



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

**October 20, 2022**

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2015-00443

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District/State of Georgia**

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2015-00443

Applicant: Mr. Christopher Novack  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Post Office Box 2406  
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Agent: Mr. Brandon Wall  
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SECI)  
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant: The applicant's stated project purpose is "to construct a new RO/RO berth adjacent to the existing CIT berths...to offset the loss of RO/RO berthing capacity at Berth 2 and to maintain the current level of service existing and future demand for cargo facilities."

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in the South Brunswick River, at the existing Colonels Island Terminal (CIT), in Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia (Latitude 31.1299, Longitude -81.5308).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
The applicant is proposing to modify an existing permit. The permitted structure consists of the following components:

- 685' x 54' two lane concrete wharf that connects the new berth to Berth 1 = 36,990 sq ft
- 144' x 600' concrete wharf = 86,400 sq ft
- 752' x 50' access bridge connecting the new berth to the upland = 37,600 sq ft
- (4) 20' x 24' concrete mooring dolphins = 1,920 sq ft total

- (4) 27' x 30' concrete breasting dolphins = 3,240 sq ft total
- 712' x 6' catwalk system connecting the mooring and breasting dolphins = 4,272 sq ft

All permitted structures over jurisdiction total approximately 170,422 sq ft (3.912 acres). In addition to the permitted dock structure, the project includes 10.18 acres of dredging totaling 285,000 cubic yards to provide adequate depths for ships. Temporary marsh disturbance totaling 0.88 acre was approved immediately adjacent to the proposed heavy load access bridge to construct the bridge. The application is also proposing to create new marsh area adjacent to the project site behind Berth 1 to mitigate the 404 and EFH impacts associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Permit. Approved temporary marsh impacts associated with mitigation construction total 0.635 acre (27,645 sq ft).

The proposed modifications include:

- Narrower connector bridge: 685' x 45' (30,825 sq ft) two lane concrete bridge that connects the new wharf to Berth 1 - Reduction of 6,165 sq ft
- Narrower landside access bridge: 605' x 45' (27,225 sq ft) two lane bridge shifted slightly north - Reduction of 10,375 sq ft
- New 105' x 80' (8,400 sq ft) platform connecting the landside bridge to the berth.
- Three breasting dolphins instead of four - 810 sq ft reduction
- Slightly shifted mooring dolphin configuration
- Width and length of catwalk reduced to: 486' x 4' (1,944 sq ft) - Reduction of 2,328 sq ft
- No change to dredging
- No change to mitigation area
- No change to wharf

The proposed modifications are depicted on the attached exhibit. The areas shown in yellow are the originally permitted structures that will either not be constructed or are being relocated. The green areas represent the relocated or new structures. The gray areas represent no change. In all, the proposed modifications will reduce the size of the originally approved dock structure by 11,278 square feet (0.259 acre).

## **BACKGROUND**

On June 24, 2019, the Corps issued DA permit SAS-2015-00443 for the construction of Berth 4. According to the applicant, due to shifts in cargo demands and various market factors, the berth has not been constructed to-date, but final design has been completed. During that process, it was discovered that stronger components were needed on the connector bridge to make the facility "high-and-heavy" compatible, and a

wide access platform at the junction of the wharf and the landside connector road was needed for safety purposes. In addition, minor shifts in the connectors roads and mooring/breasting dolphin system are needed.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the Corps and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will review the proposed project for Water Quality Certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has yet to request a Water Quality Certification from the State of Georgia. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army Permit for a project located in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army Permit may proceed. This public notice serves as notification to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act for neighboring jurisdiction review and begins the 30-day clock for USEPA to notify affected states.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Marsh and Shore Management Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Corps of Engineers making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of this project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Coastal Management Program, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army permit.

Cultural Resources: Effects to cultural resources were evaluated per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act during the initial permit action. Based on the proposed modifications, the Corps has determined that the project has not been modified in a manner that would affect cultural resources in a way that were not considered under the initial consultation.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): The Corps completed the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act during the initial permit action. Based on the proposed modifications, the Corps has determined that the project has not been modified in a manner that would adversely impact EFH in a way that was not considered under the initial consultation.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*); Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*); wood stork (*Mycteria americana*); Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*); gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*); Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); and the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). In addition, the site provides habitat for the Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*).

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area. In addition, we are requesting information from the USFWS whether the project is within 2,500 feet of an active wood stork nesting colony.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion

and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

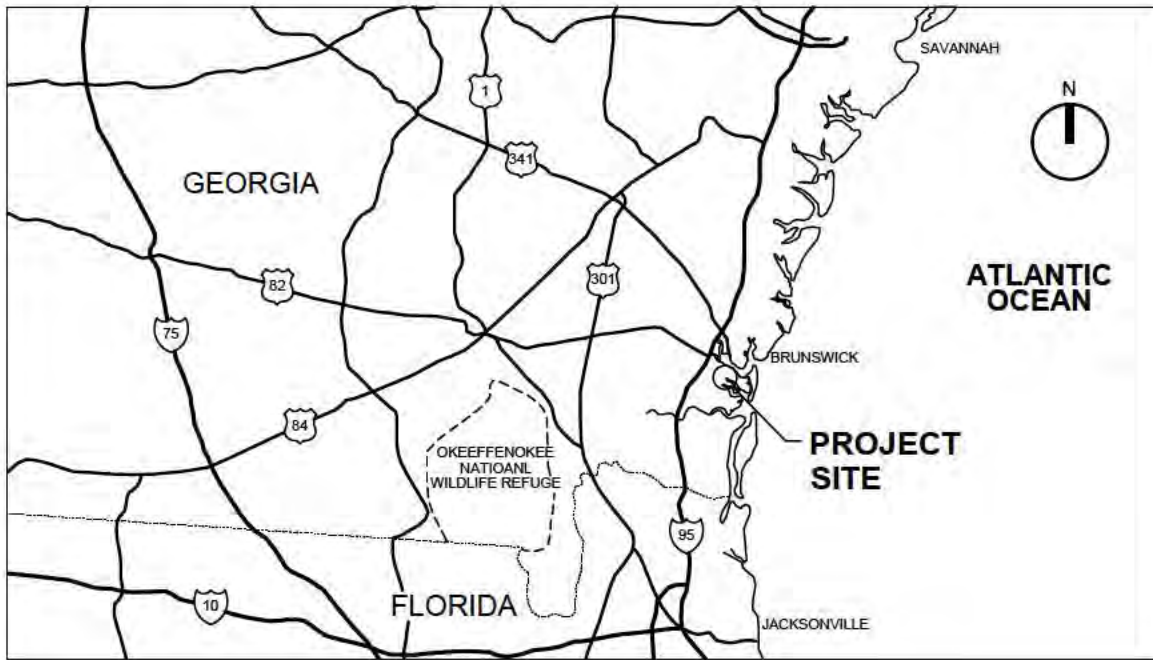
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army permit should submit comments by email to [sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil](mailto:sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil). Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mrs. Sarah Wise, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401, no later than 15 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

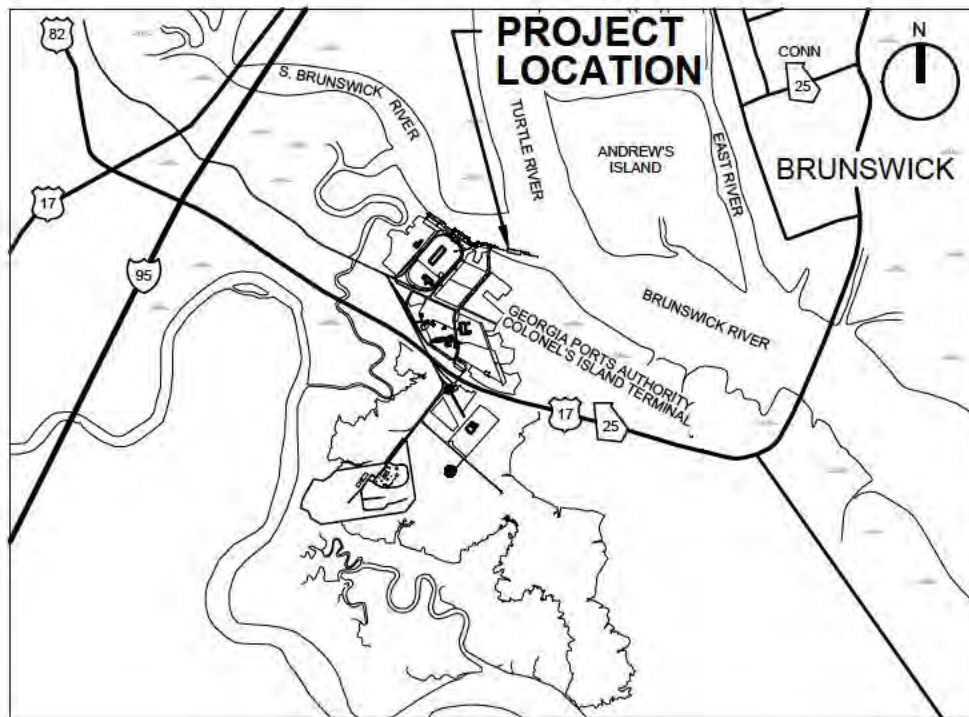
If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mrs. Sarah Wise, Lead Biologist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550.

Enclosures:

1. Project Drawings entitled, "Georgia Ports Authority, Colonels Island, Brunswick, Georgia 31521, Berth Construction."



**VICINITY MAP**  
NOT TO SCALE



**LOCATION MAP**  
NOT TO SCALE

PURPOSE: NEW BERTH

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

**VICINITY AND  
LOCATION MAPS**

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

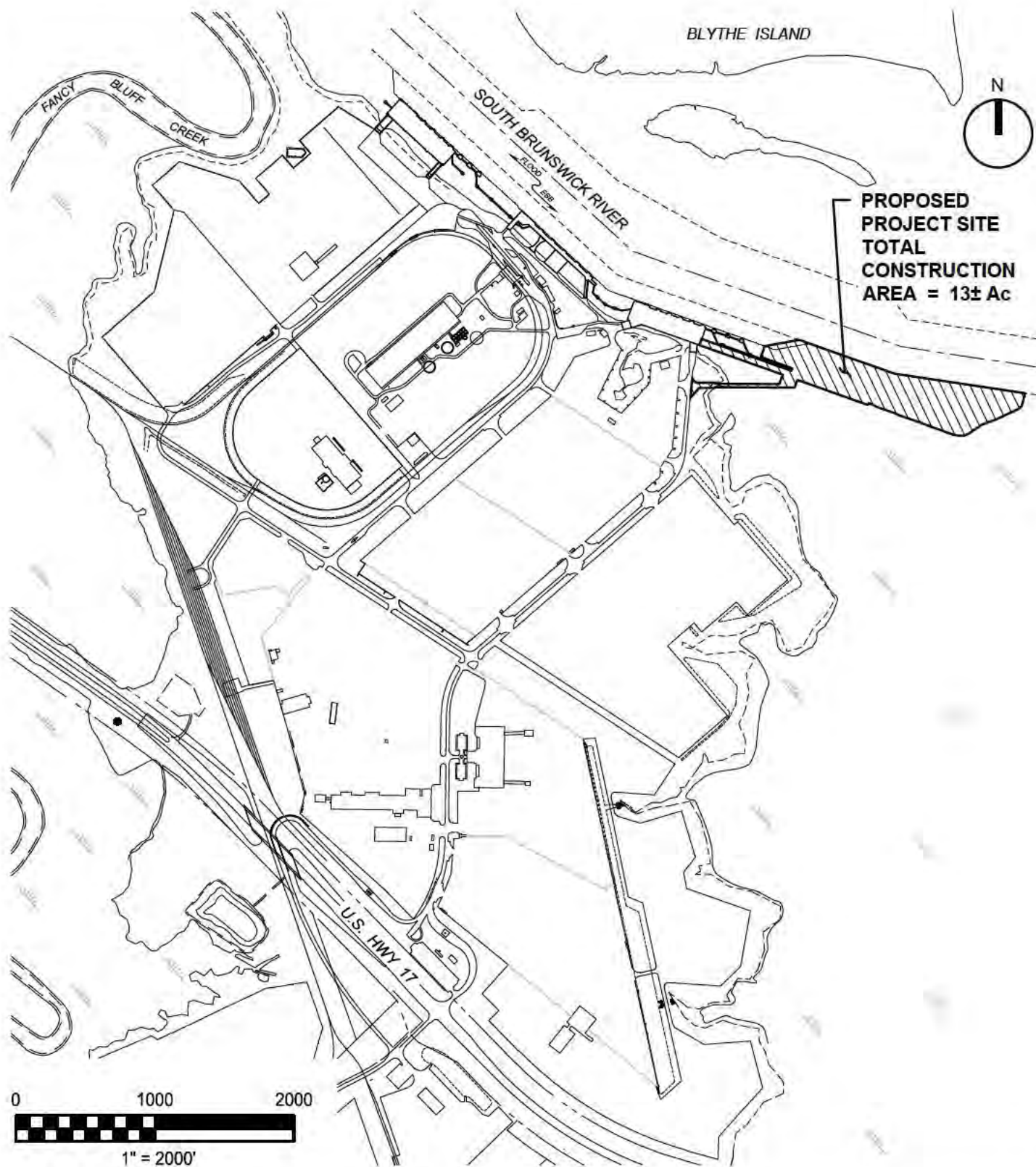
**BERTH CONSTRUCTION**

IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 2 OF 13 DATE: 06-APR-2015

REV. \_\_\_\_\_





PURPOSE: NEW BERTH

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### SITE PLAN

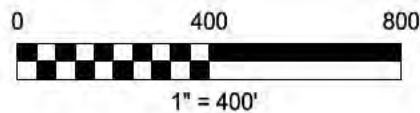
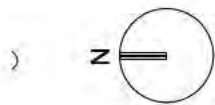
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

### BERTH CONSTRUCTION

IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 3 OF 11 DATE: 06-APR-2015

REV. \_\_\_\_\_



SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

FLOOD  
EBB

EXISTING DREDGE

960' x 120'

BERTH 1

FENDER LINE

125'

NEW BERTH

971' x 124'

EDGE OF CHANNEL

Q OF CHANNEL

EDGE OF CHANNEL

200'

200'

PROPOSED  
BREASTING AND  
MOORING  
DOLPHIN  
STRUCTURES

APPROXIMATE  
LIMITS OF  
MARSH

PROPOSED  
CONNECTION  
WHARF BRIDGE

PROPOSED ACCESS BRIDGE

JOE FRANK HARRIS BLVD

COLONELS ISLAND  
TERMINAL

PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### BERTHING PLAN

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

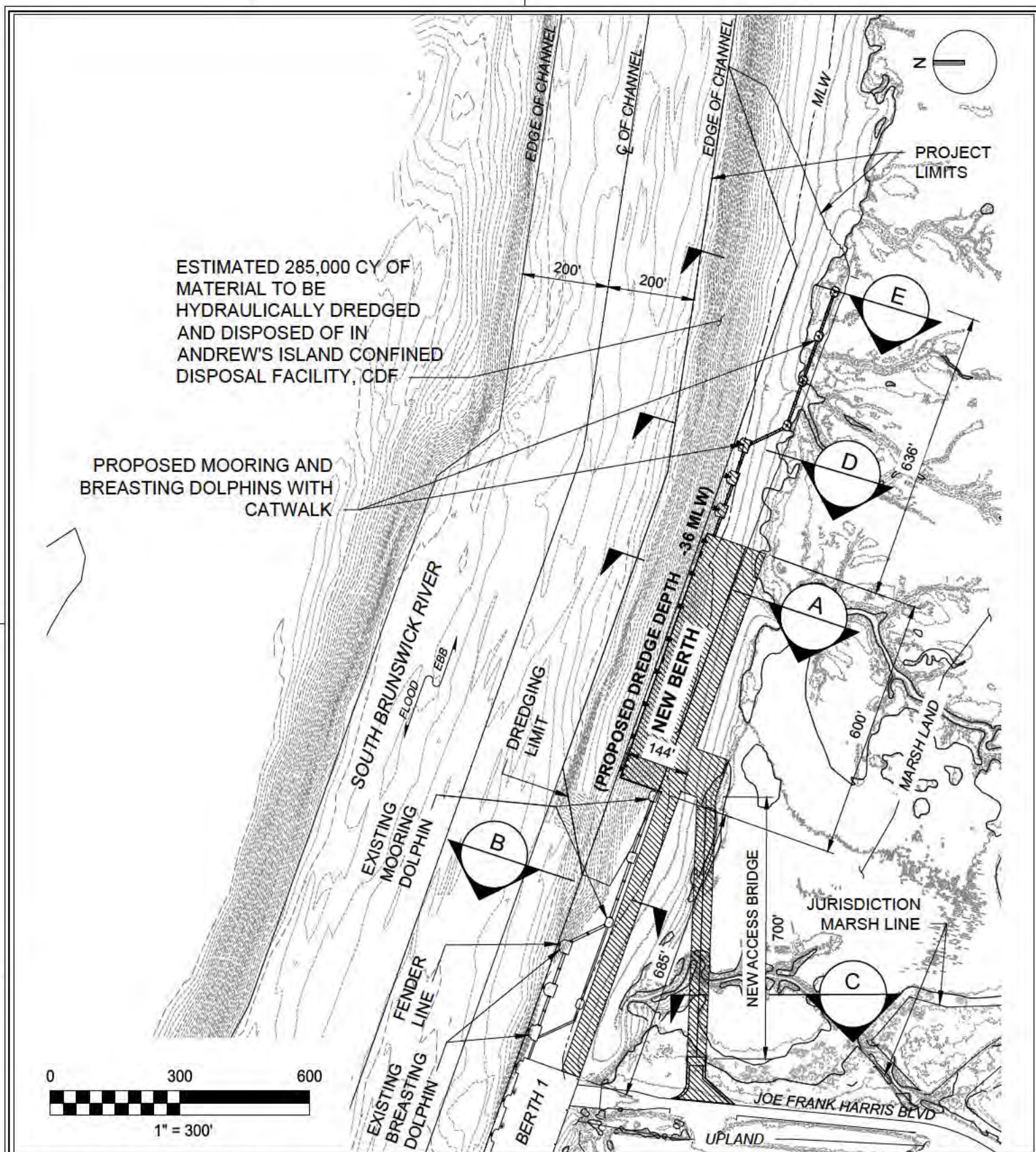
### BERTH CONSTRUCTION

IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 4 OF 12 DATE: 16-DEC-2021

REV. \_\_\_\_\_





PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
 1. N/A

### NEW BERTH LAYOUT PLAN

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 COLONELS ISLAND  
 BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521





### BERTH CONSTRUCTION

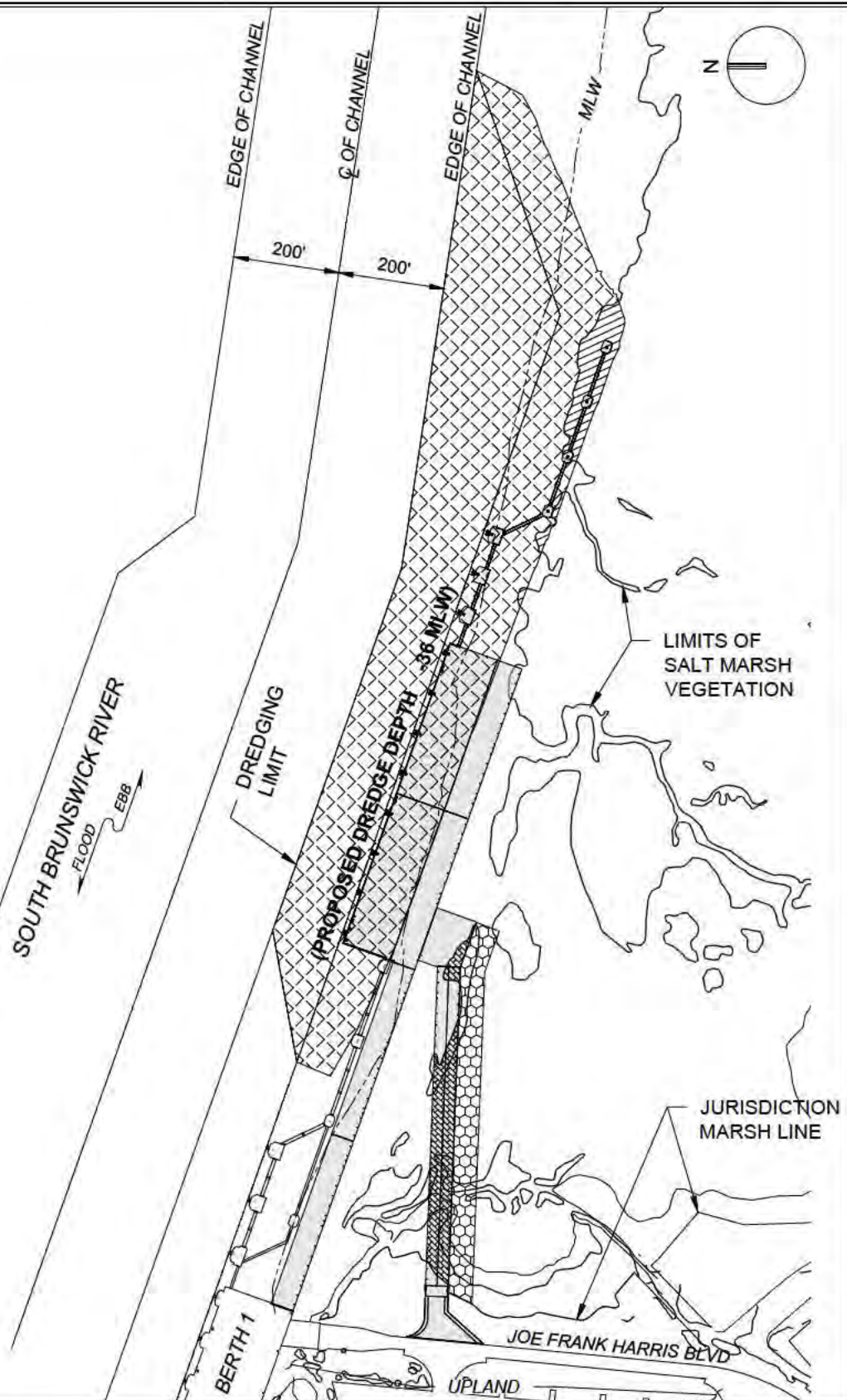
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
 APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 SHEET 5 OF 12 DATE: 16-DEC-2021

REV. \_\_\_\_\_



-  OPEN WATER  
 DREDGING - 9.80 Ac  
 (426,790 SF)
-  SALT MARSH  
 DREDGING - 0.38 Ac  
 (16,745 SF)
-  SALT MARSH  
 SHADING - 0.46 Ac  
 (19,986 SF)
-  TEMPORARY  
 CONSTRUCTION - 0.75 Ac  
 (32,524 SF)



PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
 1. N/A

## NEW BERTH DREDGING PLAN

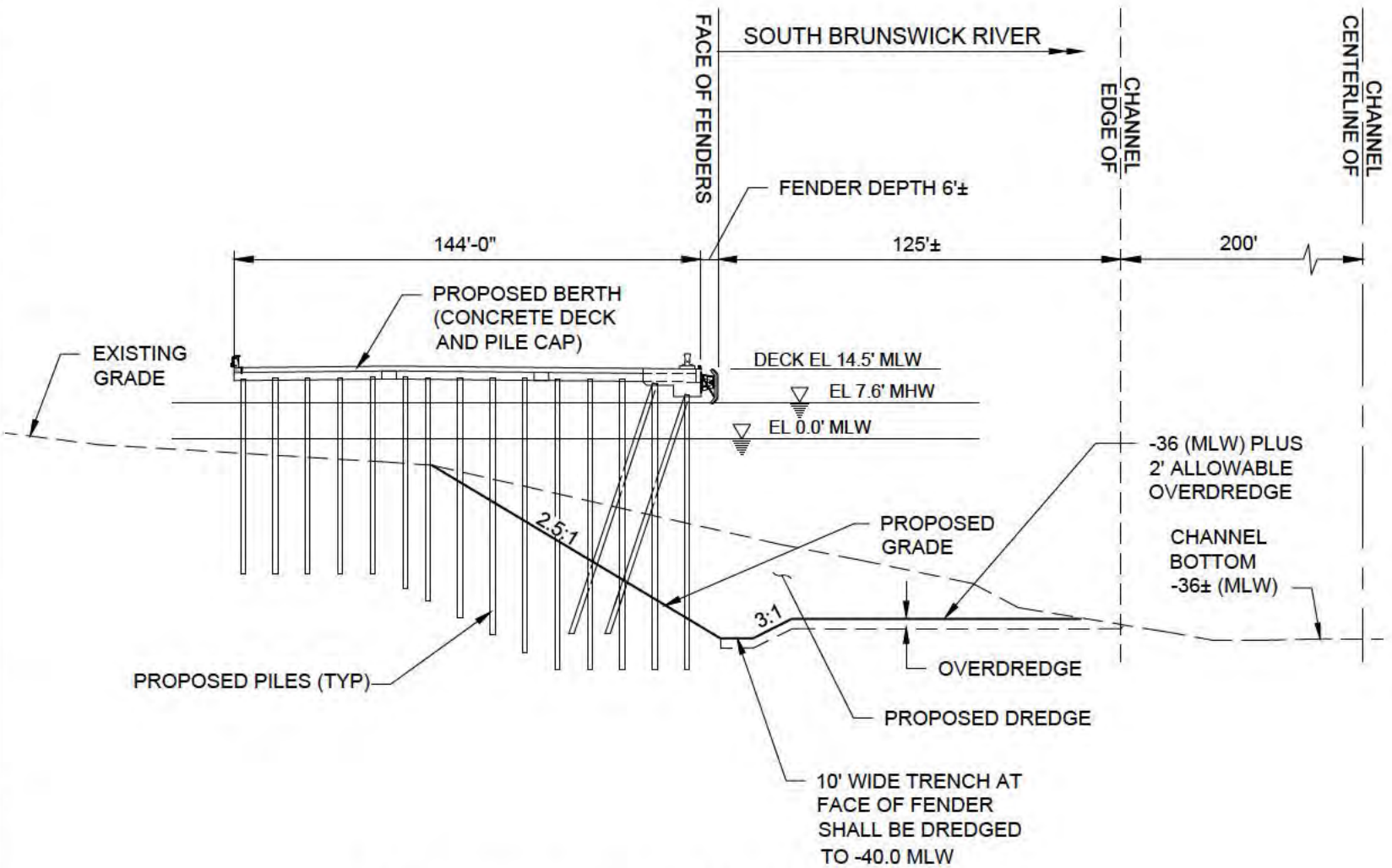
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 COLONELS ISLAND  
 BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

## BERTH CONSTRUCTION

IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
 APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 SHEET 6 OF 12 DATE: 16-DEC-2021

REV. \_\_\_\_\_



#### NOTES:

1. ALL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER TO MINIMIZE THE TURBIDITY IN THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER.
2. NO OILS OR POLLUTANTS SHALL BE RELEASED INTO THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
3. ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE IN A MANNER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE WATER USES.

PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

#### SECTION A

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONEL'S ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

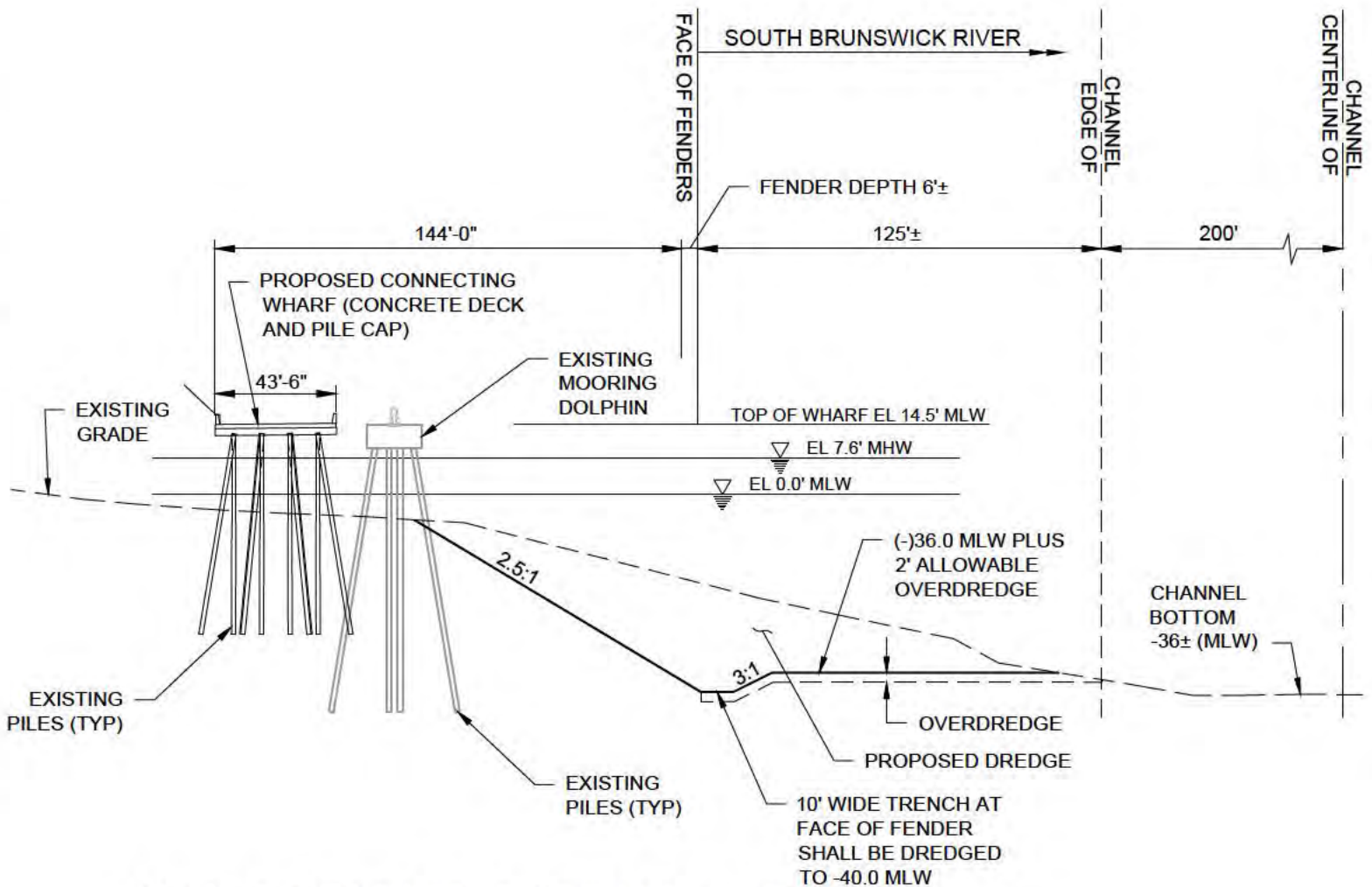
#### FOURTH BERTH AT

COLONEL'S ISLAND TERMINAL  
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
STATE: GA  
SHEET 7 OF 12  
DATE: 14-AUG-2015

REV.





#### NOTES:

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PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

#### SECTION B

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONEL'S ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

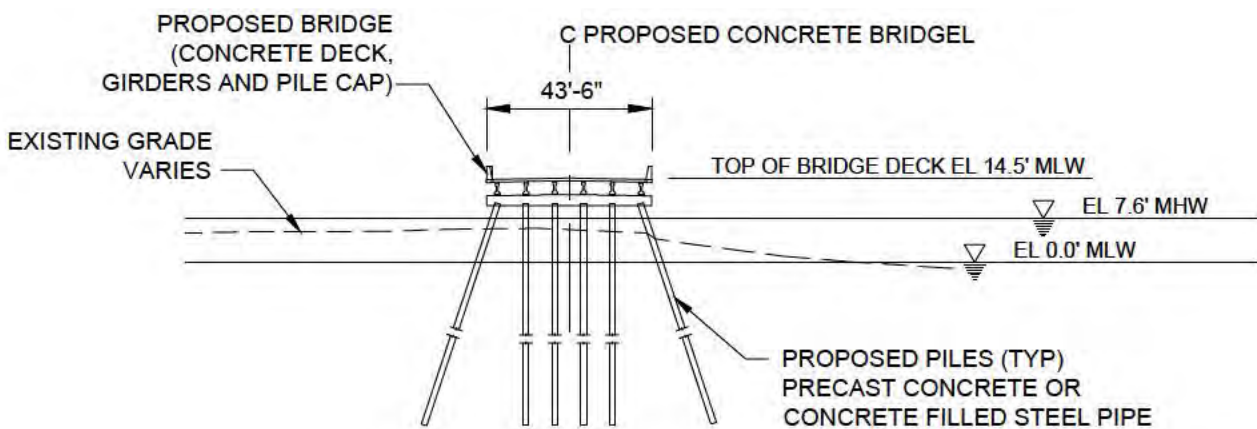
#### FOURTH BERTH AT

COLONEL'S ISLAND TERMINAL  
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
STATE: GA  
SHEET 7 OF 12  
DATE: 14-AUG-2015

REV.





## NEW ACCESS BRIDGE SECTION

### NOTES:

1. ALL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER TO MINIMIZE THE TURBIDITY IN THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER.
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3. ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE IN A MANNER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE WATER USES.

PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### SECTION C

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONEL'S ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

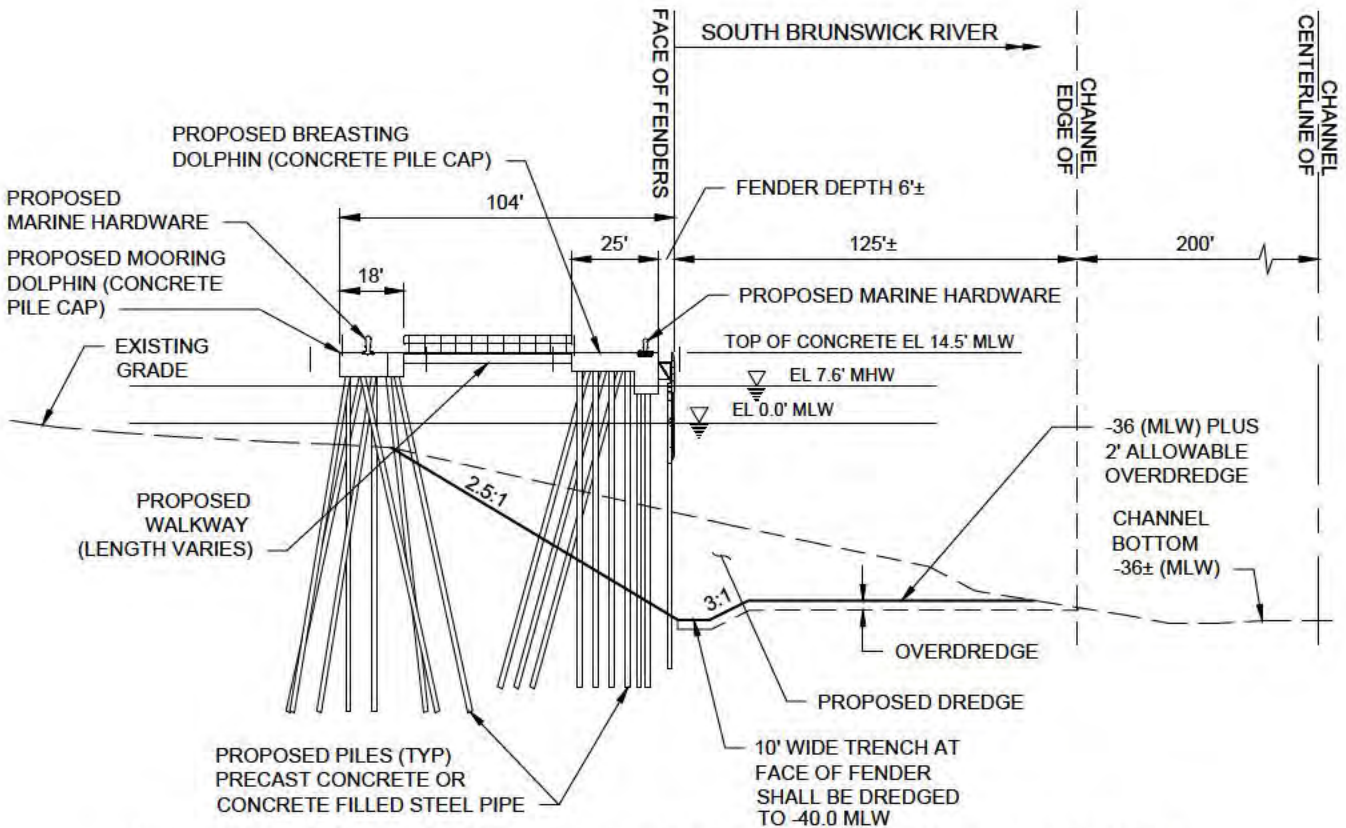
### FOURTH BERTH AT

COLONEL'S ISLAND TERMINAL  
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 7 OF 12  
DATE: 14-AUG-2015

STATE: GA

REV.



## NEW MOORING AND BREASTING DOLPHINS SECTION

### NOTES:

1. ALL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER TO MINIMIZE THE TURBIDITY IN THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER.
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PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### SECTION D

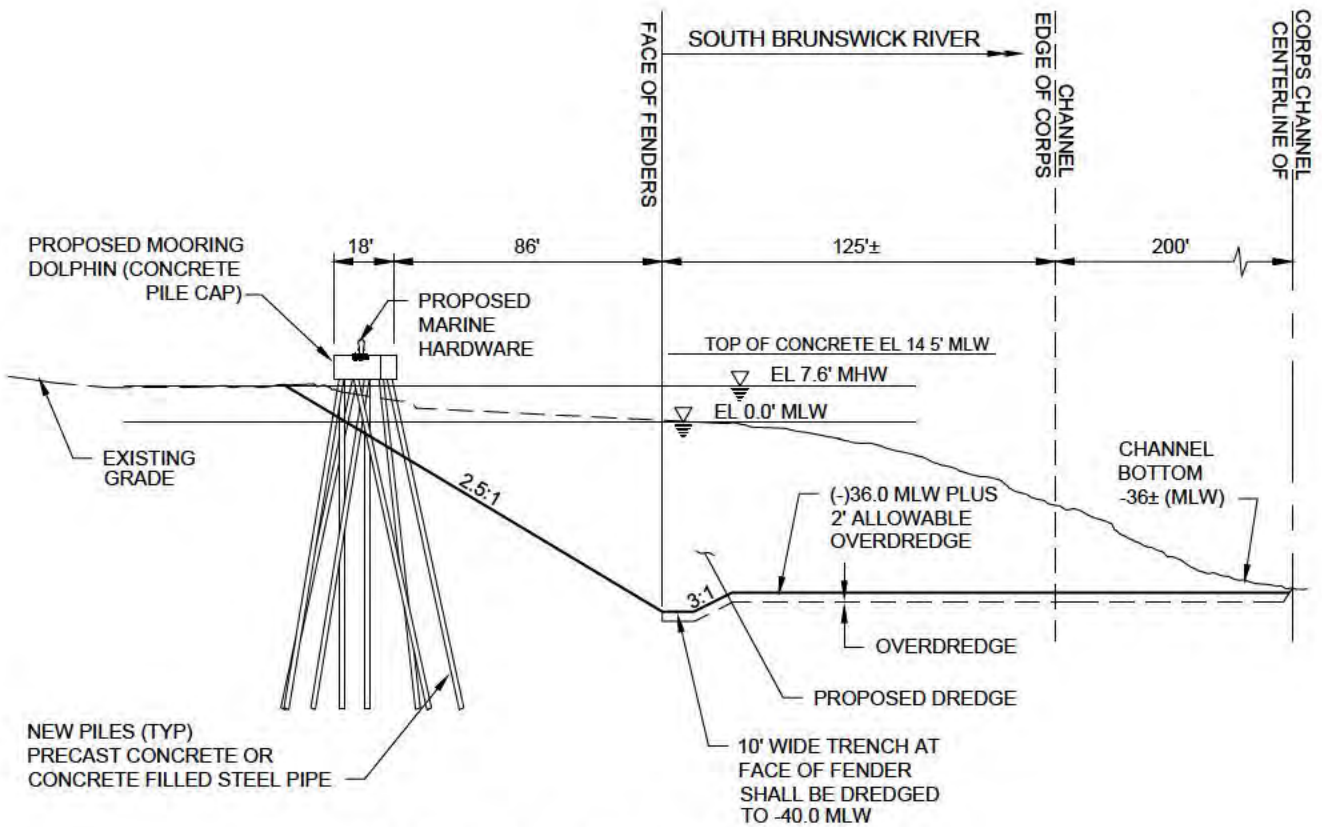
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

### FOURTH BERTH AT

COLONEL'S ISLAND TERMINAL  
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 7 OF 12  
DATE: 14-AUG-2015

REV.



## NEW MOORING DOLPHIN SECTION

### NOTES:

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3. ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE IN A MANNER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE WATER USES.
4. PILE SUPPORTED WALKWAYS NOT SHOWN IN THIS VIEW.

PURPOSE: NEW BERTH CONSTRUCTION

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### SECTION E

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

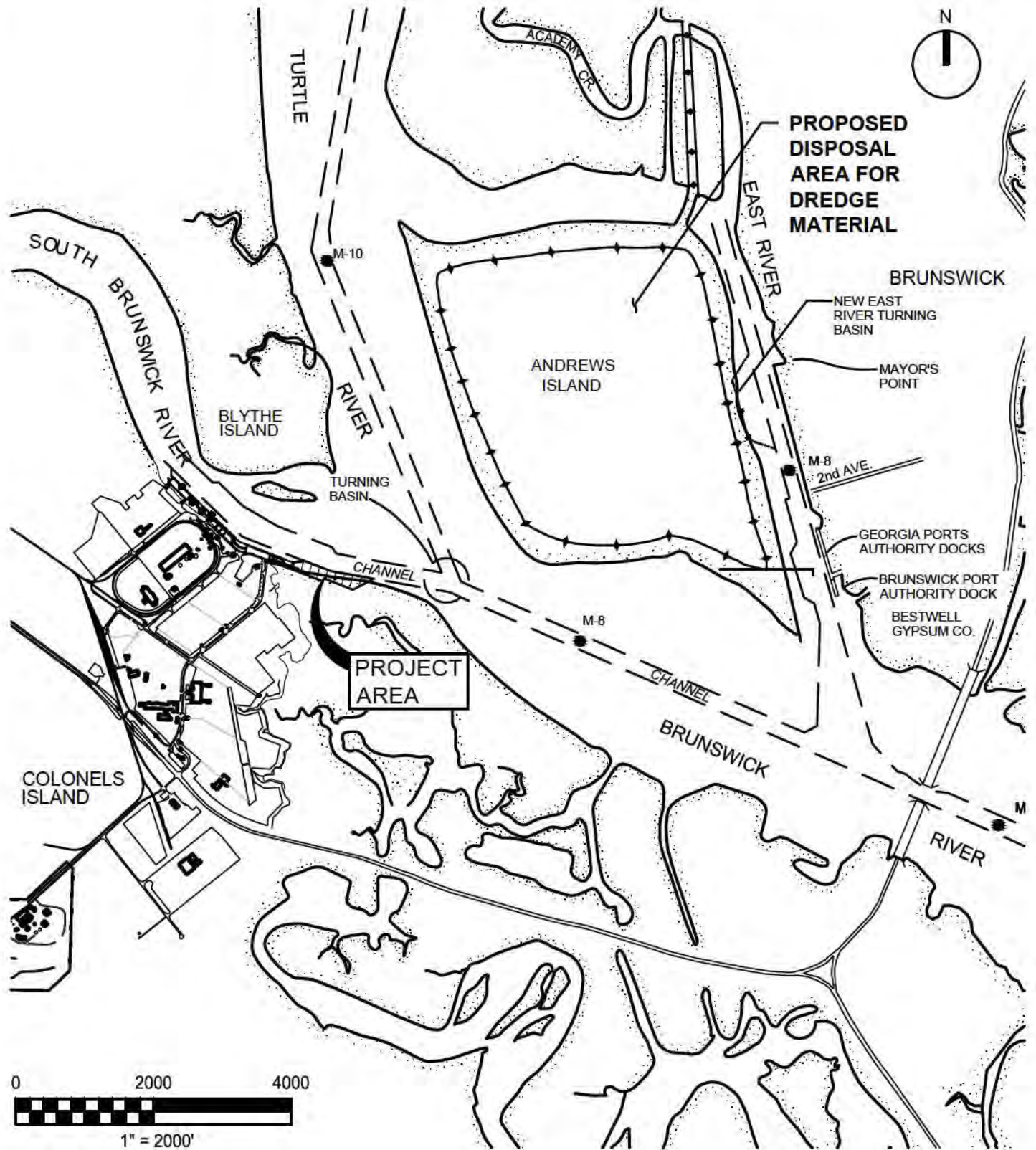
### FOURTH BERTH AT

COLONEL'S ISLAND TERMINAL  
IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 7 OF 12  
DATE: 14-AUG-2015

REV.





PURPOSE: NEW BERTH

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

### DISPOSAL AREA MAP

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
COLONELS ISLAND  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

### BERTH CONSTRUCTION

IN: SOUTH BRUNSWICK RIVER

COUNTY OF: GLYNN STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 11 OF 13 DATE: 06-APR-2015

REV. \_\_\_\_\_