



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

January 8, 2024

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project (BHMP) Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Shoreline Nourishment, Glynn County, Georgia. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District (Corps) evaluated two alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (NAA) and Action Alternative to place dredged material from the BHMP and from operations and maintenance (O&M) of the Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project (BHNP) into the intertidal and subtidal habitat along the adjacent degraded shoreline southwest of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier.

Public Comment Period: The Corps is pleased to provide the draft SEA and FONSI for public comment. The public comment period closes at midnight January 23, 2024. Those interested in or affected by this action are invited to share their concerns or comments.

Public comments may be submitted via email at CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil or mailed to the address below. Please include Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment Draft SEA in the subject line.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District
Attn: Planning Branch/Ms. Summer Wright
100 West Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31401

All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act, including any personally identifiable information such as name, phone numbers, and addresses.

The Draft SEA and Draft FONSI are available for public review and comment. The documents can be downloaded from the Corps website at:

<https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>. Copies may also be obtained through email request to the following address: CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil.

The Public Comment Period Closes January 23, 2024.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action, or the Action Alternative, includes the beneficial use placement of approximately 205,000 cubic yards of

new work dredged material from the Cedar Hammock bend widener and future maintenance placement of O&M material from the BHNP into the shoreline southwest of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Proposed Action - Shoreline Nourishment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:

Environmental Assessment: The Corps has prepared a draft SEA for the proposed action in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations found at 40 CFR §1500-1508 and the Corps Procedures For Implementing NEPA found at 33 CFR §230. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the effects of the proposed action would not be significant, and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Threatened, Endangered and other Protected Species: The Corps has completed Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Corps has determined that the proposed action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). The USFWS and NMFS has concurred with these findings on December 12, 2023 and November 17, 2023, respectively. Appendices A and B of the draft SEA include coordination documentation for ESA Section 7 coordination.

Cultural Resources: The Corps has determined that the proposed action has no effect on historic properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A Programmatic Agreement (PA) was executed for the Brunswick Harbor Modification Study between the Corps and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in October 2020 (Appendix F). The Jekyll Island Beneficial Use Material Placement undertaking is covered under that PA. The GA SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated October 17, 2023 (HP-191113-003). There were no concerns expressed for the undertaking by the Tribes who were also consulted. Any inadvertent discoveries will be handled according to all applicable cultural resources, laws, and regulations.

Essential Fish Habitat: The Corps is in the process of coordinating effects to essential fish habitat (EFH), Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), and NMFS-managed aquatic species pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Fisheries Management Act (MSA). The Corps has determined that there would be no adverse impacts to resources managed under the MSA; these findings and coordination history with NMFS is found in Appendix E. The Corps has requested comment from NMFS at the conclusion of the public comment period for the draft SEA and will update the SEA as necessary.

Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 Water Quality Certification: The Corps has submitted an application on November 7, 2023 to the GA Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GADNR-EPD) for amendment to the CWA 401 Water Quality Certification that was issued for the BHMP to include the beneficial use site. Additional information and the application can be found in Appendix D.

This Public Notice also serves as notice for request for public comment pursuant to CWA Section 401. Any person who desires to comment or object relative to State Water Quality Certification Amendment must do so by the conclusion of the public comment period for the draft SEA, January 23, 2024. Comments must be submitted in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections.

Application of the CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: Discharge of dredged material from the Cedar Hammock bend widener and future O&M material from the BHNP will be occurring in the Brunswick River shoreline adjacent to northern leeward side of Jekyll Island. Due to dredged material being discharged, a Section 404(b)(1) evaluation has been completed. The proposed action is considered the least environmental damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) as it will not result in significant adverse environmental consequences and is expected to have beneficial effects to the environment. The 404(b)1 evaluation can be found in Appendix D.

Coastal Zone Consistency: The Corps has made a determination that the beneficial use project is fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program. The Corps is in the process of coordinating this determination with GADNR Coastal Resources Division (GADNR-CRD) and has requested comments from GADNR-CRD concurrent with the public comment period for the draft SEA. The Corps will update the SEA upon receipt of comments from GADNR-CRD as necessary.

Clean Air Act: Glynn County, Georgia is currently in attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for all criteria pollutants. Therefore, the project area is under no Federal or State restrictions for the purpose of improving air quality to meet any air quality standards.

Consideration of Public Comments: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed action. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in its deliberations on this action.

Comment Period: Please submit written comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District by midnight January 23, 2024. Written comments may be sent via email to CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil, or to the mailing address below. Questions may be directed to the undersigned at (912) 652-5968.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District
Attn: Planning Branch/Ms. Summer Wright
100 West Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31401**

Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above expiration date. In your response, please refer to Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment Draft SEA. Should no response be received by the above expiration date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.

Kimberly L. Garvey

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch