



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-C
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-1270-MBM

2 SEPTEMBER 2008

15 DAY JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS
ADJACENT TO THE NEW GULF STATE PARK PIER, GULF SHORES, BALDWIN COUNTY,
ALABAMA

TO ALL CONCERNED: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile 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 USC 403) and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Corps can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Alabama Department of Conservation
And Natural Resources
Attention: Mr. Terry Boyd
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

LOCATION: In the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to the new Gulf States Park Pier, 30.2486N
87.6684W, Section 21 of Township 9 South, Range 4 East, Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama.

WORK: The applicant proposes to utilize the debris resulting from the demolition of the old Gulf States Pier to create ten 25-foot by 50-foot reef structures around the new Gulf States Park Pier. The reefs will have a maximum 6 feet of relief off the bottom in waters less than 20 feet deep, and a maximum 9 feet of relief in waters greater than 20 feet deep. The applicant will also deploy 20 pre-fabricated "Eco-reefs" that are approximately 5 feet high and 4 feet in diameter, and 20 pre-fabricated concrete/limestone pyramid reefs that are approximately 8 feet high. All reef material will be placed in the 300-foot restricted zone around the new Gulf States Pier. Cumulatively, approximately 640 cubic yards of reef materials would be placed around the new pier. The footprint of the waterbottoms that would have reef structure over them would be approximately 0.32 acres however the actual area of waterbottoms receiving fill is much less.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposal on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use 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 and their cumulative effects relevant to the proposal will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply

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

To evaluate the impacts of this proposal the Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. Comments will be considered to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit. To make this decision, an Environmental Assessment is prepared in accord with the National Environmental Policy Act; impacts are assessed on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this proposal. Requests should provide in writing, within the specified comment period, detailed reasons for a hearing.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This project footprint will create artificial reef structure over approximately 0.32 acres (13,880 square feet) of open sand waterbottoms, creating Essential Fish Habitat for managed species in the Gulf of Mexico. The area of sand waterbottoms receiving fill would be significantly less. Creation of this reef habitat is expected to positively affect species of the snapper-grouper, shrimp, and/or coastal migratory pelagic management complexes, and the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that any site-specific adverse effect from the limited area receiving fill will not be substantial. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

This notice is being sent to appropriate State and Federal agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services. No properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places is known to exist which would be affected by the proposal. Comments are requested regarding the potential or existence of cultural resources which may be affected. The U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicates that the proposal will not affect listed species, or their critical habitat. Other impacts from dredge and fill activities will be evaluated by applying Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The National Marine Fisheries Service requires the evaluation of impacts to Essential Fish Habitat of estuarine species. After review of public comments, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will determine if the proposal complies with and will be operated or maintained in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Comments concerning this Public Notice should be received within **15 days** of the date of this public notice and should refer to number **SAM-2008-1270-MBM** and direct your correspondence to the District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Regulatory Division; and a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Coastal Facility Section, 4171 Commanders Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36615.

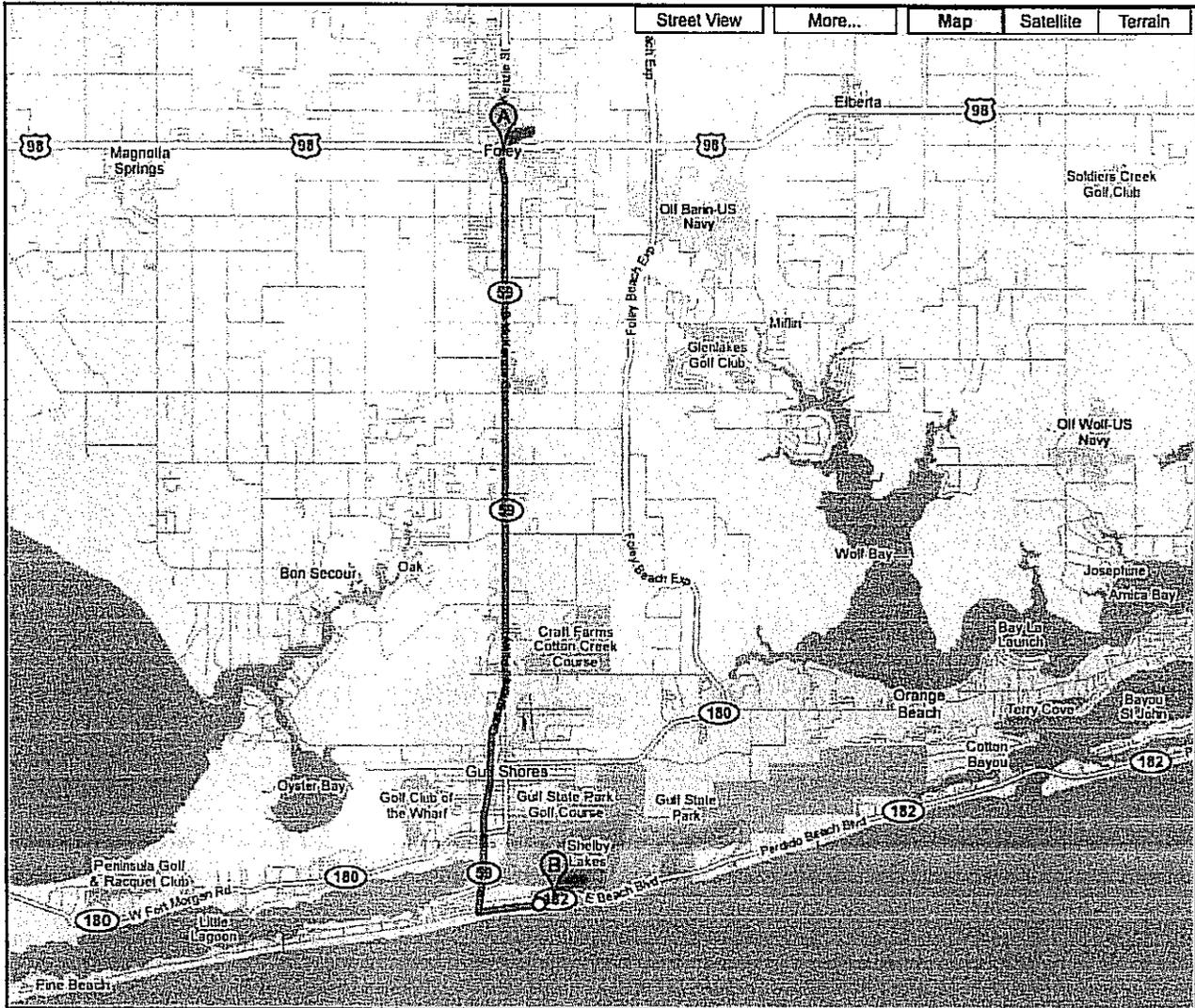
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If you have any questions concerning this publication, please contact Mr. Michael Moxey, Project Manager, via e-mail at michael.b.moxey@sam.usace.army.mil or telephone number (251) 690-2658.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

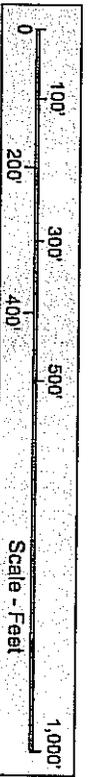
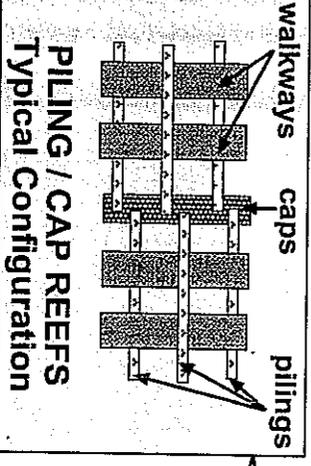
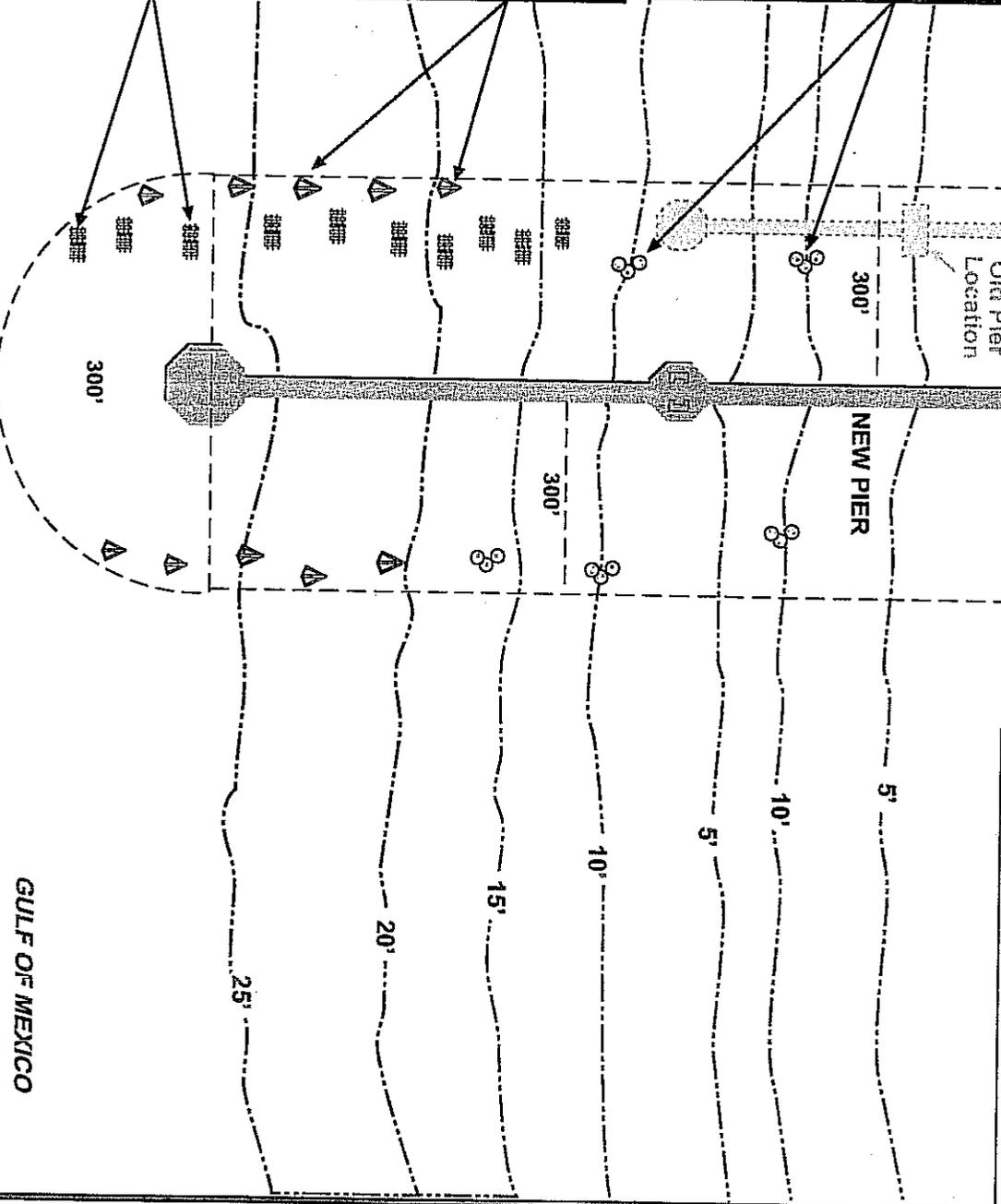
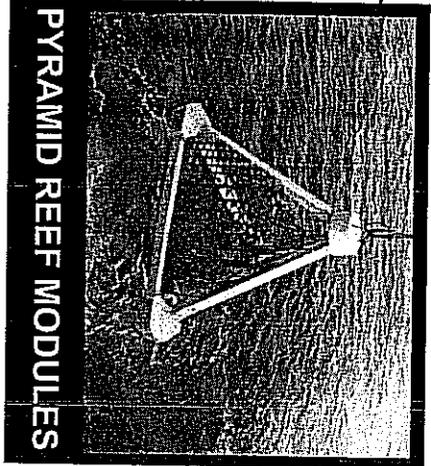
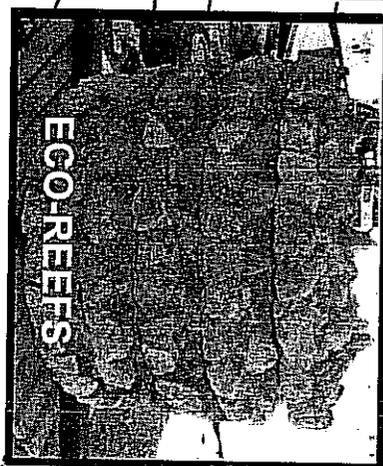
Enclosures

Gulf States Park Pier
30.2486 N, 87.6684 W
Gulf Shores, Alabama



Directions: From US Hwy 98 in Foley, AL head south on AL-59 and proceed 10.9 miles to AL182 in Gulf Shores, AL. Turn left at AL-182 (E Beach Blvd) and proceed 1.4 miles to Gulf State Park Pier.

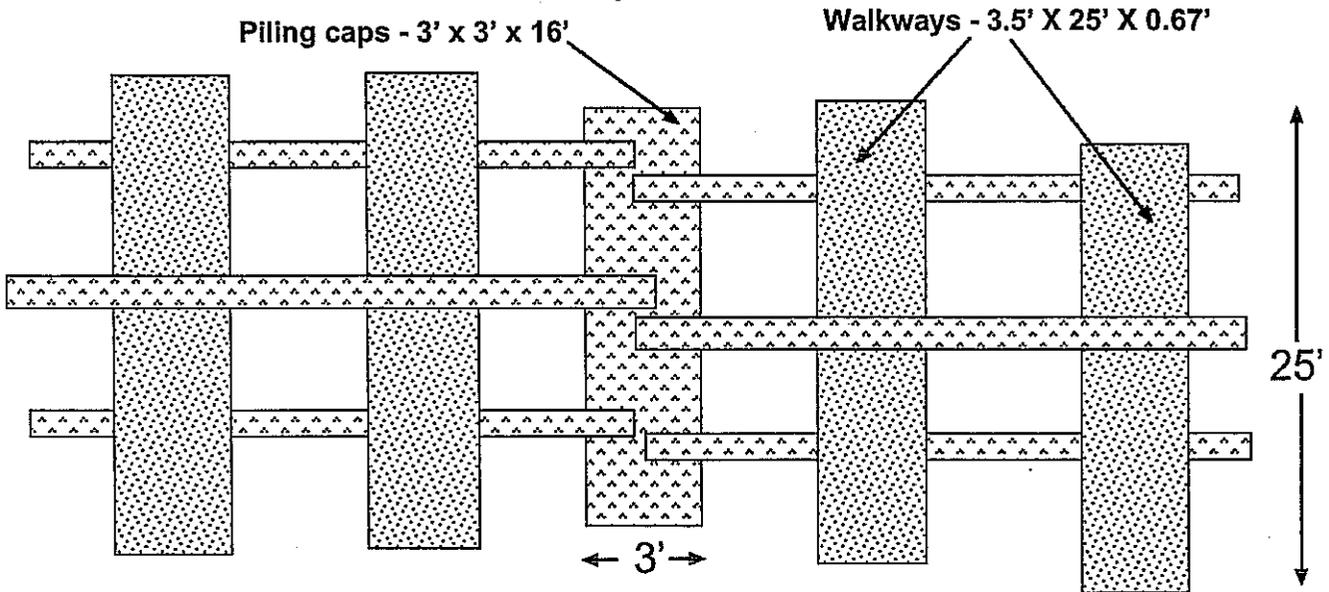
Gulf State Park Pier Fishing Enhancement Structures



GULF OF MEXICO

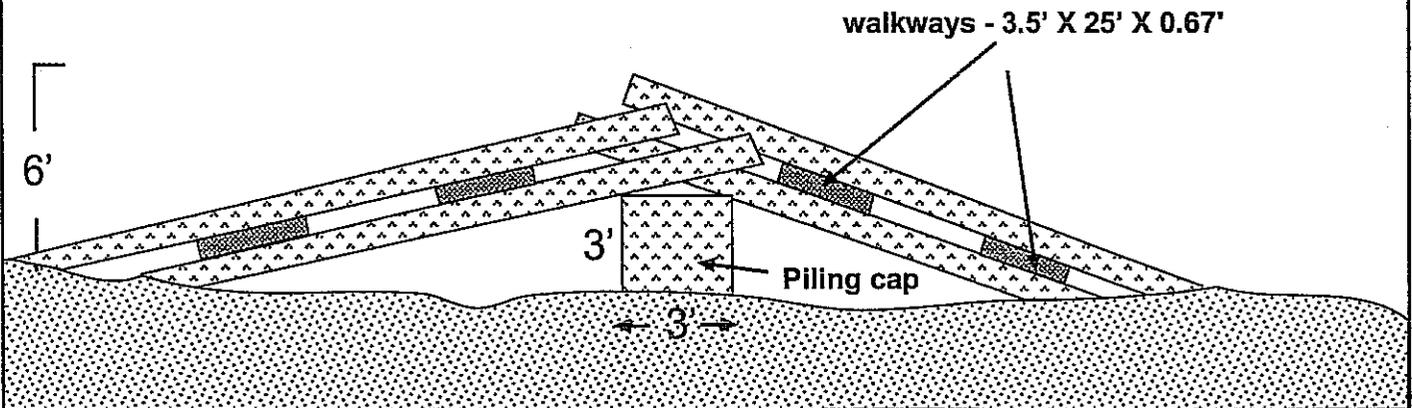
Typical Reef Configuration

Top View



Pilings: 1.67' X 1.67' X 20' to 30' lengths
FOOTPRINT: Approximately 25' X 50'

Profile View - Shallow water configuration (< 20')



Profile View - Deep water configuration (> 20')

