

Construction-Operations Division
Public Notice NO. PN-PD-Jacksonville Harbor-02-14

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The District Engineer, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has prepared an Environmental Assessment for an erosion control structure for the Cell A dike raising activity located on Bartram Island in Duval County, Florida. The activity includes the construction of a wave attenuation and access road structure for the prevention of damaging erosion from high wave energy at the base of the cell wall (see enclosed location map and drawings). This Federal project is currently being evaluated and coordinated pursuant to 33 CFR 335 through 338.

Comments regarding the project should be submitted either in writing or e-mail to the District Engineer at the above address within 15 days from the date of this notice. Any person who has an interest, which may be affected by the construction of this project, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within 15 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest, which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

If you have any questions concerning this project, you may contact Ms. Kathleen McConnell of this office, telephone 904-232-3607; or E-mail: *Kathleen.k.mcconnell@usace.army.mil*.

WATERWAY & LOCATION: Bartram Island is located in the lower St. Johns River basin in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

WORK & PURPOSE: An erosion control structure will be placed at the toe of the existing slope along the north side of the dike. A permanent wave attenuation structure (WAS) will be located on the north side of the island at the base of the Cell A dike wall, and will extend around 1,100 feet in length. The width of footprint will be around 21-ft wide along the outer-most edge at the wetland interface. The structure includes a one-lane narrow road that is required to construct the structure as well as provide access to the outside cell dike wall for monitoring and maintenance. The design incorporates features to accept a high energy wave reaching the erosion blanket at the toe of the dike side wall and dissipate the energy so that as water enters and

exits the structure it no longer has the ability to cause erosion. This design provides long-term protection to the adjacent marsh from deposition of erosional fill material along with stabilization to the dike structure's outside wall facing the St. Johns River. All construction operations will conform with the provisions of the current State Water Quality Certificate (FDEP 16-255718-001-ES, exp. January 13, 2016) that is currently seeking modification to include the proposed activity.

The current dike raising construction activity at Cell A has experienced erosional damage along the toe of the dike slope, most frequently observed on the north side of the Cell A dike. The purpose of the erosion control construction is to prevent additional erosion from occurring in this critical area at the base of cell dike wall.

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION: The Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Study was authorized by a resolution from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives, dated February 5, 1992, which states:

"Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, is requested to review the Report of the Chief of Engineers on Jacksonville Harbor, Florida, published as House Document 214, Eighty-ninth Congress, First Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modification of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of navigation and other purposes." Section 101(b)(8) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 authorized a project for mitigation of shoreline erosion and storm damages caused by existing Federal navigation improvements.

APPLICABLE LAWS: The following laws are, or may be, applicable to the review of the proposed disposal sites and to the activities affiliated with this Federal project:

1. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217) (33 U.S.C. 1344).

2. Section 102 and 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (PL 92-532, 86 Stat. 1052).

3. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347).

4. Sections 307(c)(1) and (2) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280).

5. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq).

6. The Migratory Marine Game-Fish Act of 1959 (16 U.S.C. 760c-760g).

7. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (16 U.S.C. 661-666c).

8. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) (16 U.S.C. 668aa-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884).

9. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, 80 Stat. 915).

10. Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 85 Stat. 816).

11. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1966 (16 USC 1801 et seq. PL 104-208).

EVALUATION FACTORS: All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic or cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, land use, migratory birds, native vegetation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, navigation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the public.

EVALUATION:

a. Environmental Assessment (EA): A draft EA for the Erosion Control Structure for Cell A Dike Raising at Bartram Island Dredged Material Management Area has been prepared and is available for review online at:
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#Duval>
or a copy of this revised EA can be made available upon request.

b. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): The evaluation of the project area suggests that the proposed action would have no significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will not be required.

c. Threatened or Endangered Species: Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been conducted. The construction of the project as proposed will not affect protected species under the ESA or their critical habitat.

d. Coastal Zone Management: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has previously issued a permit (Permit No.) for maintenance dredging of the Federal channel and for the proposed sediment placement alternative. Issuance of a permit signifies consistency with CZM.

A modification to the existing permit was issued on February 14, 2014.

e. Essential Fish Habitat: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact estuarine water column habitat considered EFH by the NMFS. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries along the east coast of Florida. However, our final determination is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

f. Water Quality Certification, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act: Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, water quality certification from the State of Florida is required to impact waters and/or wetlands associated with the recommended alternative. The State Department of Environmental Protection issued Environmental Resource Permit Number 16-255718-001-ES on January 13, 2011, which expires on January 13, 2016. A modification to the existing permit was issued on February 14, 2014.

g. Historic Resources: The proposed work has been coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes. It has been determined that the proposed project will not adversely affect any properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

DISSEMINATION OF NOTICE:

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have an interest in this matter.

COORDINATION:

This notice is being sent to the following agencies:

FEDERAL AGENCIES:

U.S. COAST GUARD
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATIONS
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

STATE AGENCIES:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
FLORIDA GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
FLORIDA MARINE PATROL
NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA DEFENDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, JACKSONVILLE, FL
JACKSONVILLE PORT AUTHORITY, JACKSONVILLE, FL
DUVAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

-6-

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl

Eric Bush
Chief, Planning and Policy Division

bcc:

CESAJ-PM/Bearce
CESAJ-PD-E/Summa
CESAJ-PD-EC/Spinning

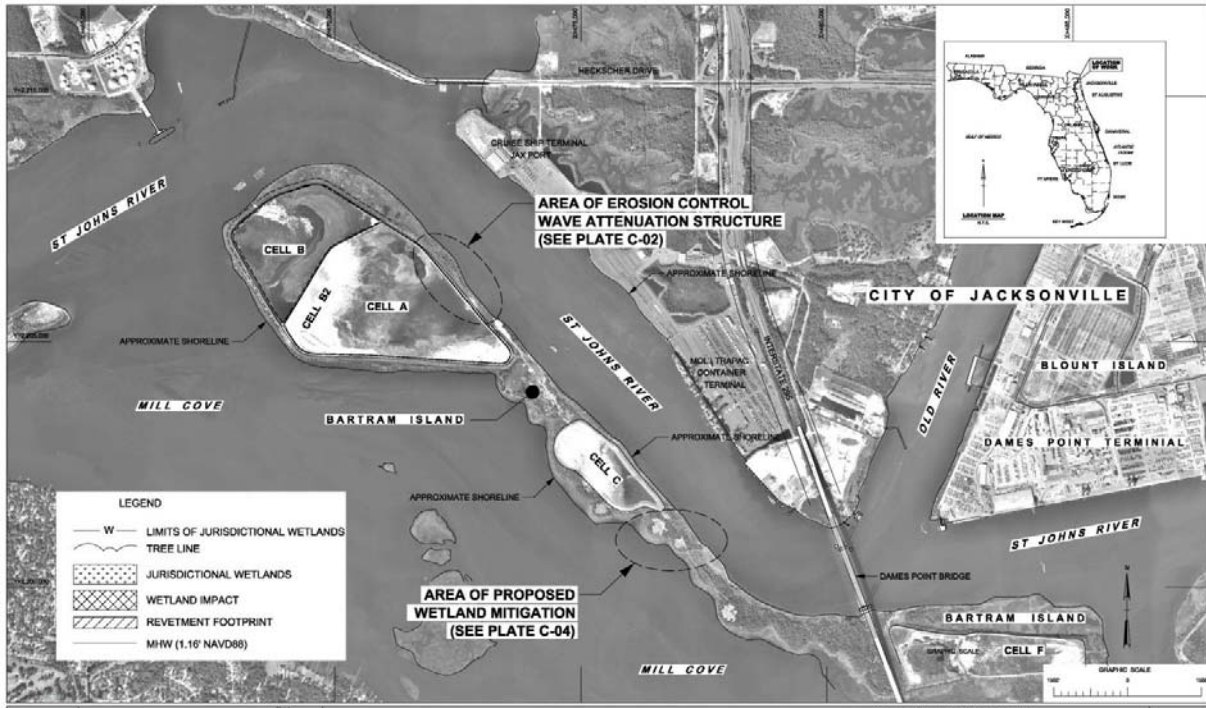


Figure 1. Project Location.

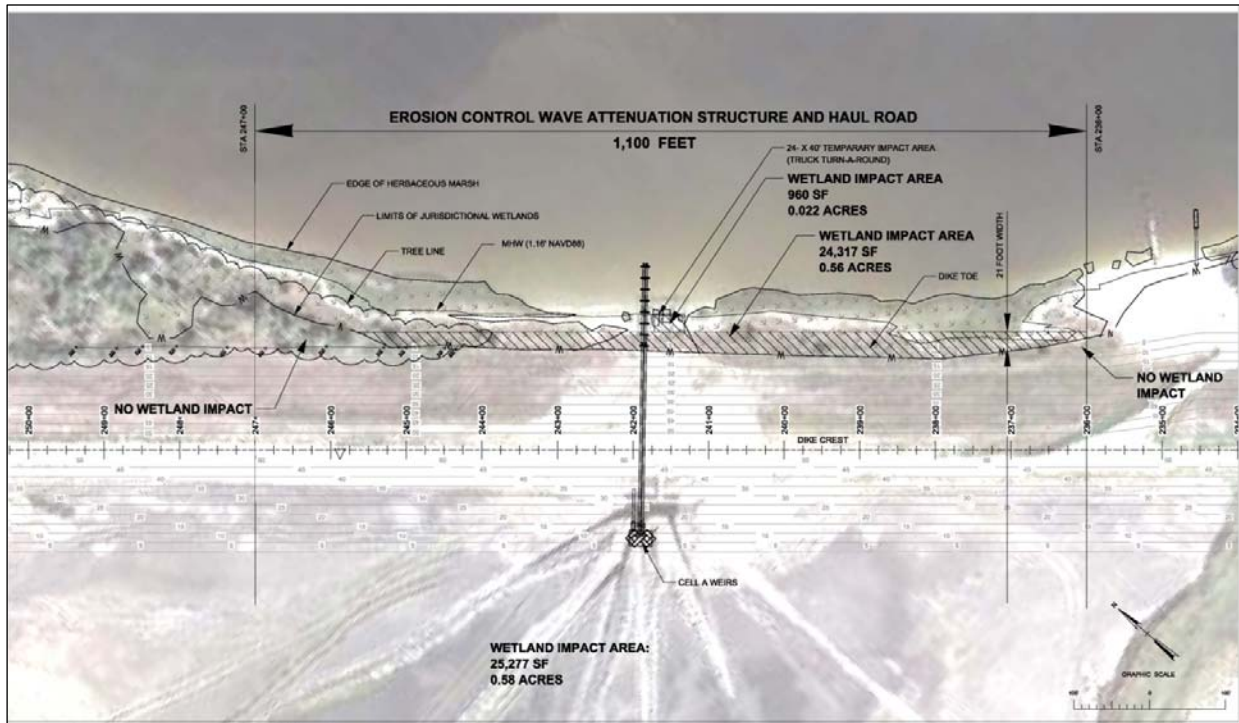


Figure 2. Plan view of impact area from footprint of wave attenuation structure.

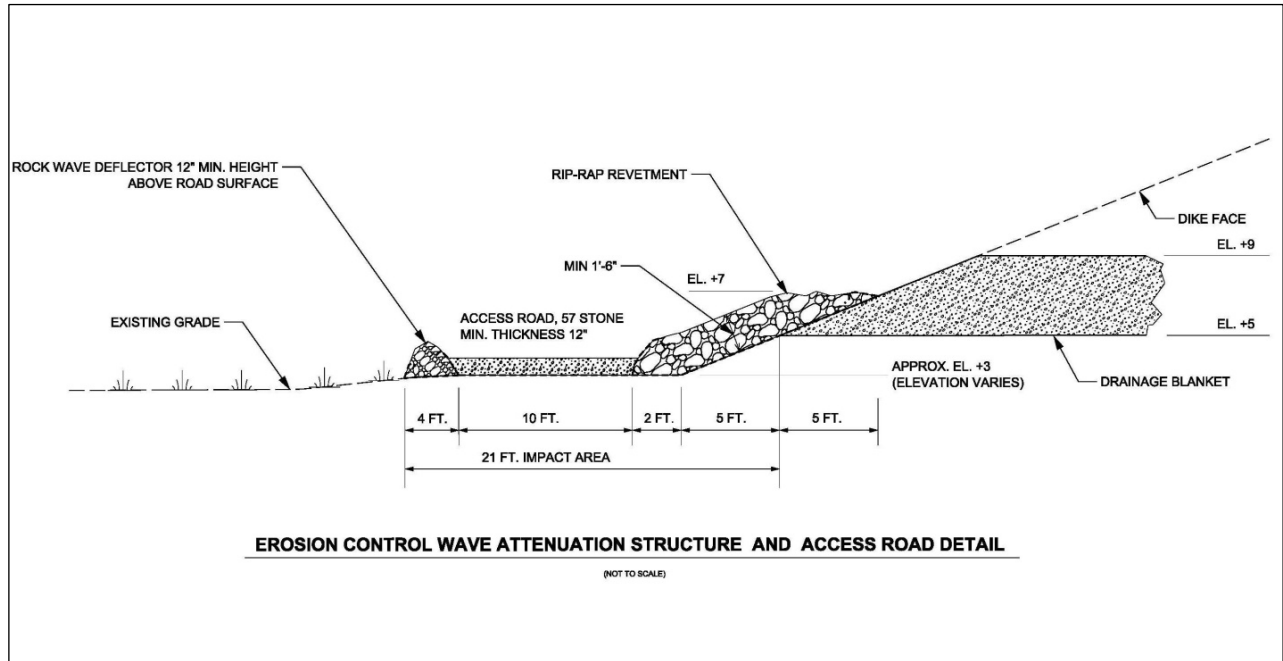


Figure 3. Detail of wave attenuation structure, including a narrow access road, for permanent erosion control along the base of the Cell A dike wall.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
BARTRAM ISLAND DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT AREA IMPROVEMENT
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA enclosed hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Reasons for this conclusion are, in summary:

- a. The proposed action will be conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and will have no effect on any protected species or their critical habitat. The work will not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or impact any designated critical habitat.
- b. This project has been coordinated with the State of Florida, and all applicable water quality standards will be met.
- c. The proposed work has been determined by the State of Florida to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program.
- d. The proposed work has been coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes. It has been determined that the proposed project will not adversely affect any properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- e. There are no known sources of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive wastes in the project area. Sediments and materials for the areas to be excavated during construction have been evaluated to be sandy material, with no indication of contaminants.
- f. Public benefits will be provided with stabilized dredged material management area cell dike walls, which will maintain unobstructed channel navigation in the St. Johns River.
- g. Measures will be in place during construction to eliminate, reduce, or avoid adverse impacts below the threshold of significance to fish and wildlife resources.

In view of the above and after consideration of public and agency comments received on the project, I conclude that the proposed action for Bartram Island will not result in a significant adverse effect on the human environment. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA herewith and does not require an EIS.

Alan Dodd
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Date