



BIWEEKLY UPDATE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Contact:
USACE Public Affairs
251-690-2505

Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report

MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE), releases a biweekly update every other week on the current status of the Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report (GRR). Each update provides an overview of recent activities under the study, highlights upcoming milestones, and provides links to important changes on the project website. Please note that the last Biweekly Update was on January 16, 2018.

Current Updates:

- **Public Involvement:** The District held a Town Hall Meeting at the Mobile Convention Center, February 22, 2018. The Town Hall provided a great opportunity for members of the public to get an update on the proposed project's status and interact with members of the project delivery team.
- **Plan Formulation:** Based on data developed thus far, the team is considering channel deepening alternatives from 48 to 50 feet deep. The bar channel would be two feet deeper for each depth considered. Channel widening options have been narrowed to an additional width of 100 feet for a distance of three nautical miles beginning at the upper end of the bar channel and proceeding north from that location. Discussions with the vertical chain are scheduled for the end of this month to define the Tentatively Selected Plan that will be presented in June when the draft report is projected to be released for public review and comment.
- **Environmental:** Initial analysis of the benthic and fish samples collected last fall have been completed. Initial maps depicting the baseline for the wetlands, sea grasses, and oyster beds are complete. The initial salinity and other pertinent water quality tolerances for the aquatic resources of concern have been evaluated. Outputs from the modeling efforts were applied to compare the baseline conditions with the future without project and future with project conditions to assess impacts on resources. The resulting determination from the assessments to date is that there are no significant impacts (i.e., loss of resources) anticipated under projected post-project conditions.
- **Economic:** The economic analysis of deepening the ship channel optimized at a 51 foot depth; however, the study is moving forward with further analysis of the 48 to 50 foot depths. The economic analysis for channel widening continues with analysis of a three-mile passing area in the lower bay.

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- **Engineering:** The effort to model sediment transport within the bay and the analysis to evaluate the effects of ship wake are nearing completion. Current analysis has found that material placed in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area (SIBUA) since 1999 hasn't transported out at the same rate it has been deposited, but it has not been permanently removed from the system. To address this issue, the Corps is moving forward with a plan to expand SIBUA to the north/northwest for future placement of sandy material dredged as part of the operation and maintenance of the Bar Channel. This area will follow the shoal and pathway of sediment transport towards Dauphin Island. Assessments are currently ongoing to identify the exact boundary of the expanded site to ensure the ability to more actively manage dredged material placement practices in the future for periods of stormy and non-stormy conditions given the equipment, cost, and authority constraints the Corps can work within..

Public Involvement: As the study progresses, interested parties have several avenues in which they can receive updates on the project. Throughout the process, the Mobile District will host a series of public meetings and engagements. We will announce the dates, times and locations of future public engagements in news releases, on the project website, by Listserve, social media, biweekly updates and quarterly bulletins.

Listserves: If you wish to receive regular updates on the study, please sign up for the project Listserve at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-ProjectManagement/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

Public Comment: The Mobile District will continue to accept public comments on the study that will be added to the official record.

Comment by Email:
MobileHarborGRR@usace.army.mil.

Comment by U.S. Mail:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
ATTN: PD-F
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Comment by Public Meeting:
Dates, Times and Locations to be determined for future meetings

Note: All comments will be addressed at the appropriate time during the study.

To download the spring 2017 Mobile Harbor GRR Quarterly Newsletter visit:
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Quarterly-Newsletter/>

To download the latest Public Involvement Strategy (PIMS) or other documents associated with the project visit the GRR Document library:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Mobile-Harbor-GRR-Downloads/>

For more information on the study visit the project website:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions visit:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Frequently-Asked-Questions/>