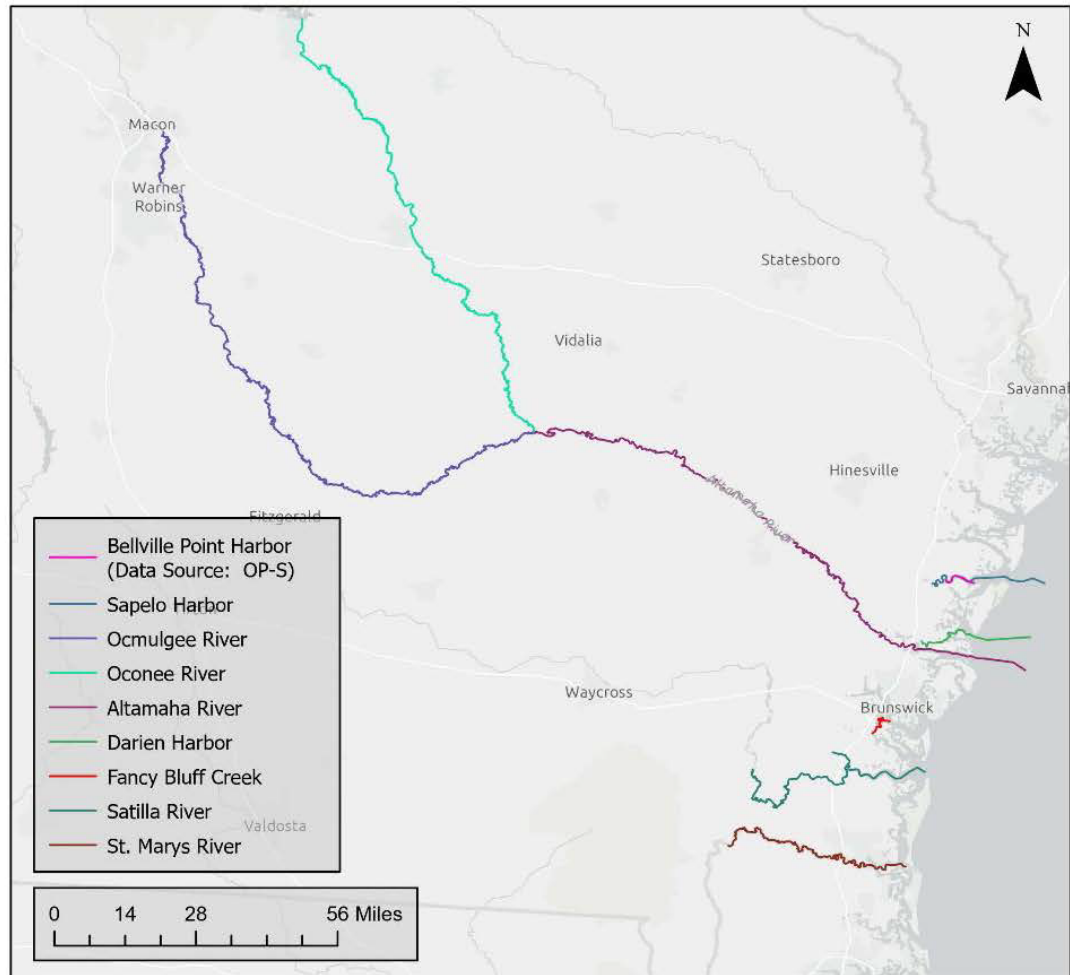


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Karen Brunso
Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74281-1548

Dear Ms. Brunso:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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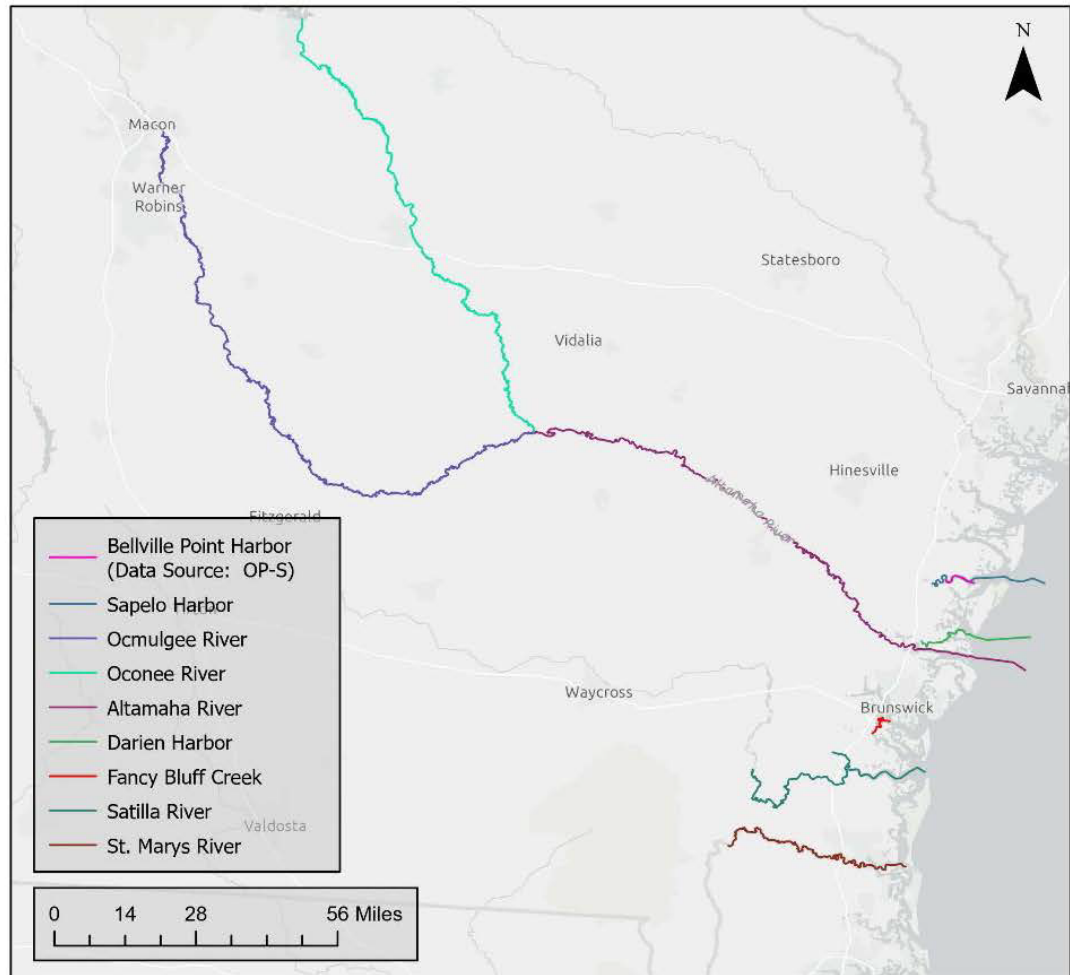


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Kristian Poncho
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 10
Elton, LA 70532

Dear Ms. Poncho:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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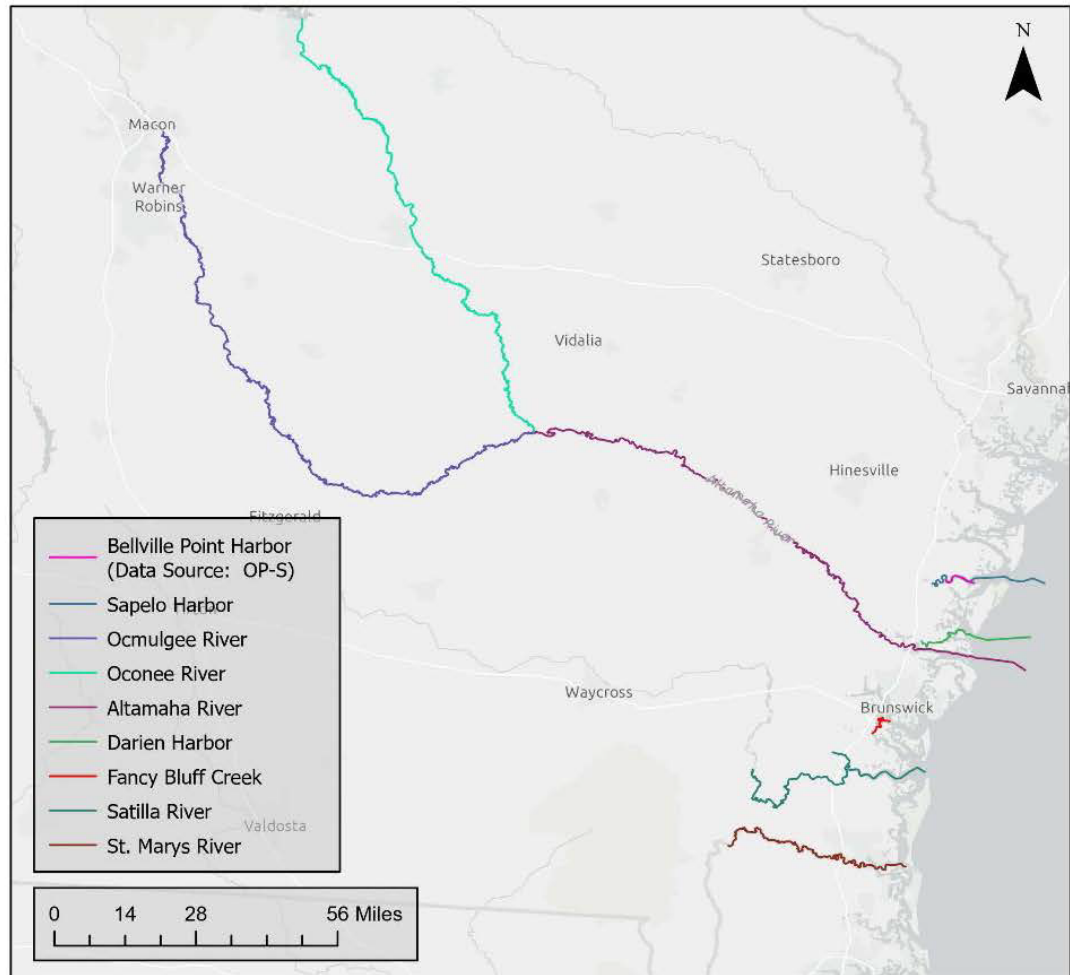


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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Russell Townsend
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Dear Mr. Townsend:

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Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

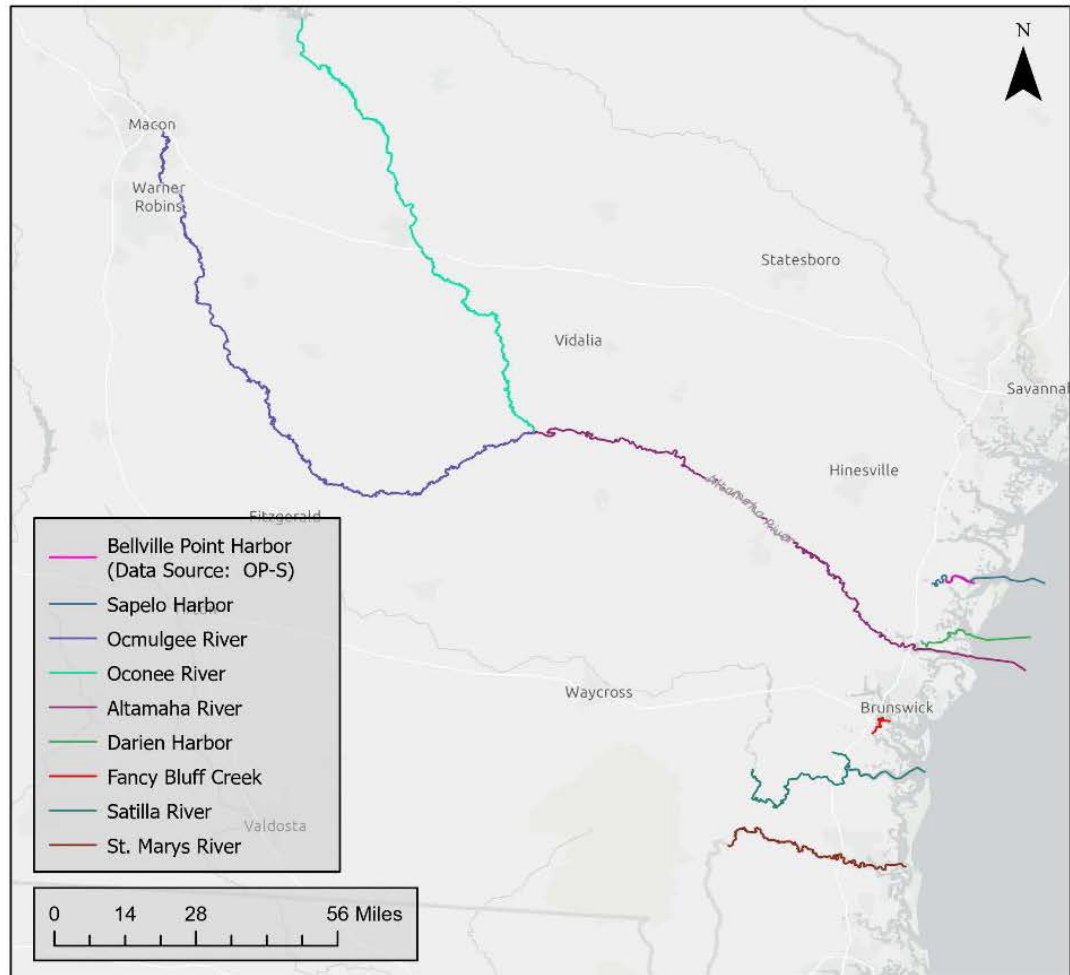


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Lora Nuckolls
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
70500 E 128 RD
Wyandotte, OK 74370

Dear Ms. Nuckolls:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

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LY.L.1289729174

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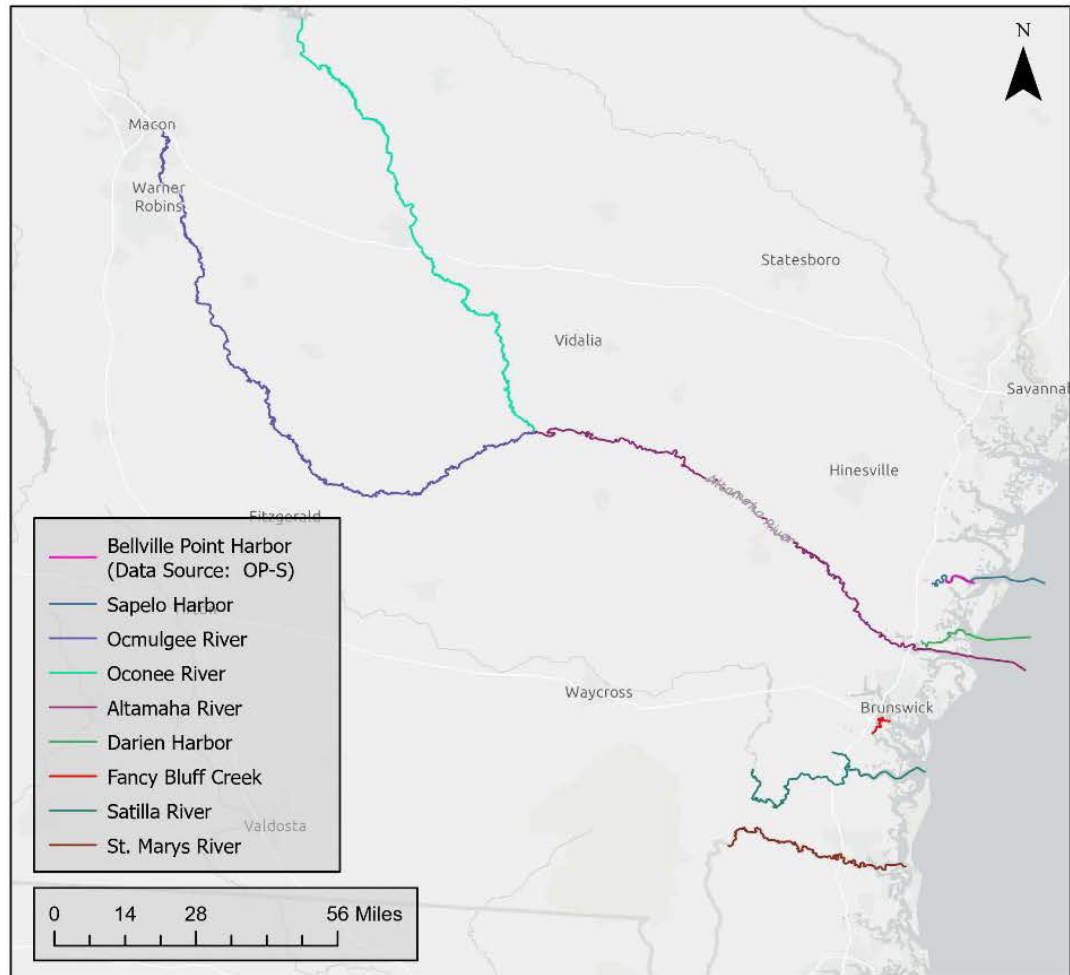


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Johnna Flynn
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

Dear Ms. Flynn:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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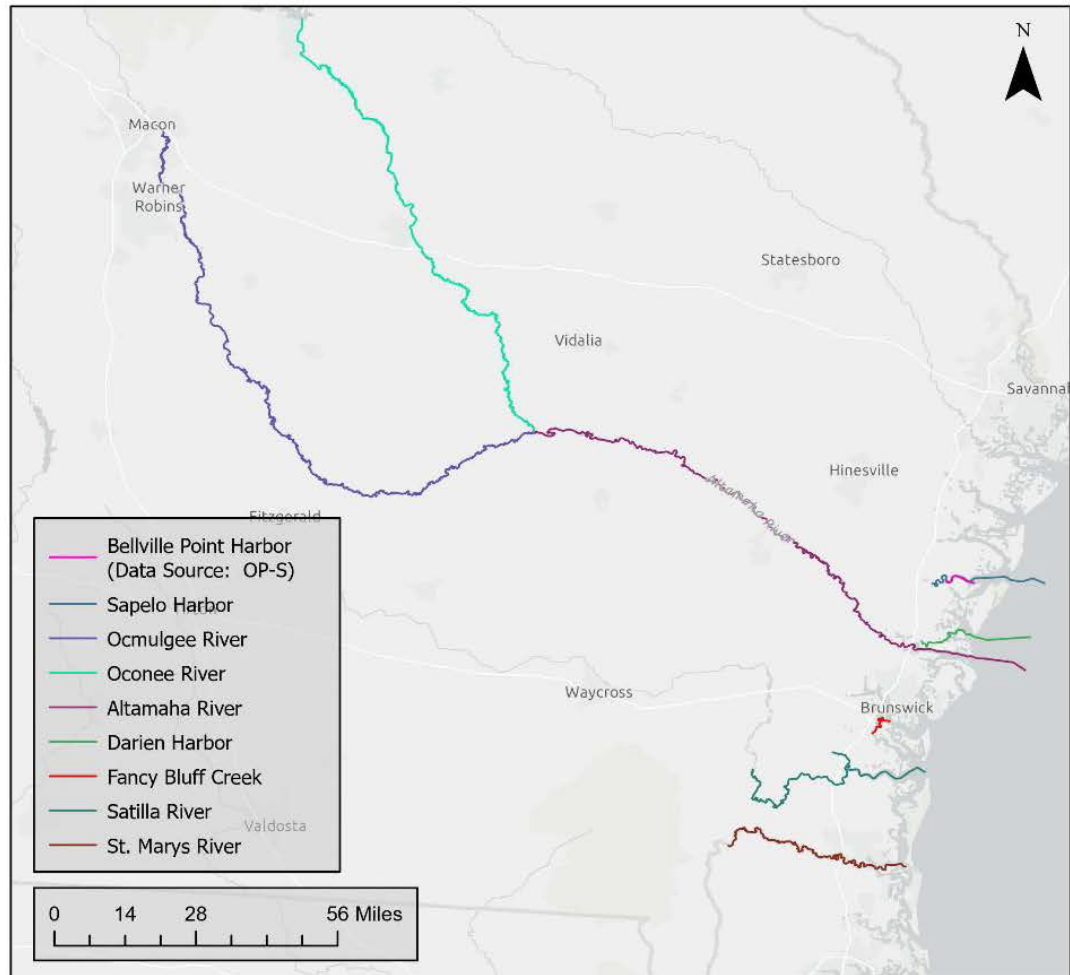


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. David Cook
Kialegee Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 332
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Mr. Cook:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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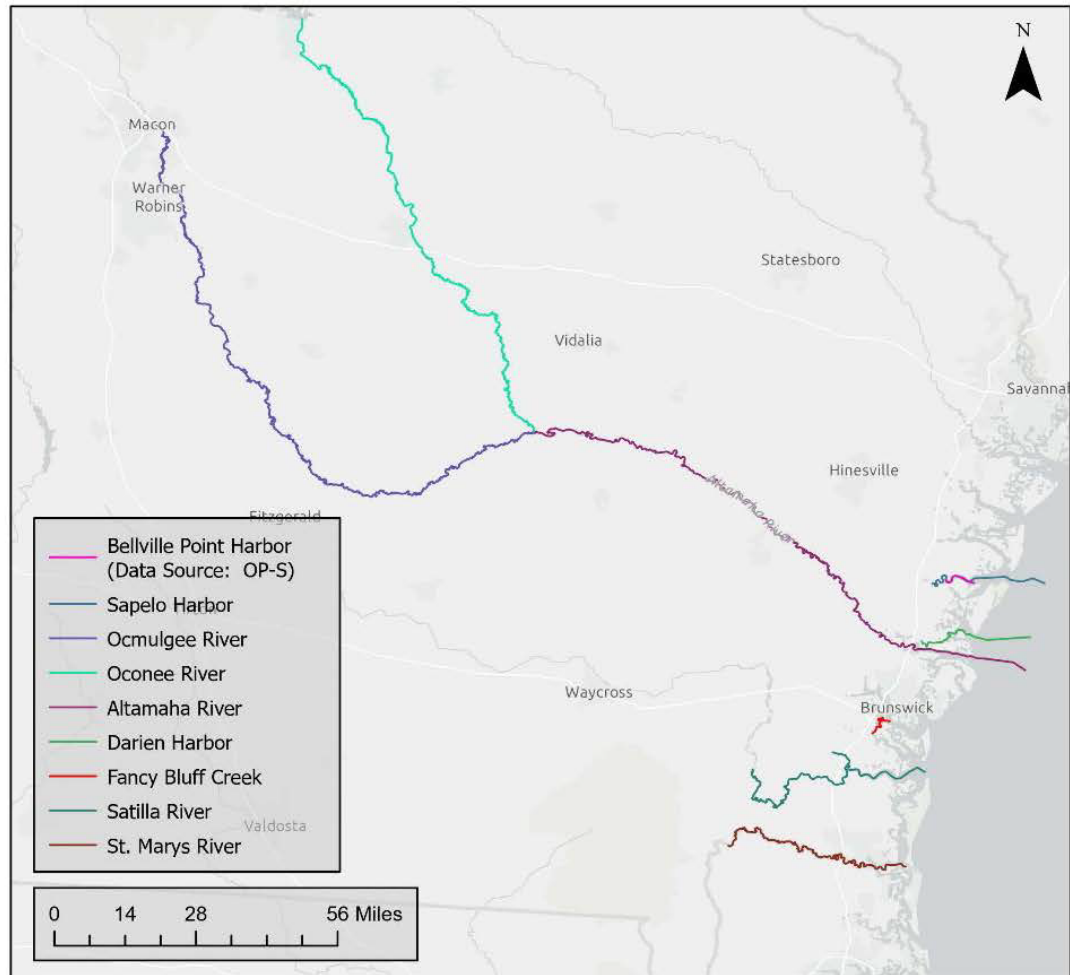


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Kevin Donaldson
Environmental Specialist
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Tamiami Station
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, Florida 33144

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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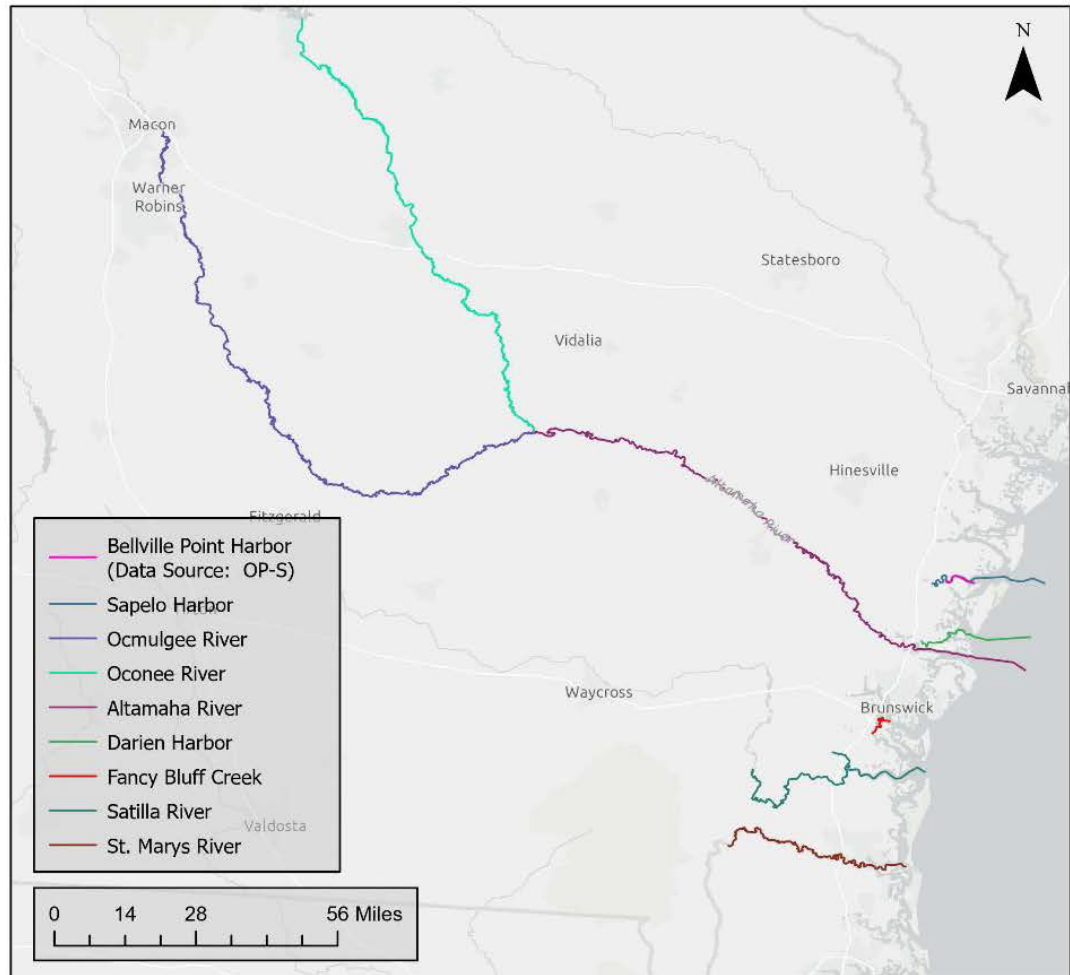


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Turner Hunt
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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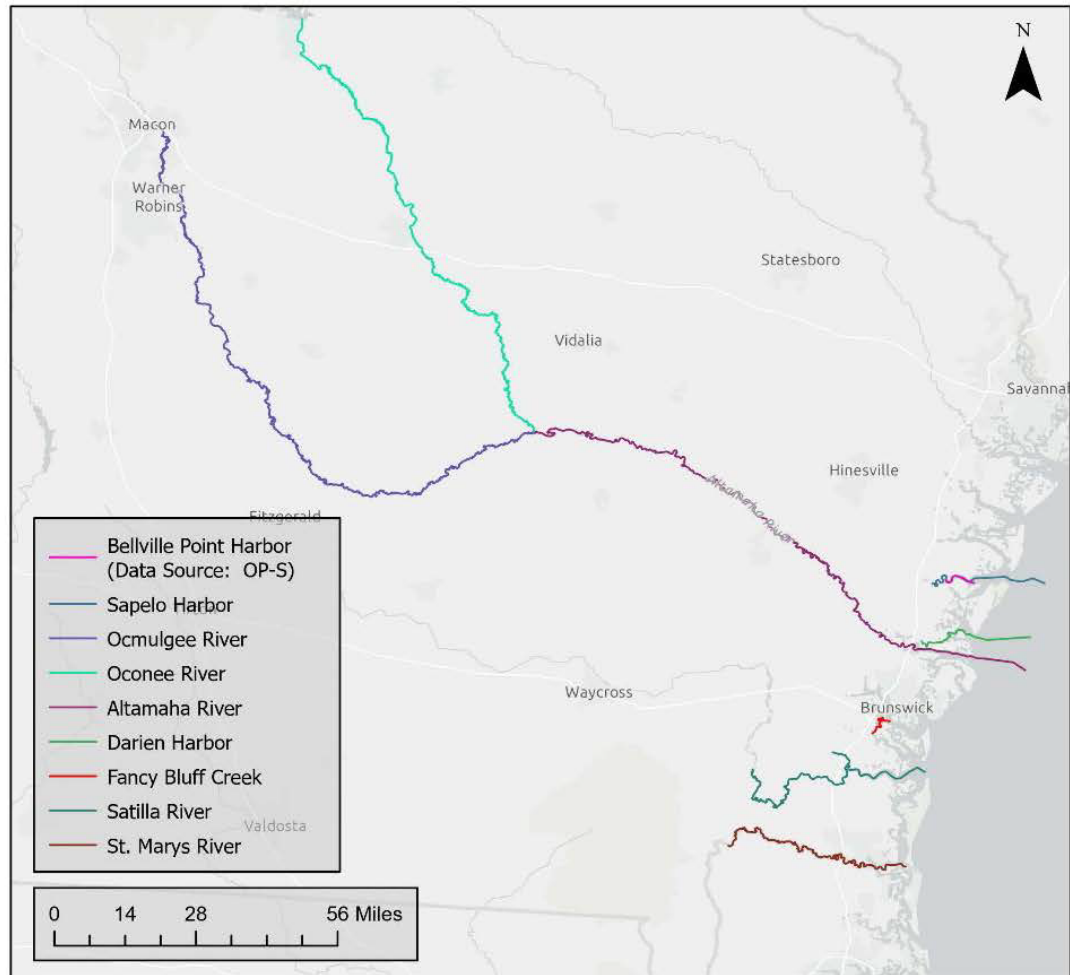


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Larry Haikey
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, Alabama 36502

Dear Mr. Haikey:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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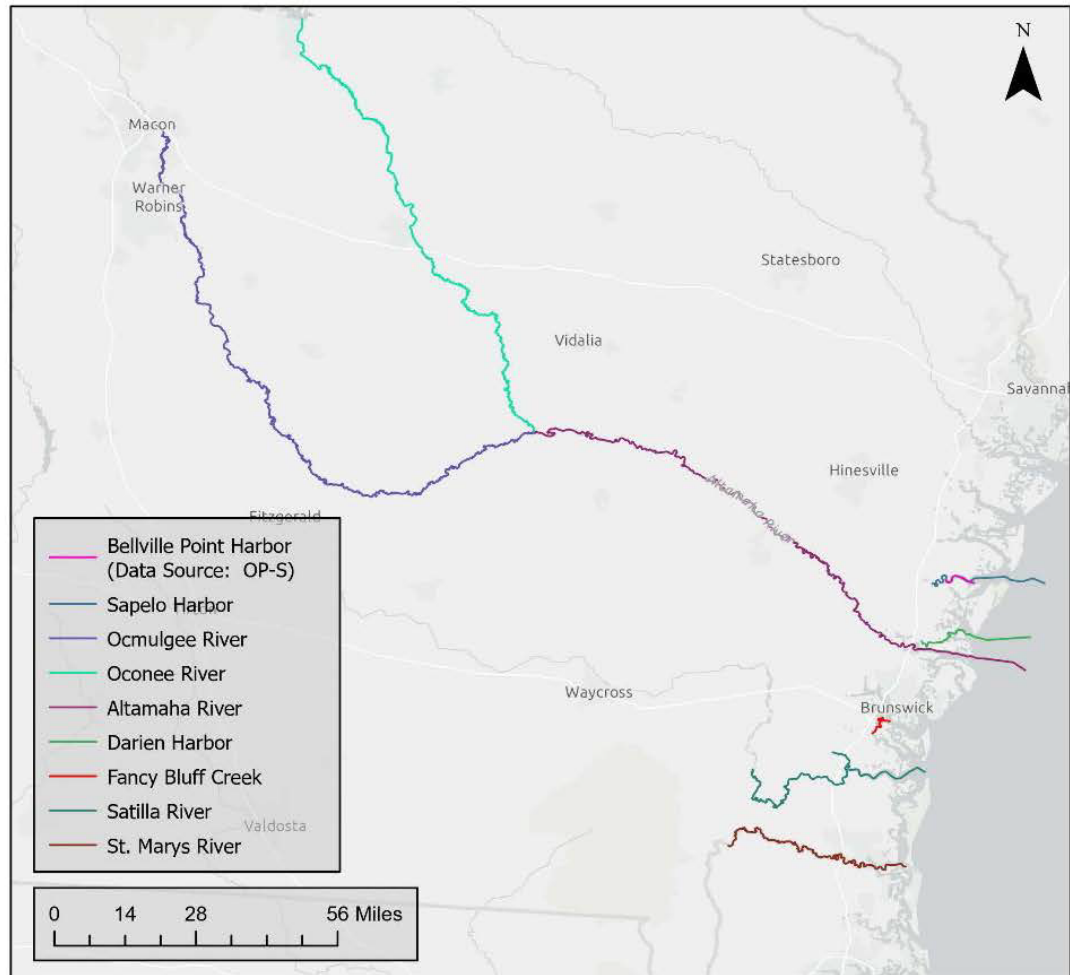


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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Ben Yahola
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 1499
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dear Mr. Yahola:

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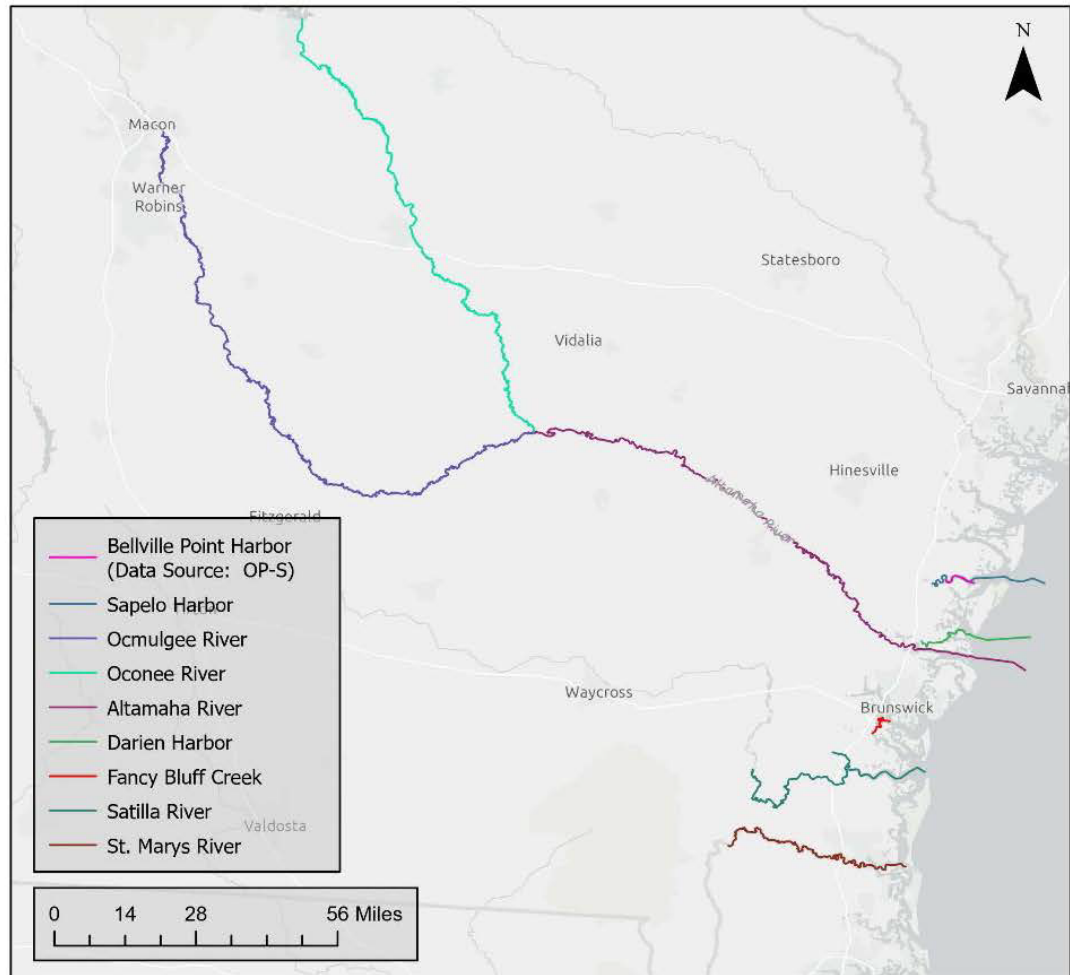


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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Dr. Paul Backhouse
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

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Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

Digitally signed by
GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.12897291
74
Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

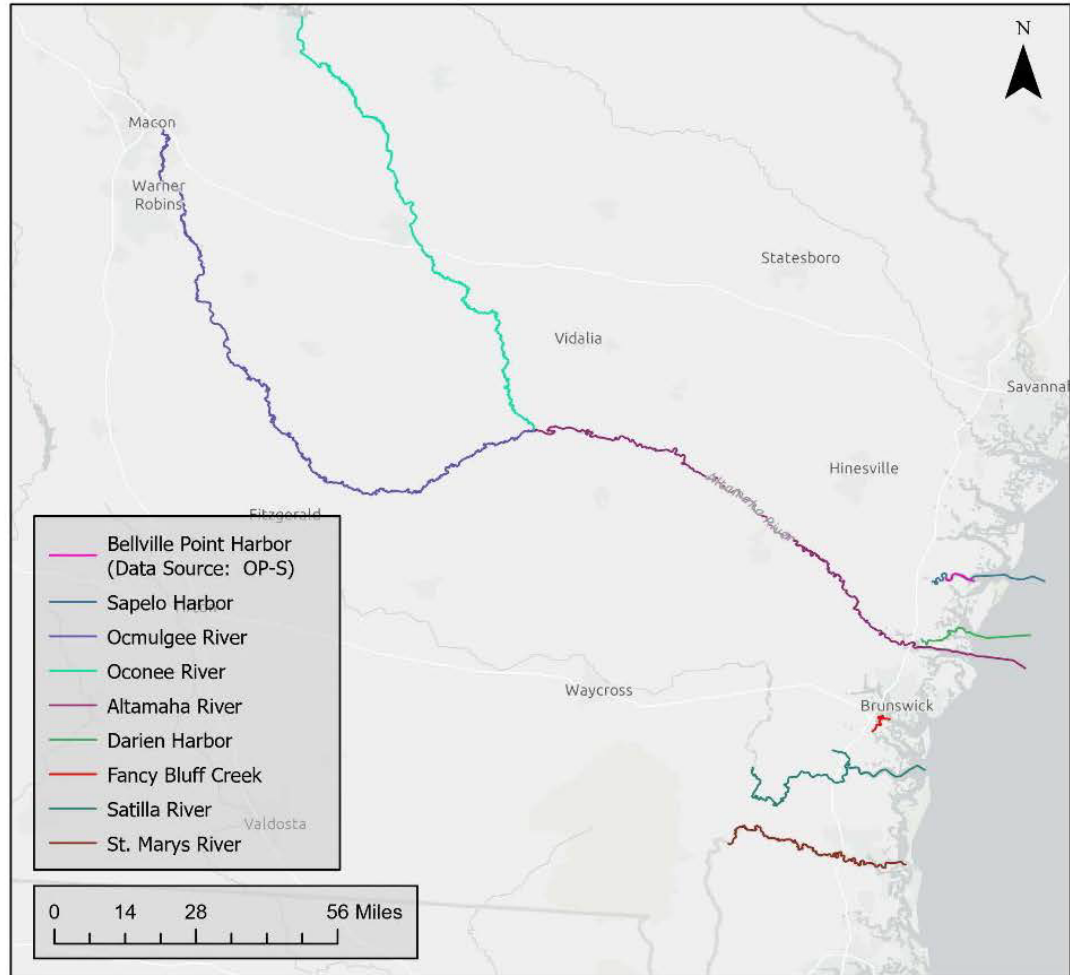


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Tonya Tipton
Shawnee Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
29 S. Highway 69A
Miami, OK 74354

Dear Ms. Tipton:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

Waterway	Counties
Altamaha River	Appling, Glynn, Toombs, Wayne, Wheeler, McIntosh, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Long, Montgomery
Bellville Point Harbor	McIntosh
Darien Harbor	McIntosh
Fancy Bluff Creek	Camden, Glynn
Ocmulgee River	Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, Bibb
Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)

If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

Digitally signed by
GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.12897291
74
Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

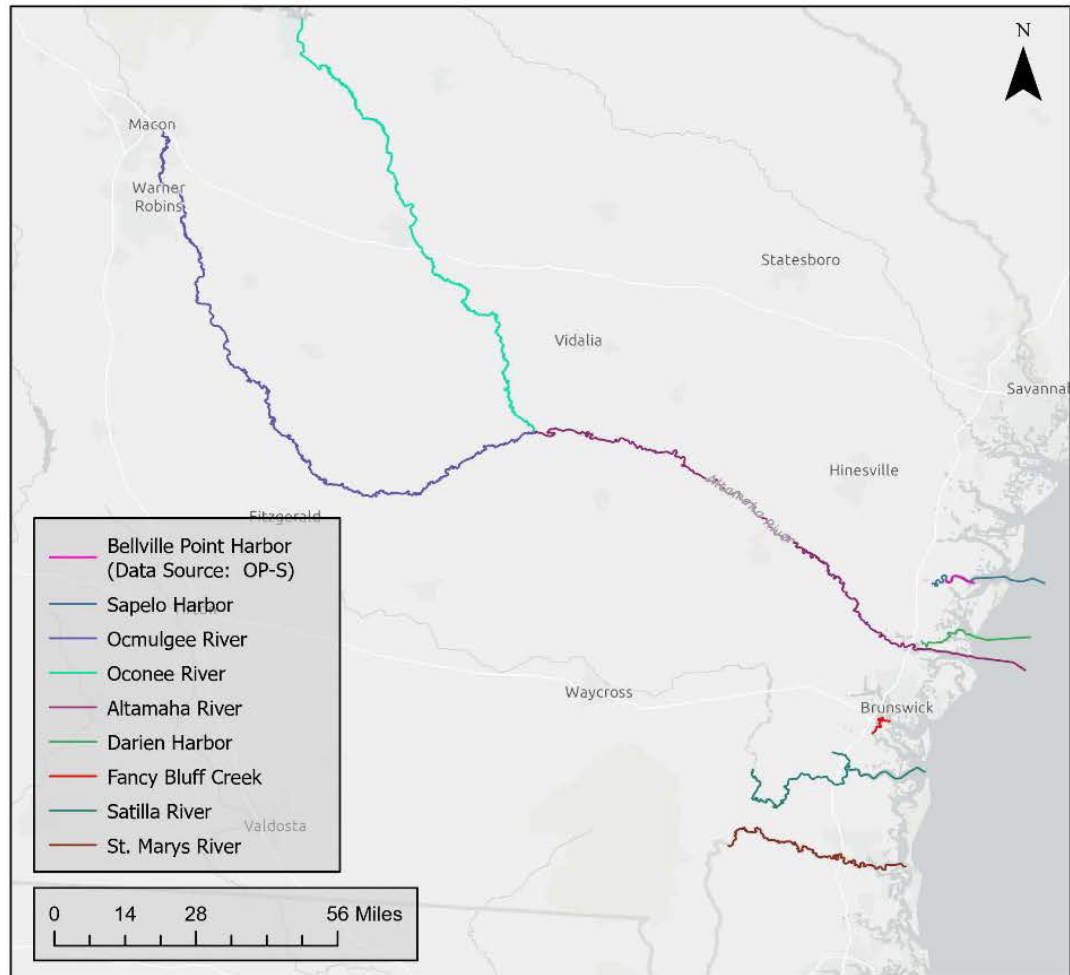


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. David Frank
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 188
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Dear Mr. Frank:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

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Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)

If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

Digitally signed by
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Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

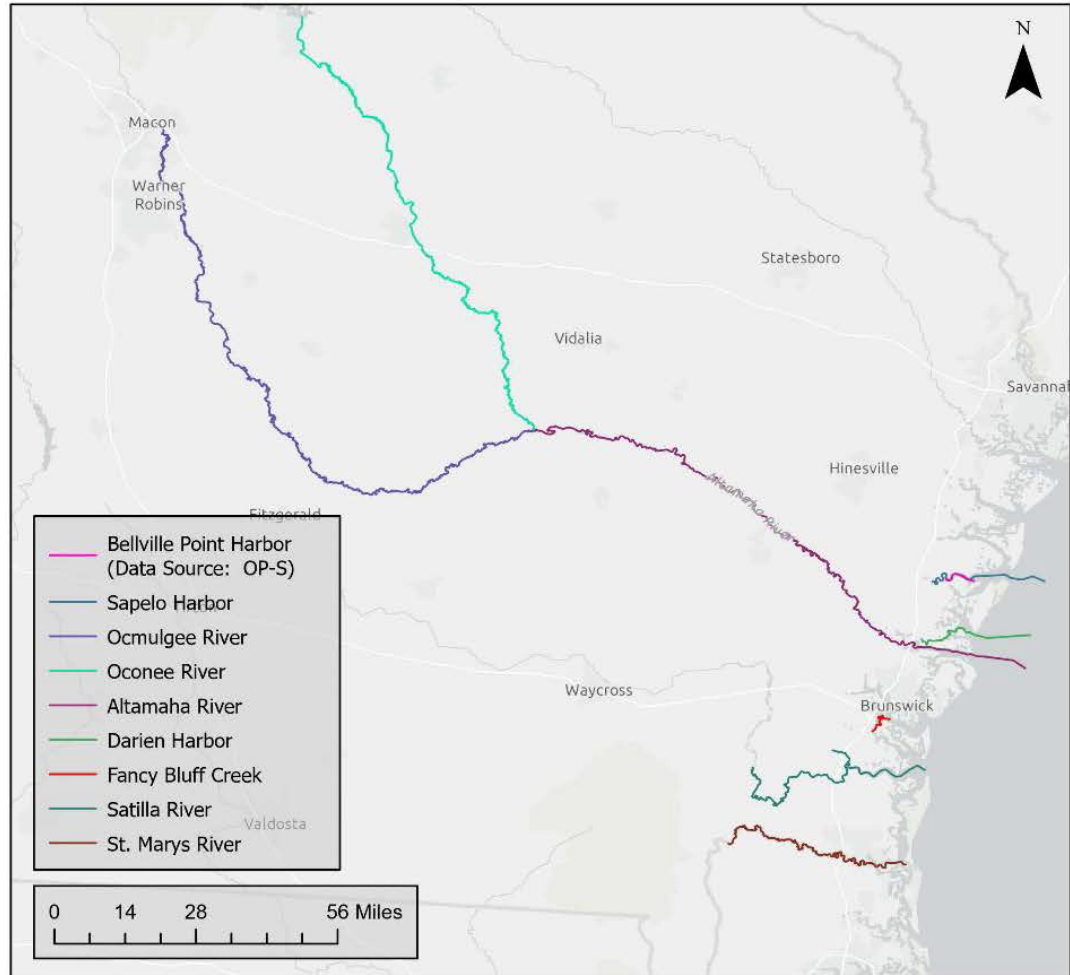


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Mr. Bryan Printup
Tuscarora Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office / Environment Program
5226 E Walmore Road
Lewiston, New York 14092

Dear Mr. Printup:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

Table 1. List of waterways being considered for disposition and associated counties.

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If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

Digitally signed by
GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.12897291
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Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

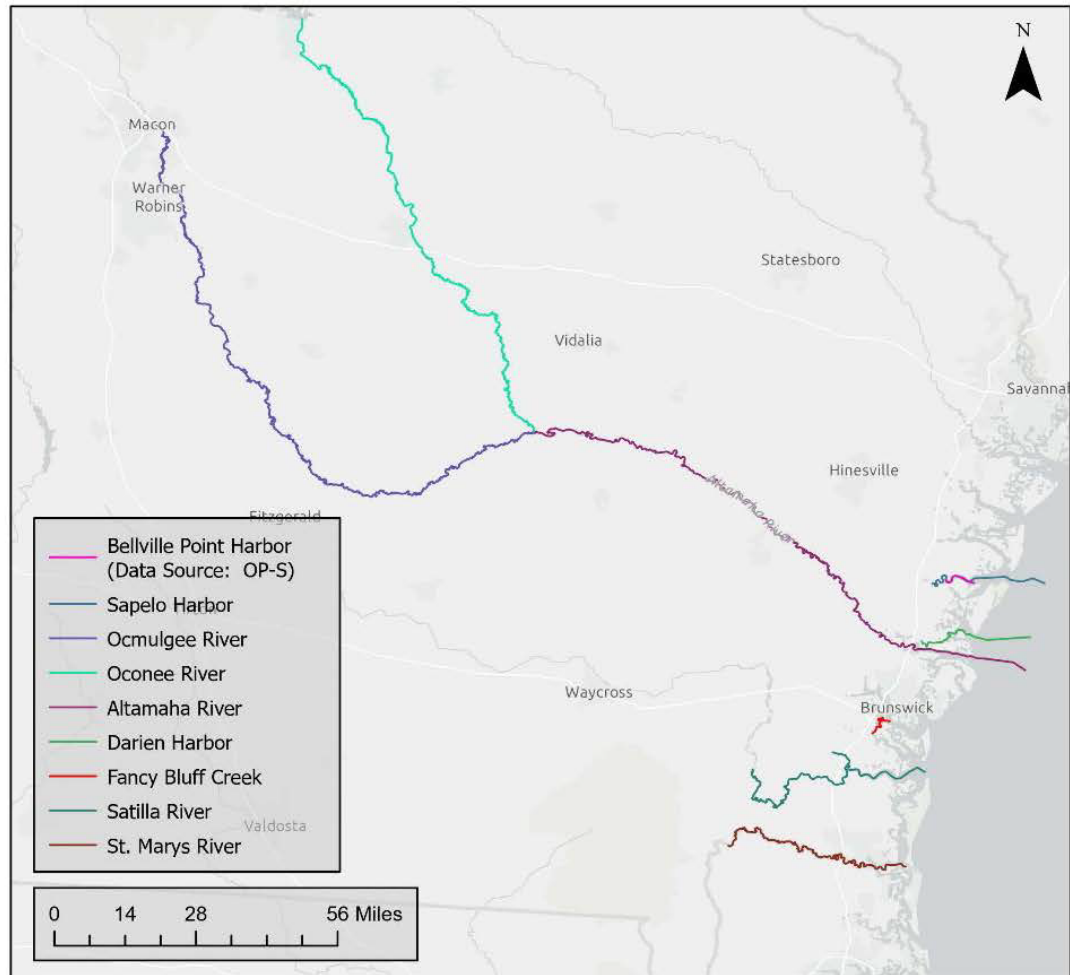


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.



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

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Ms. Whitney Warrior
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 975
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Ms. Warrior:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is performing a study to determine if a federal interest exists for multiple federal navigation channels and propose deauthorization where there is no longer a federal interest for commercial navigation (Table 1, Figure 1). Pursuant to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, this letter seeks to initiate consultation with your Tribe on this study. There are known historic properties and districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as other historic structures and archaeological resources that have unknown eligibility determinations, located within these waterways and along the shorelines.

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Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
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If these waterways are determined to no longer serve a federal interest for commercial navigation or national security needs, the Corps will recommend to Congress deauthorization of those federal navigation channels, or portions of those federal navigation channels, that no longer meet their Congressionally authorized purposes. If Congress concurs with these determinations, the Corps will proceed with the deauthorization process and stewardship of these waterways would revert to the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, as applicable. Under the states' jurisdiction, the Corps believes that the waterways will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance that may be located within/near these waterways. Therefore, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within and along these federal navigation channels.

The Corps politely requests that your Tribe provide us with any information you may have regarding historic properties within the project area that have religious or cultural significance to your Tribe and may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Please be assured we will remain sensitive to any concerns you may have regarding the confidentiality of this information.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Corps requests your Tribe provide concurrence for the no adverse effect determination. If there are concerns for potential adverse effects, please review the project map (Figure 1) to determine if additional information is needed to reach a determination. Please provide any comments within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,

GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.1289729174
LY.L.1289729174

Digitally signed by
GARVEY.KIMBERLY.L.12897291
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Date: 2024.03.26 14:05:44 -0400

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

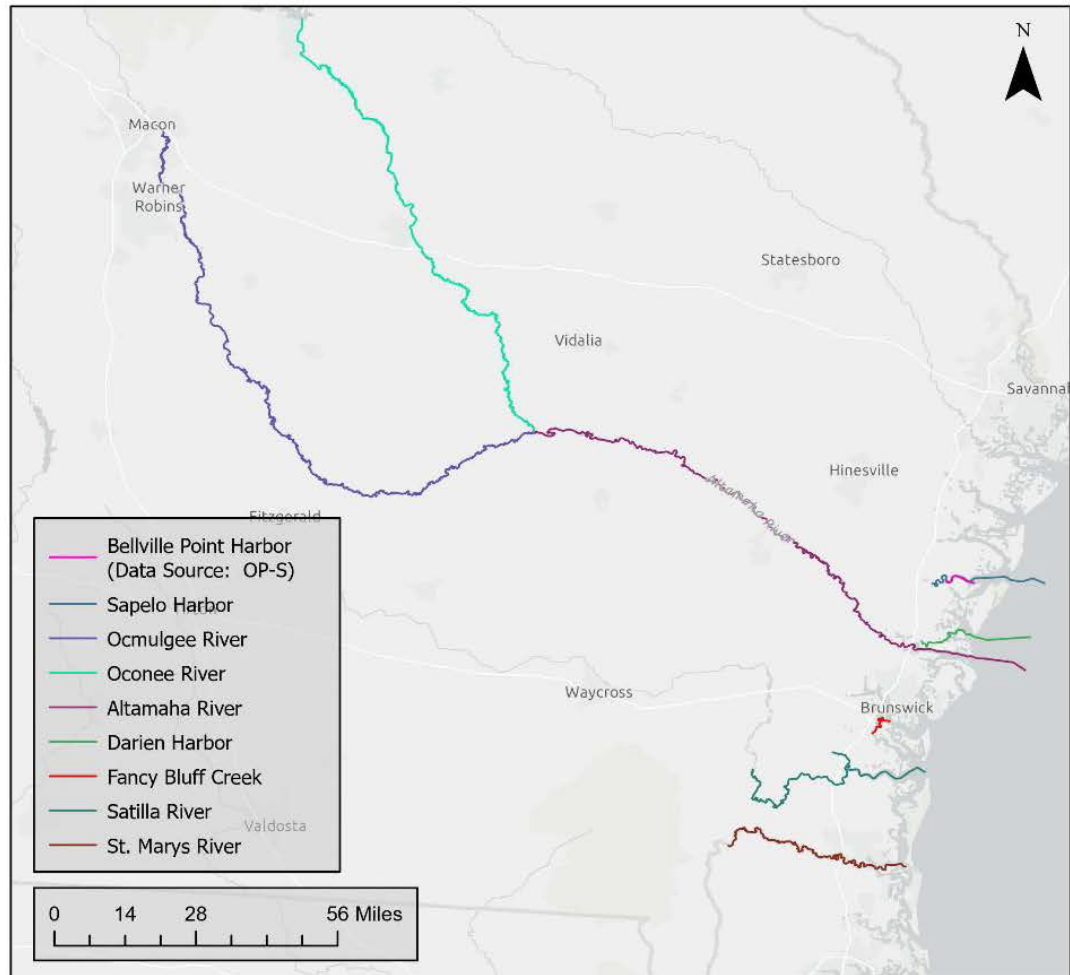


Figure 1: Project area indicating all federal navigation channels and harbors included in this undertaking.

DRAFT

Brian P. Kemp
Governor



Christopher Nunn
Commissioner

April 24, 2024

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604
Attn: Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch

**RE: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways Statewide
Appling, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Camden, Charlton, Coffee, Dodge, Glynn,
Houston, Jeff Davis, Laurens, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair,
Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox, & Wilkinson Counties, Georgia
HP-240326-004**

Dear Ms. Garvey:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the early coordination documentation dated March 26, 2024, for the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Thank you for notifying our office of this proposed project. We look forward to receiving Section 106 compliance documentation when it becomes available and to working with you as this project progresses. HPD would like to note that per 36 CFR § 800.5.a.2.vii, transferring property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure the long term preservation of a property's historic significance constitutes an adverse effect. HPD also notes that transferring property to State ownership or control in these circumstances may not be considered an adequate condition to avoid an adverse effect since State laws/regulations may not require the same level of scrutiny and/or may not be as enforceable as Federal laws/regulations.

Please refer to project number **HP-240326-004** in future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Michelle Bard, Environmental Review Historian, at Michelle.Bard@dca.ga.gov or (770) 212-4888 or Noah Bryant, Compliance Review Archaeologist, at Noah.Bryant@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-0649.

Sincerely,

Stacy Rieke, MHP
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

SMR/mlb



cc: Anne Floyd, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission
Simon Hardt, Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia
Anna Weaver, Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
Greg Boike, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Michael Jacobs, Southern Georgia Regional Commission
Tonya Mole, DCA Regional Services, Region 6
Tina Hutcheson, DCA Regional Services, Region 7
Lynn Ashcraft, DCA Regional Services, Region 9
Kelly Lane, DCA Regional Services, Region 11
Jennifer Fordham, DCA Regional Services Region 12

DRAFT

Brian P. Kemp
Governor



Christopher Nunn
Commissioner

June 5, 2024

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604
Attn: Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch

**RE: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways Statewide
Appling County et. al., Georgia
HP-240326-004**

Dear Ms. Garvey:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the additional information provided, including the reports entitled, *Disposition Study Overview Cultural Resources*, dated May 2024, and the draft, *Section 106 Determination of Effects*, regarding the above-referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of conducting a study to examine federal interest in the deauthorization of multiple waterways statewide. Based on the information provided, it is HPD's opinion that no historic properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by this undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), due to the nature of the study-only activity. However, HPD continues to note that per 36 CFR § 800.5.a.2.vii, transferring property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of a property's historic significance constitutes an adverse effect. Transferring property to State ownership or control in these circumstances should not be considered an adequate condition to avoid an adverse effect since State laws/regulations may not require the same level of regulatory compliance as Federal laws/regulations. If deauthorization of the waterways is proposed, and adverse effect(s) are determined, HPD notes that drafting a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve the adverse effect would be more appropriate than a Programmatic Agreement. HPD looks forward to receiving further information as it becomes available.

Please refer to project number **HP-240326-004** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Michelle Bard, Environmental Review Historian, at Michelle.Bard@dca.ga.gov or (770) 212-4888 or Noah Bryant, Compliance Review Archaeologist, at Noah.Bryant@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-0649.



Ms. Garvey
HP-240326-004
June 5, 2024
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stacy Rieke".

Stacy Rieke, MHP
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

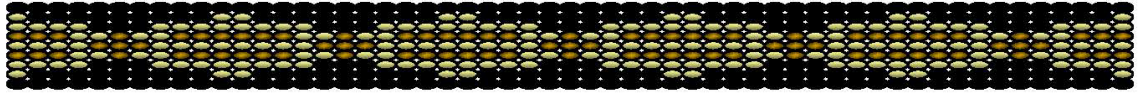
SMR/mlb

cc: Anne Floyd, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission
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Tonya Mole, DCA Regional Services, Region 6
Tina Hutcheson, DCA Regional Services, Region 7
Lynn Ashcraft, DCA Regional Services, Region 9
Kelly Lane, DCA Regional Services, Region 11
Jennifer Fordham, DCA Regional Services Region 12

DRAFT

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427



April 18, 2024

Attention: Andrea Farmer
Dept. of the Army – Savannah District
100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, GA 31401-3604

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2024-46-6		Disposition Study – Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

Dear Ms. Farmer,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions, please contact Caitlin Rogers at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com.

Sincerely,

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

DRAFT

From: [Kinsey Shade](#)
To: [Farmer, Andrea A CIV \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Coordination Letter--Savannah District, Disposition Study--Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:10:15 AM

Good Morning, Ms. Andrea Farmer:

Thank you for the review request, for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Disposition Study. Appling, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Camden, Charlton, Coffee, Dodge, Glynn, Houston, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox, and Wilkinson counties, Georgia, and also Nassau, Florida are all outside the Cherokee Nation's Area of Interest. Thus, this Office respectfully defers to federally recognized Tribes that have an interest in this land base at this time. There is no need to contact our Office for reviews in the counties mentioned above.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this proposed undertaking. Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

Wado,

Kinsey Shade
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Technician
Cherokee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918)207-3947

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA) <Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Elizabeth Toombs <elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org>
Subject: <EXTERNAL> Coordination Letter--Savannah District, Disposition Study--Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

NOTICE: THIS EMAIL CONTAINS AN ATTACHMENT SENT FROM AN EXTERNAL SENDER.
IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE SENDER OR WERE NOT EXPECTING THIS EMAIL,
DO NOT OPEN ANY EMAIL ATTACHMENTS AND DELETE THIS MESSAGE.
Thank you: The Cherokee Nation - Information Technology Department

Good afternoon,

A coordination letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, is attached to initiate consultation under Section 106 regarding a study to determine if nine waterways continue to hold federal interest (Altamaha River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Ocmulgee River, Oconee River, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River). These waterways span

Appling, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Camden, Charlton, Coffee, Dodge, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Houston, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Toombs, Twiggs, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox Counties, Georgia and Nassau County, Florida. The Corps will perform further consultation and generate a Determination of Effect under Section 106, and any initial feedback and/or concurrence that you can provide will help inform future consultation on this undertaking.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence. I look forward to receiving your response.

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

From: [Victoria Menchaca](#)
To: [Farmer, Andrea A CTV \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Danielle Simon](#); [Tina Osceola](#); [Juan Cancel](#); [THPO Compliance](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Coordination Letter--Savannah District, Disposition Study--Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida
Date: Monday, April 22, 2024 1:45:54 PM

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

30290 JOSIE BILLIE HIGHWAY
PMB 1004
CLEWISTON, FL 33440

THPO PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117

THPO WEBSITE: WWW.STOFTHPO.COM



TRIBAL OFFICERS

MARCELLUS W. OSCEOLA JR.
CHAIRMAN

HOLLY TIGER
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN

PETER A. HAHN
TREASURER

April 16, 2024

Andrea Farmer
Archeologist
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
100 W. Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31401
Email: Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil
Phone: 912-412-3363

Subject: Disposition Study for Multiple Waterways, Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida
THPO Compliance Tracking Number: 0034380

Good morning, Andrea:

Based on the information provided at this time, we are unable to complete our review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, its implementing authority 36 CFR Part 800, and Executive Order 13175. Additionally, our office is concerned the proposed changes have the potential to affect/put at risk a significant number of known, and unknown, cultural resources important to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss this matter. Our office is available the following dates/times:

- Tuesday April 30th: 12pm-5pm
- Wednesday May 1st: 10am-12pm or 3pm-5pm
- Friday May 3rd: 12pm-4pm
- Monday May 6th: 1pm-5pm
- Tuesday May 7th: 2:30pm-5pm

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like alternative meeting dates/times for consideration. Thank you for your commitment to meaningful consultation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and we look forward to continued consultation with the USACE Savannah District.

Sincerely,

Victoria L. Menchaca, MA, Compliance Analyst II
STOF THPO, Compliance Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
Fax: 863-902-1117
Email: victoriamenchaca@semtribe.com

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA) <Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 2:47 PM

To: THPO Compliance <THPOCompliance@semtribe.com>

Subject: Coordination Letter--Savannah District, Disposition Study--Multiple Counties, Georgia and Florida

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

A coordination letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, is attached to initiate consultation under Section 106 regarding a study to determine if nine waterways continue to hold federal interest (Altamaha River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Ocmulgee River, Oconee River, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Marys River). These waterways span Appling, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Camden, Charlton, Coffee, Dodge, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Houston, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Toombs, Twiggs, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox Counties, Georgia and Nassau County, Florida. The Corps will perform further consultation and generate a Determination of Effect under Section 106, and any initial feedback and/or concurrence that you can provide will help inform future consultation on this undertaking.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence. I look forward to receiving your response.

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

DRAFT

regulations that would provide continued protection for cultural resources within the Disposition Study APE to be explicitly detailed/defined in all NEPA compliance materials (e.g., the Environmental Assessment). Additionally, we would greatly appreciate the delivery of the draft Environmental Assessment for review/our consultation record when it is available.

We look forward to the delivery of the additional information requested. Please continue to consult with our office and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Victoria L. Menchaca, MA, Compliance Analyst II
STOF THPO, Compliance Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
Fax: 863-902-1117
Email: victoriamentchaca@semtribe.com

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA) <Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:39 PM
To: Victoria Menchaca <VictoriaMenchaca@semtribe.com>; Danielle Simon <daniellesimon@semtribe.com>; Tina Osceola <TinaOsceola@semtribe.com>; Juan Cancel <JuanCancel@semtribe.com>; THPO Compliance <THPOCompliance@semtribe.com>; Katherine Hupp <khupp@llw-law.com>; Michelle Diffenderfer <mdiffenderfer@llw-law.com>; Stephen Walker <swalker@llw-law.com>; Paul Backhouse <PaulBackhouse@semtribe.com>; Kim Scherette <kscherette@llw-law.com>; Stacy Myers <StacyMyers@semtribe.com>; Gregory, Alexander B CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Alexander.B.Gregory@usace.army.mil>; Kuntz, Rachel M CIV (USA) <Rachel.M.Kuntz@usace.army.mil>; Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil>; Garvey, Kimberly L CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Kimberly.L.Garvey@usace.army.mil>; Monroe, E Madison CIV (USA) <Emily.M.Monroe@usace.army.mil>; Brown, Jonathan L CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Jonathan.L.Brown@usace.army.mil>; Choate, Brian C CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Brian.C.Choate@usace.army.mil>; Schwindaman, Jeffrey P CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Jeffrey.P.Schwindaman@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Schwartz, Julia A CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Julia.A.Schwartz@usace.army.mil>
Subject: RE: USACE--SAS--Disposition Study Meeting with Seminole Tribe of Florida

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I wanted to express our appreciation once more for the opportunity to discuss the Savannah District's Disposition Study with the Seminole Tribe of Florida earlier this week. The presentation slides are attached, along with the draft Section 106 Determination of Effects and shapefiles for the nine waterways. Please let me know if you have any feedback for these files and if you have any issues accessing the shapefiles. Another helpful resource that I wanted to share is the online map viewer for USACE waterways (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=349ce90ebfcd47f49401ac4d817b0d58>).

I was able to get a good point of contact at the Florida SHPO, so I have reached out to them to ensure that this undertaking is on their radar, and we will be working with the GA SHPO to address any questions or concerns that they may have.

The meeting invite for the Friday, May 17th NEPA discussion was forwarded to all who asked to be in attendance. If you did not receive that email and would like to attend, please let me know and I will send it your way.

I will follow-up soon with the list of state and federal protections that will remain in place, and the draft Environmental Assessment will also be shared at a later date.

Thank you again for your engagement with us on this project, and we look forward to speaking with you again on the 17th!

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA)

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:34 PM

To: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA); Victoria Menchaca; Danielle Simon; Tina Osceola; Juan Cancel; THPO Compliance; Katherine Hupp; Michelle Diffenderfer; Stephen Walker; Paul Backhouse; Kim Scherette; Stacy Myers; Gregory, Alexander B CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Kuntz, Rachel M CIV (USA); Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Garvey, Kimberly L CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Monroe, E Madison CIV (USA); Brown, Jonathan L CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Choate, Brian C CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Schwindaman, Jeffrey P CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Cc: Schwartz, Julia A CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Subject: USACE--SAS--Disposition Study Meeting with Seminole Tribe of Florida

When: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:30 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/andrea.a.farmer>

Purpose: Discuss the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District's Disposition Study.

WebEx: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/andrea.a.farmer>

Call-in Information:

US Toll Free: 844-800-2712

Access Code: 199 858 5177

Please feel free to forward this meeting invite to anyone else who needs to be in attendance.

Appendix C: Guidance and Correspondence



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-CO (15-6b2)

03-Mar-23

**MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND
DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS**

**SUBJECT: Process for Recommending Deauthorization of Federal Navigation Channels
Without Structures**

1. Purpose. Provide minimum documentation requirements and process to establish whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation, and if not, to recommend deauthorization of certain federal navigation channels, or portions of federal navigation channels, without structures that meet all of the following criteria: channel is no longer in use by any commercial traffic; channel is not used substantially by motorized recreational vessel traffic; channel does not possess or have any national security purpose, and, in other words, is no longer used for its authorized purpose. The intended outcome is to recommend to Congress deauthorization of certain channels that no longer meet Congressionally authorized purposes or provide national security needs. If Congress concurs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would expect to save federal dollars and staff oversight time (e.g. less funds required for survey) as a result of these decisions.

2. References.

- a. 40 CFR 1500 et seq., CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, 85 FR 43304 et seq., July 16, 2020.
- b. 33 CFR 230, U.S. Army Corps Procedures for Implementing NEPA.
- c. Interim Guidance on the Conduct of Disposition Studies, 22 August 2016.
- d. Revised Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of WRDA 2018, Disposition of Projects.
- e. CEMP-CR Memo, Real Estate Policy Guidance Letter 33--Interim Guidance on Disposition Studies, 28 SEP 16.

3. Applicability. The process established in this memorandum applies only to deauthorization recommendations that meet the following criteria (all must apply/no exceptions):

CECW-CO (15-6b2)

SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

- a. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized consists of Federal navigation channel only, no adjacent land included.
 - b. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized does not include any structures or improvements.
 - c. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized does not include any fee lands owned by the United States. The District Real Estate must determine if the project has associated real property interests and if found to have temporary or permanent easements, prepare a Real Estate Appendix for the Study Report per reference 1.e. If a Real Estate Appendix is required, the minimum documentation includes identification of the project real property inventory, owner(s), the proposed authority and process for disposal, and the estimated costs and timeline to accomplish disposal.
 - d. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized is no longer used by any commercial traffic.
 - e. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized no longer supports any substantial motorized recreation vessel traffic.
 - f. The authorized Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) that is being proposed to be deauthorized does not serve any national security needs or purposes.
 - g. The proposed deauthorization of the Civil Works project (or portion of a Civil Works project) would not result in any significant impact on the human environment (no Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act required).
4. Direction. In most cases of federal navigation channels that have not been maintained for at least several decades, do not support commercial or substantial recreational traffic, and do not contain structures, it is expected that the federal interest has ceased and that their deauthorization would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. In these cases, an analysis of current federal interest in the project should be prepared along with a project-specific environmental assessment (EA) to determine if there are any special circumstances that would warrant the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The length and complexity of the federal interest determination and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation is generally proportional to the potential environmental effects and project size. In the case of projects that meet the criteria in paragraph 3, it is expected that only minimal documentation – not a feasibility study or

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SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

detailed analysis - would be required to support a proposal for deauthorization. In addition to compliance with NEPA, compliance with other applicable environmental and cultural resource statutes must be completed in parallel with the NEPA process. If at any time during the following process, as further elaborated in Enclosures 1 and 2, it appears that determination of a federal interest requires a more detailed analysis, then the process should revert to the procedures incorporated in References 1.c. and 1.d.

- a. Federal Interest Documentation Requirements: Analysis of the current federal interest in the project should be documented as outlined in Enclosure 2.
- b. NEPA Documentation Requirements: NEPA documentation, including public notice for 30 days (see Enclosure 2), as proposals for deauthorizing authorized projects are legislative proposals and, per 40 CFR 1508.18, legislative proposals are a major federal action requiring NEPA compliance.
 - (1) The expectation is a short, concise EA, that includes a summary of potential effects to resources at the project area will generally be sufficient to support a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for projects meeting the criteria in paragraph 3 absent unusual circumstances.
 - (2) Not required within this NEPA documentation is the collection of quantitative environmental data since USACE has not operated nor maintained such projects in some time (if ever) and there is no expected change from the existing condition. As a result, a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report should generally not be required. The basis for determining compliance with the applicable requirements of environmental and cultural resource laws should be documented in the EA/FONSI.
 - (3) If a case-specific NEPA analysis of the potential deauthorization of a project finds special circumstances that do not support the use of an EA/FONSI, then the district should prepare an environmental impact statement through the normal disposition process.
- c. Process.
 - (1) District develops a draft determination of the current federal interest in the subject project.
 - (2) District develops a draft EA/FONSI.
 - (3) Package undergoes District Quality Control (DQC) review.

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SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

- (4) District publishes public notice making the draft federal interest determination, draft EA/FONSI, and other documents available for a 30-day public comment period.
- (5) District documents the comments received and their response to comments in the final integrated report/ EA.
- (6) District routes recommendation through their internal review chain as they deem appropriate for approval/signature.
- (7) District forwards signed package to major subordinate command (MSC) for review/submittal to Headquarters USACE (HQUSACE) Navigation (CECW-CO-N) utilizing standard cover memo format.
- (8) HQUSACE Navigation reviews package and prepares Director's Report for routing and Director of Civil Works (DCW) signature.
- (9) HQUSACE reviews package (Navigation, Counsel, Planning, Real Estate, Future Directions, Engineering and Construction and Programs Integration Division). Package is recommended for approval by DCW.
- (10) HQUSACE may combine several reports into a batch report prior to routing to DCW (if desired/applicable).
- (11) HQUSACE (DCW) transmits approved Director's Report to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Concurrently, HQUSACE (Future Directions) transmits a copy of the approved Director's Report to Congress.

5. USACE Navigation is the proponent for this Deauthorization memo. The point of contact is the Coastal Navigation Program Manager, Ms. Kate Skelton, (202) 309-4949 or katharine.c.skelton@usace.army.mil.

- 2 Encls
1. Decision Process
 2. Report Template

BELK.EDWARD² Digitally signed by
BELK EDWARD E. JR. 123
D.E.JR.123078 0784031
4031 Date: 2023.03.03
08:17:18 -05'00'

EDWARD E. BELK, JR. P.E.
Director of Civil Works

CECW-CO (15-6b2)

SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

Enclosure 1
DECISION PROCESS

1. Does the federal navigation channel have any commercial traffic? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
2. Is the channel used for its authorized purpose? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
3. Does the channel have any national security needs or purposes? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
 - a. For a list of national strategic ports, utilize the information produced by the National Port Readiness Network.
 - b. To ensure the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Defense do not have facilities that we are unaware of on our lesser used channels, coordinate with the following:
 - i. USACE liaison (LNO) to the U.S. Coast Guard
 - ii. USACE liaison (LNO) to the Office of the Secretary of Defense
 - c. Also, to ensure other agencies do not have facilities that we are unaware of on our lesser used channels, for the public review period please ensure the public notice is sent to the following:
 - i. US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service
 - ii. Office of the Secretary of Energy
 - iii. U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Policy for the Secretary of Transportation
4. Does the federal navigation channel have any structures or improvements? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).
5. Are there any project lands owned by the United States in Fee? (If yes, do not proceed using this process. Off-ramp to Real Estate).
6. Is there any substantial motorized recreational vessel traffic? (If yes, do not proceed. Cease consideration of deauthorization using this process).
 - a. Substantial is defined as an amount of traffic that, without continued maintenance of the Federal channel, a local community dependent on that traffic would suffer catastrophic economic impacts.
 - b. Continued maintenance of the Federal channel includes periodic dredging to maintain authorized depths and/or periodic channel surveys essential for life and safety.
7. Is there any known controversy surrounding the potential deauthorization of the channel? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).
8. Are there any significant impacts to the environment with the deauthorization of the channel? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).

CECW-CO (15-6b2)

SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

Enclosure 2

INTEGRATED REPORT/EA TEMPLATE

1. Documentation purpose and need (satisfy NEPA requirements; to establish whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation, and if not, to recommend deauthorization of the channel)
2. Project Description
 - a. Original Project Purpose
 - b. Project Authorization (e.g. law citation, timeframe)
 - c. Project Location (nearest town, state/commonwealth) and U.S. Congress Representative and Senators
3. Project History
 - a. Year/timeframe last used for commercial navigation. Historic analysis not required, just documentation of any notable/major historic use.
 - b. Year/timeframe last dredged by USACE. Reason for ceasing of dredging maintenance.
4. General description of existing known resources or conditions found in the project area and may include plant community, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.
 - a. Describe any likely impacts to these resources from deauthorization of the channel and its reuse. Describe using direct, indirect and cumulative impact terms.
5. Alternatives description (remains a federal project or is deauthorized).
 - a. The minimum alternatives considered should include the No Action (which is required by NEPA) and the proposed action of deauthorization.
 - b. This is a qualitative analysis with no quantitative environmental data collection. The no action alternative allows the project to continue as an unmaintained and inactive water resources project.
 - c. Generally, there cannot be economical or commercial value associated with a project in which the Federal Government did not acquire real property interest or construct any physical structures or improvements.
6. Recommended plan (e.g. recommend deauthorization or not)
Considerations to document:

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SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes

- a. National security needs or purposes (if there are any, recommending deauthorization is inappropriate)
 - b. Safety concerns
 - c. Any proposed development activity
 - d. Any existing economic activity (local or national) at/within the vicinity of the site substantially reliant upon the channel – qualitative only
 - e. Any local uses or needs of the channel (e.g. is it within a harbor of refuge?)
 - f. Future uses or needs of the channel
 - g. NOAA navigational charts indicating active usage of the channel
 - h. Federal, Tribal or state entities or other parties interested in maintaining or acquiring the channel
 - i. Statement that there are no quantifiable National Economic Development benefits
 - j. Existing recreational use of channel, if any
 - k. Public/stakeholder/political concerns with deauthorization recommendation
 - l. Any nearby national parks
 - m. Any potential environmental benefits from maintaining the channel (e.g. flushing) or not maintaining the channel.
 - n. Nearby existing infrastructure and facilities
 - o. Any recreational traffic displaced to a commercial harbor as a result of deauthorization
 - p. (Only if suspected) whether Congress originally authorized a channel design that was different than the Chief's recommendation, and if so, if the channel could be authorized using the Chief's recommendation would the channel be used. If so, recommend off-ramping to a different type of process/study
 - q. Qualitative environmental or cultural descriptions of known resources and potential impacts.
 - r. Project Real property holdings, owners, and recommendation on disposal, retention, and associated costs.
7. Copy of Public Notice and comments received with USACE responses.
 8. Supporting documents:
 - a. FONSI
 - b. Table of summary of potential effects of the recommended plan – check box only (no further description/explanation needed as all boxes are

CECW-CO (15-6b2)

SUBJECT: Documentation Requirements and Process for Recommending
Deauthorization of Federal navigation channels without structures, no longer in use by
any commercial vessel traffic, without any national security needs/purposes
expected to be "no". If any boxes checked "yes" than a different process
needs to be followed)

- c. Consideration of NEPA and CERCLA requirements for disposal of real property.
- d. DQC
- e. Cover memo from district thru division to HQUSACE Navigation (CECW-CO-N)

It is assumed that there is no opportunity for a stakeholder to take ownership of government-owned improvements (structures) or real property associated with this project as there are none.

Not required:

- 1. Agency Technical Review
- 2. Cost certification
- 3. Tentatively Selected Plan meeting/determination
- 4. Quantitative economic evaluation
- 5. Quantitative environmental analysis
- 6. Real Estate evaluation
- 7. Executive summary
- 8. List of acronyms
- 9. List of Tables
- 10. List of Figures
- 11. National Economic Development benefits (if any benefits discovered, the project is still in the federal interest and deauthorization should not be recommended)
- 12. Quantitative data collection to form the summary description of physical environment for either alternative (e.g. climate, geology/topography, bathymetry, ice conditions, soils/sediments, water quality, air quality, noise, currents/tides/circulation/surface water stream flow, biological resources, terrestrial habitat, vegetation, birds, terrestrial mammals, freshwater fish, marine habitat, vegetation, marine fish, marine mammals, marine invertebrates, federal and state threatened and endangered species, special aquatic sites, essential fish habitat, cultural resources, population and demographics, employment and income, cultural and subsistence activities, etc.)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-P

APR 25 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Revised Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, Disposition of Projects

1. The Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works approved on 18 April 2019 Section 1168 of WRDA 2018. The attached implementation guidance is posted for internal and external use on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official WRDA website: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Links/>.
2. Please ensure wide dissemination of this guidance. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to the Headquarters POC, Ada Benavides, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning and Policy Division, at (202) 761-0415 or ada.benavides@usace.army.mil.

JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

DISTRIBUTION:

COMMANDERS, REGIONAL BUSINESS AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORS
GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION, CELRD
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CEMVD
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CENAD
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION, CENWD
PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, CEPOD
SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CESAD
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, CESP
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, CESWD



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108**

APR 18 2019

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS**

**SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of the Water Resources and
Development Act of 2018, Disposition of Projects**

1. Reference.

- a. Memorandum, Subject: Interim Guidance on the Conduct of Disposition Studies, 22 August 2016.
- b. Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100, Planning Guidance Notebook, dated 22 April 2000.
- c. ER 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA, dated 4 March 1988.
- d. ER 1165-2-119, Modifications to Completed Projects, dated 20 September 1982.

2. Section 1168 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018) directs the Secretary, in carrying out a disposition study for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) project or a separable element of such a project, to consider modifications that would improve the overall quality of the environment in the public interest, including removal of the project or separable element of a project. Section 1168(b) directs the Secretary to conduct the study in a transparent manner. Section 1168(c) endorses removal of a project or separable element of a project in partnership with other federal agencies and non-Federal entities, to the extent permitted under existing authorities, when the Secretary determines that a Federal interest no longer exists and recommends removal. Section 1168 of WRDA 2018 and reference 1a are enclosed.

3. Section 1168(a) directs the Secretary to consider modifications that would improve the overall quality of the environment in the public interest, including removal of the project or separable element of a project, when conducting a disposition study. When modification of a project or removal of project features and improvements is likely to be more costly than continued operation and maintenance but may be justified based on ecosystem restoration benefits, the Corps will continue to follow existing guidance in reference 1a. That guidance allows modifications to projects, including removal of

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2018, Disposition of Projects

project features and improvements, for ecosystem restoration purposes to be further investigated in a feasibility study if a non-Federal interest is willing to share in the study costs. While disposition studies will not be utilized to formulate construction recommendations to modify projects for ecosystem restoration purposes, the Corps will continue to use disposition studies to explore opportunities for other Federal agencies and non-Federal entities to assume jurisdiction over or ownership of project features and improvements that no longer provide the benefits for which they were authorized. Subject to deauthorization of the project by Congress, such opportunities may ultimately result in modification of the project or removal of project features by entities other than the Corps to benefit the quality of the environment.

4. Section 1168(b) requires the disposition study process to be transparent. The disposition study process already includes opportunities for public input in accordance with the Corps' procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act described in Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and ER 200-2-2. The Corps publishes final disposition study decision documents on the responsible Corps District's webpage.

5. Subsection (c) of Section 1168 endorses removal of a project or separable element of a project in partnership with other federal agencies and non-Federal entities, to the extent permitted under existing authorities, when the Secretary determines that a federal interest no longer exists and recommends removal. Because Congress has not granted the Secretary with the authority to deauthorize a completed water resources development project whose operations no longer meet the authorized purpose, structural elements that are required for a project's authorized purpose cannot be removed prior to enactment of legislation deauthorizing the project. Only structural elements of a project that are excess to the project's authorized purpose may be removed under existing authorities.

6. This guidance shall be transmitted to the appropriate Corps Division and District Commanders and posted to the Corps' WRDA website within five business days of receipt (written or electronic) from this office. Guidance shall be transmitted and posted as is and without additional guidance attached.

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2018, Disposition of Projects

7. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Gib Owen, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil or 202 520 4867.



Enclosure

R.D. JAMES
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

cf: MG Scott Spellmon, Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations
James Dalton, Director of Civil Works

Water Resources Development Act of 2018, Section 1168 - Disposition of Projects

(a) **IN GENERAL.** In carrying out a disposition study for a project of the Corps of Engineers, or a separable element of such a project, including a disposition study under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), the Secretary shall consider modifications that would improve the overall quality of the environment in the public interest, including removal of the project or separable element of a project.

(b) **DISPOSITION STUDY TRANSPARENCY.** The Secretary shall carry out disposition studies described in subsection (a) in a transparent manner, including by

- (1) providing opportunities for public input; and
- (2) publishing the final disposition studies.

(c) **REMOVAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE.** For disposition studies described in subsection (a) in which the Secretary determines that a Federal interest no longer exists, and makes a recommendation of removal of the project or separable element of a project, the Secretary is authorized, using existing authorities, to pursue removal of the project or separable element of a project in partnership with other Federal agencies and non-Federal entities with appropriate capabilities to undertake infrastructure removal.

Appendix D: Federal Interest Determination
FEDERAL INTEREST DETERMINATION
DISPOSITION STUDY
MULTIPLE WATERWAYS, COASTAL GEORGIA (P2# 516015)

DECISION PROCESS

1. Do the federal navigation channels have any commercial traffic? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
 - a. Yes. The city of St. Marys operates a passenger ferry service to Cumberland Island. Per South Atlantic Division, there is minimal commercial navigation on the waterway, but the channel, last dredged in the 1970s, does not require dredging to continue operations.
2. Is the channel used for its authorized purpose? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
 - a. No
3. Does the channel have any national security needs or purposes? (If yes, do not proceed. Recommending deauthorization is not an appropriate option).
 - a. No
4. Does the federal navigation channel have any structures or improvements? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).
 - a. No
5. Are there any project lands owned by the United States in Fee? (If yes, do not proceed using this process. Off-ramp to Real Estate).
 - a. No
6. Is there any substantial motorized recreational vessel traffic? (If yes, do not proceed. Cease consideration of deauthorization using this process).
 - a. No. Recreational traffic has continued unabated without the need for dredging or snagging operations.
 - i. *Substantial is defined as an amount of traffic that, without continued maintenance of the Federal channel, a local community dependent on that traffic would suffer catastrophic economic impacts.*
7. Is there any known controversy surrounding the potential deauthorization of the channel? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).
 - a. No
8. Are there any significant impacts to the environment with the deauthorization of the channel? (If yes, do not proceed using this process).
 - a. No. Environmental protections would continue under state jurisdiction and accompanying federal laws.