



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-PD-EC
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP91-MH07-4

June 22, 1991

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
FOR THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING
OF SEDIMENT DEPOSITION BASINS
AND PLACEMENT OF DREDGED MATERIAL
IN APPROVED UPLAND AND
OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES
UPPER MOBILE HARBOR PROJECT
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, proposes to conduct construction and maintenance dredging activities in the Upper Mobile Harbor, Mobile, Alabama.

This Public Notice is issued in accordance with the rules and regulations published in the Federal Register on April 26, 1988. These regulations provide for the review of dredging programs for Federally authorized projects under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344); the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C. 1413); and consistent with the requirements of the following related Federal laws and Executive Orders: Section 306 and 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)); the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4341 et seq.) as amended; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) as amended; the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 407a et seq.), as amended; the Estuary Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1221); the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as amended; the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)), as amended; Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, May 13, 1971 (36 FR 8921, May 15, 1971); Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977 (42 FR 26951, May 25, 1977); Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977 (42 FR 26961, May 25, 1977); Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, July 14, 1982, (47 FR 3959, July 16, 1982); and Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, January 4, 1979.

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REACH 1: 3,038 feet long, target depth Elevation -50 feet,
650,000 cubic yards;
REACH 2: 4,170 feet long, target depth Elevation -46 feet,
310,000 cubic yards;
REACH 2A: 2,904 feet long, target depth Elevation -50 feet,
880,000 cubic yards;
REACH 3: 4,000 feet long, target depth Elevation -46 feet,
360,000 cubic yards.

The construction of the sediment depositional areas or basins will provide a region in the channel that naturally will accumulate the sediment that deposits in the Upper Harbor. This will provide dredging flexibility and enable the annual dredging and placement of dredged material to proceed in a more efficient manner. The basins will allow the dredging of the amount of sediment that the placement areas can accommodate, with dewatering techniques applied to the dredged material. The necessary disposal of larger than average amounts of material in the Blakeley Island sites severely impacts material dewatering capability. The dewatering of the material placed in the disposal areas causes the material to compact. By compacting the material, the useful life of the disposal areas is extended. On a periodic basis, as the basins fill, the capacity of the basins will be restored with some or all of the material being placed within the approved Gulf placement site. The basin restoration material could, at times, be placed in the Blakeley Island (see Figure 1) or Gaillard Island (see Figure 3) placement sites depending upon the economic and operational considerations.

An additional benefit of the proposed action would accrue to navigation interests. Since the basins would provide sediment depositional space below the navigable depth of the channel, less shoaling would occur to impede navigation at certain times following river flooding.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, state water quality certification is required for the proposed action described above. Water quality certification is being requested from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for construction and maintenance for a period of five (5) years. Upon completion of the required comment period, a decision relative to certification will be made.

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY: Pursuant to the requirement of the Coastal Zone Management Act, consistency has been requested from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The proposed action is consistent with the program to the maximum extent practicable. Upon review of the action, a determination relative to the issuance of a consistency certification will be made by ADEM.

USE BY OTHERS: The proposed action for the Upper Mobile Harbor project is not expected to cause any significant land use changes in the adjacent areas.

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ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Comments relative to the presence of endangered and/or threatened species within the proposed project area and impacts to these species are being requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service through coordination of this public notice.

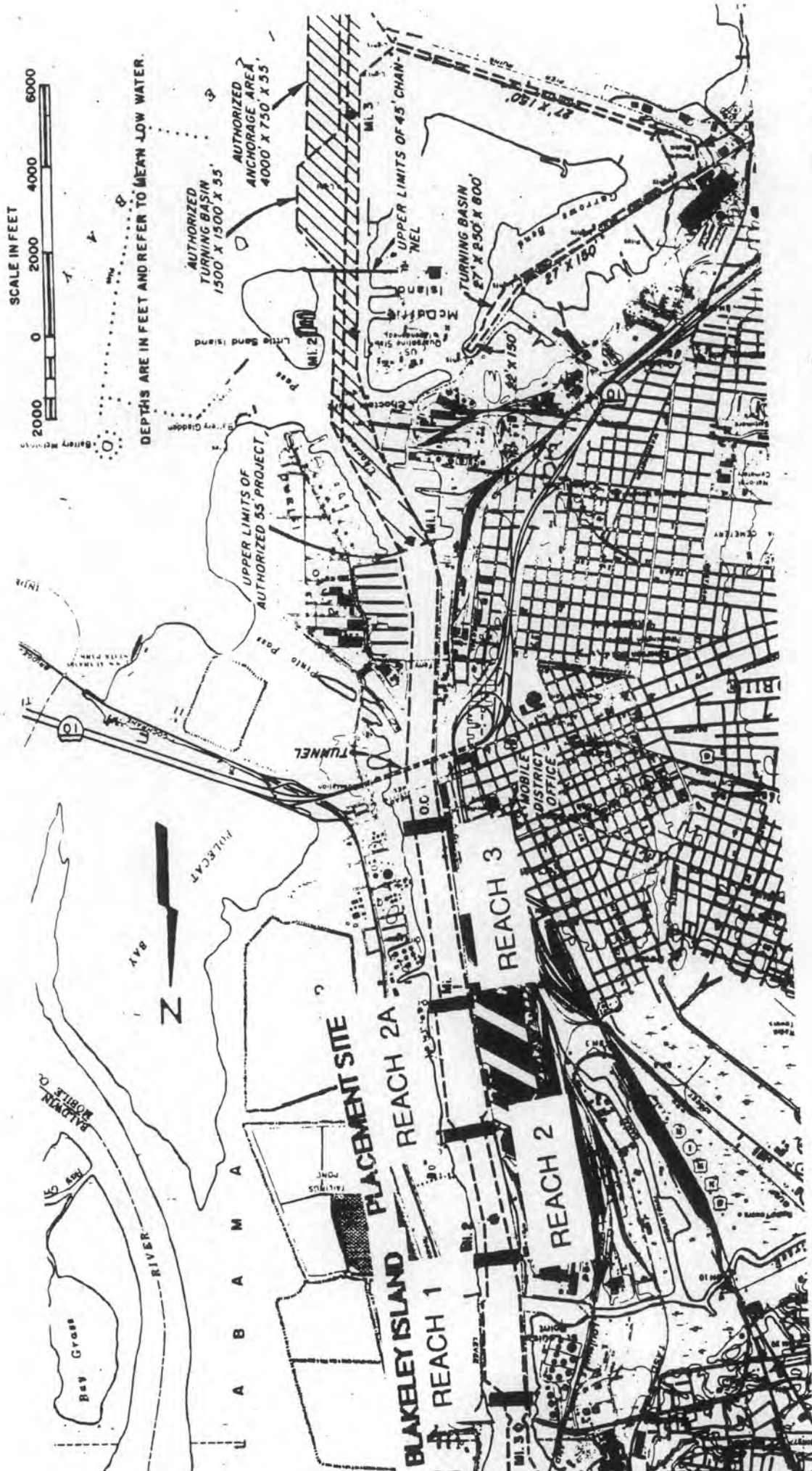
CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSIDERATION: By letter dated May 15, 1991, the State of Alabama Historical Commission determined that the proposed action will not affect any cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on evaluating 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 benefits which may be reasonably 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, shore 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. The proposed action will proceed unless it is found to be contrary to the overall public interest.

Inasmuch as the proposed action involves the discharge of materials into navigable waters, designation of the proposed placement sites associated with this Federal project is being made under guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit designating these proposed placement sites, any potential impairment of the maintenance of navigation, including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which results from the failure to use this site will also be considered.

COORDINATION: Among the agencies receiving copies of this public notice are:

Region IV, Environmental Protection Agency
Field Representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Director, National Park Service
Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Soil Conservation Service
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Moncell Thornell, A-95 Clearinghouse Alabama Department of
Economic and Community Affairs



UPPER MOBILE HARBOR

FIGURE 1

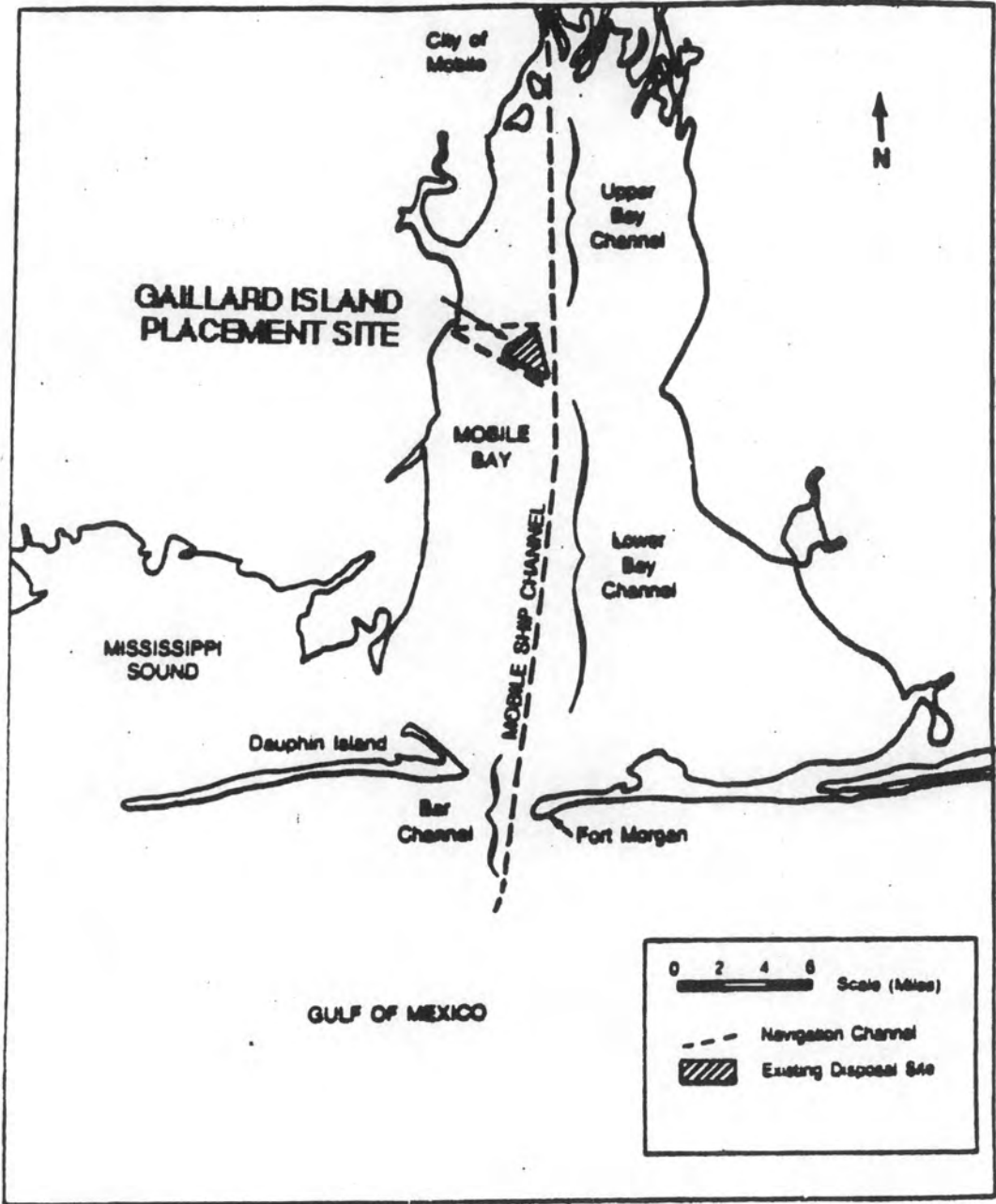


FIGURE 3
LOCATION OF THE GAILLARD ISLAND PLACEMENT SITE
MOBILE BAY, ALABAMA