



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

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Savannah District

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is providing a Notice of Availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the Tybee Island Shoreline Protection Project (TISPP) Periodic and Emergency Renourishments Project, Tybee Island, Georgia.

The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below.

OVERVIEW: USACE evaluated two alternatives, the No Action Alternative (NAA) and the Action Alternative to conduct periodic and emergency beach renourishments within the Federal template on Tybee Island through 2036.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: USACE is pleased to provide the Draft EA and FONSI for public comment. The 15-day public comment period will begin January 9, 2026 and conclude January 23, 2026. Those interested in or affected by this action are invited to share their concerns or comments.

Public comment period closes on midnight January 23, 2026

Public comments may be submitted via email at **CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil** or mailed to the address below. Mailed comments must be postmarked by the deadline January 23, 2026. Please include "Draft TISPP EA" in the subject line.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District
Attn: Planning Branch, CESAS-PMP
Subject: TISPP EA
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.

The Draft TISPP EA and FONSI are available for public review and comment. The documents can be downloaded from the USACE website at <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Branch/Plans-and-Reports/>. Copies

may also be obtained through email request to the following address:
CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed Federal action includes beach renourishments that may occur periodically or as needed under emergency conditions for the remaining duration of the TISPP (through 2036). Periodic beach renourishments are anticipated every 7 years, with the first planned for 2026-2027. Emergency beach renourishments may occur as needed pending authorization and funding. (e.g., in the event of damages incurred by a storm or other event). The authorized project includes beach renourishment of the Federal template, defined as the 13,200 linear feet of beach along Front Beach, 1,100 linear ft along the South Tip (South Tip Beach), and the 1,800 linear feet of the eastern bank of Tybee Creek to the city fishing pier (referred to as Back River Beach) (Figure 1).



Figure 1. TISPP approximate Federal template for beach renourishment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:

Environmental Assessment: USACE has prepared a draft EA for the proposed action in accordance with NEPA, as amended. USACE 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. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the June 30, 2025, Department of Defense National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures.

Federally Threatened, and Endangered Species: USACE is coordinating Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USACE determined that this action may affect, not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species: the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and its critical habitat, rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) and its proposed critical habitat, and leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). USACE has made a preliminary determination that the proposed action may affect, likely to adversely affect (MALAA) the nesting green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the nesting loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

USACE determined that the proposed action is compliant with the 2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion; therefore, consultation is complete for federally listed species under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jurisdiction.

Cultural Resources: USACE has made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (GA SHPO) and 10 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Concurrence was received on September 3, 2025 from the GA SHPO. Historic properties are present within the Area of Potential Effect, and the undertaking poses no adverse effects to these resources. Avoidance measures are in place for two anomalies in the borrow area.

Essential Fish Habitat: USACE is coordinating the 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). USACE determined there would be no adverse impacts to resources managed under the MSA.

Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification: USACE submitted an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GADNR-EPD) to obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC). The application is currently under review by GADNR-EPD.

A separate Public Notice for request for public comment pursuant to CWA Section 401 can be found on the GADNR-EPD website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-public-announcements>. Any comments relating to State Water Quality Certification must be submitted by

January 20, 2026. 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 Tybee Island Offshore Borrow Area will occur within the Federal Template on Tybee Island under the proposed action. The CWA and its implementing regulations provide that the USACE must apply the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in reviewing proposed discharges of dredged or fill material into navigable waters. For proposed actions to be undertaken by the USACE, the agency must include an evaluation designed to demonstrate compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. USACE's 404(b)(1) analysis is summarized in the draft EA and more detailed analysis is found in Appendix A. The proposed action is considered the least environmental damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) as it will not result in significant adverse environmental consequences, will not adversely impact factors that are of public interest, and is expected to have beneficial effects to the environment. The USACE is proposing to avoid adverse environmental effects by not placing dredged material or construction equipment on adjacent wetlands or vegetation. The USACE is not proposing any other avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures for impacts to wetlands.

Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency: USACE determined that the TISPP is fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program. USACE is coordinating this determination with the GADNR Coastal Resources Division (GADNR-CRD) and has requested comments from the GADNR-CRD concurrent with the public comment period for the draft EA. USACE will include results of CZMA coordination with GADNR-CRD in the final EA as appropriate.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management: USACE determined that the proposed action is in the base floodplain as defined by E.O. 11988. USACE evaluated alternatives in the EA and determined that there are no practicable alternatives identified that would meet the project purpose and need. USACE evaluated potential effects in the EA and determined the proposed action would restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain. Further, the proposed action would not encourage growth in the floodplain. This public notice and the public comment period for the EA satisfies the public notification requirements in E.O. 11988. For the reasons stated above, the project complies with E.O. 11988 and implementing regulations.

Consideration of Public Comments: USACE 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 USACE 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, 2026. Written comments may be sent via email to CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil or to the mailing address below. Questions may be directed to Dr. Kaitlyn Murphy-Wefel at (912) 710-8885. Mailed

comments on this notice must be postmarked by January 23, 2026. In your response, please refer to "TISPP EA." Should no response be received by the above expiration date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.