# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

## CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2017-00179 (MODIFIED)

12 AUGUST 2019

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by the

Town of Pawleys Island c/o Coastal Science & Engineering P.O. Box 8056 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

for a modification to an existing permit to conduct beach nourishment in the

#### ATLANTIC OCEAN

along a 3.07 mile (16,200 linear feet) section of Pawleys Island beach located southeast of Springs Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in Pawleys Island, Georgetown County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.4216°N, Longitude: -79.1249°W), Waverly Mills Quad.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

#### NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and SCDHEC will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

## 30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The work being proposed is a modification to an existing Department of the Army permit issued on April 16, 2018, which authorized the placement of up to 1,100,000 cubic yards (cy) of beach-quality sand along approximately 2.7 miles (14,100 linear feet) of shoreline. Specifically, the modification includes extending the third reach approximately 2,100 linear feet north from

the existing pier to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (for a project total nourishment of 3.07 miles/ 16,200 linear feet). According to the applicant, no additional borrow material beyond what is currently authorized will be required due to the current conditions of the project area. In addition, the applicant proposes to modify the dredging period to allow work to commence on October 1. The proposed work will be accomplished by either hydraulic (cutterhead) or hopper dredge and heavy machinery (bulldozers and loaders) shaping the fill on the beach. All other aspects of the project remain unchanged.

#### **Specific Project Details Provided by the Applicant:**

"Allow for construction to begin 1 October in a limited stretch of the project area pending coordination with SCDNR turtle program managers. Work would be confined to the southern ~5,000 ft of the project area (south of Hazard St.), and within that area, work would be limited to 1,000 ft increments following approval from SCDNR that all turtle nests in each increment have hatched. This is the most erosive section of the beach. If there is a nest within the next beach section to the north, the contractor will wait until the nest is no longer incubating to proceed with construction unless otherwise approved by DNR."

"All lighting and other sea-turtle protection measures provided in the project BO and existing permit conditions will be incorporated into the project, and the contractor and Town will coordinate with DNR prior to project initiation and throughout October until all nests have hatched.

NOTE: Only comments pertaining to the proposed modification will be considered.

#### **Proposed Mitigation:**

The applicant offered no compensatory mitigation for the proposed impacts.

## **Project Purpose:**

The project purpose is storm damage reduction.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <a href="http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices">http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</a> .

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this modified project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed modified project would impact approximately 9.6 acres of intertidal beaches not previously reviewed. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the proposed, modified project area, and examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the project <a href="may affect">may affect</a> the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (Caretta caretta), Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii), Leatherback Sea Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea), Hawksbill sea turtle (Eretmochelys imbricate), Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas), Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus), Seabeach amaranth (Amaranthus pumulus), and the Red Knot (Calidris canutus rufa) and/or designated critical habitat. Additionally, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed project <a href="may affect">may affect</a>, not likely to adversely affect</a>, West Indian Manatee (Trichechus manatus), Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaengliae), Blue whales (Balaenoptere musculus), Sei whales (Balaenoptera borealis), Sperm whales (Physeter microcephalus), Fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus), Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus), Shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum), and North Atlantic Right Whale (Eubalaena glacialis).

**Note:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion for the currently authorized project on September 7, 2017. This public notice serves as an official request to the US. Fish Wildlife Service to re-initiate consultation to encompass the proposed modified work.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed modified undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(/)(1)), and has initially determined that there are historic properties present, but they will not be affected; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. 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 project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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 activity. Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Rob Huff, Watershed Manager, at (843) 365-4239.

















