



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

**CESAM RD-SP**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-00733-GAC**

**October 16, 2023**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**PROPOSED SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL BREAKWATER AND DREDGING TO**  
**PROTECT COFFEE ISLAND, MISSISSIPPI SOUND, MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** The Nature Conservancy  
Attention: Ms. Mary Kate  
118 N. Royal St. Suite 500  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

**LOCATION:** The proposed project is located within Mobile Bay, Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes); within Section 0, Township 8 South, Range 3 West; Latitude 30.333213° North, Longitude -88.257855° West; in Coden, Mobile County, Alabama.

**APPLICANT STATED PROJECT PURPOSE:** The purpose of this project is to protect the shoreline from further erosion and protect an existing on-site living shoreline project.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The project will consist of dredging and filling activities on and around Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes). Key project features include placement of a 9,000 linear foot overlapping segmented breakwater to enhance and restore the coastal habitat created by the 7,600 linear feet of living shoreline structures located on the southeast shoreline of Coffee Island and the creation of an access channel dredging 54,000 cubic yards (CY) to assist with restoration construction in shallow water bottoms. The proposed 9,000 linear foot overlapping breakwater consists of approximately nine 970-foot-long segments and one small 250-foot-long segment with armor overlapping the 60-foot-wide gaps to provide protection from wave propagation through gaps. This breakwater is intended to be placed approximately 150 feet from the project shoreline in a bottom elevation between 0 and -3 feet NAVD88. The access channel will require

dredging of approximately 54,000 cubic yards of sand/silt materials that will be placed between the proposed breakwater and the existing southeastern shoreline.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has indicated the proposed project has been designed to minimize impacts in order to meet the needs of the applicant protecting the shoreline from further erosion. Furthermore, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent water quality impacts within Mobile Bay during project implementation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** No compensatory mitigation is proposed.

**WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:** The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency concurrence in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and CZM consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:**

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the entire 9000 linear feet of waterbottoms affected by the breakwater structure and the 11,000-linear feet of channel dredging and side casting. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic resources. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work.

The Mobile District is seeking comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area from the State Historic Preservation Office, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the proposed activity will have no effect on the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the permit area: West Indian manatee (T), Red knot (T), Eastern Indigo Snake (T), Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (E), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (T), and Gulf sturgeon (T). There is

designated critical habitat for the Piping plover and Red knot within the project action area. Details of the proposed activity are being provided to federal and state agencies via this Public Notice for receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would impact approximately 42.93-acres of unvegetated estuarine substrate utilized by various life stages of multiple marine species. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will have no substantial adverse effect on EFH. Our final determination is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or the U.S. Department of Interior, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. 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.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of 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 benefit which reasonably may be 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, 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 people.

The USACE 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 proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. 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 proposed activity.

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 public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2017-00733-JEB**, and should be directed to the project manager, Mr. Eric Buckelew by e-mail at [james.e.buckelew@usace.army.mil](mailto:james.e.buckelew@usace.army.mil), by phone at (251) 472-7278, or to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Eric Buckelew, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at [coastal@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:coastal@adem.alabama.gov), or sent to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch / Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608. **All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.**

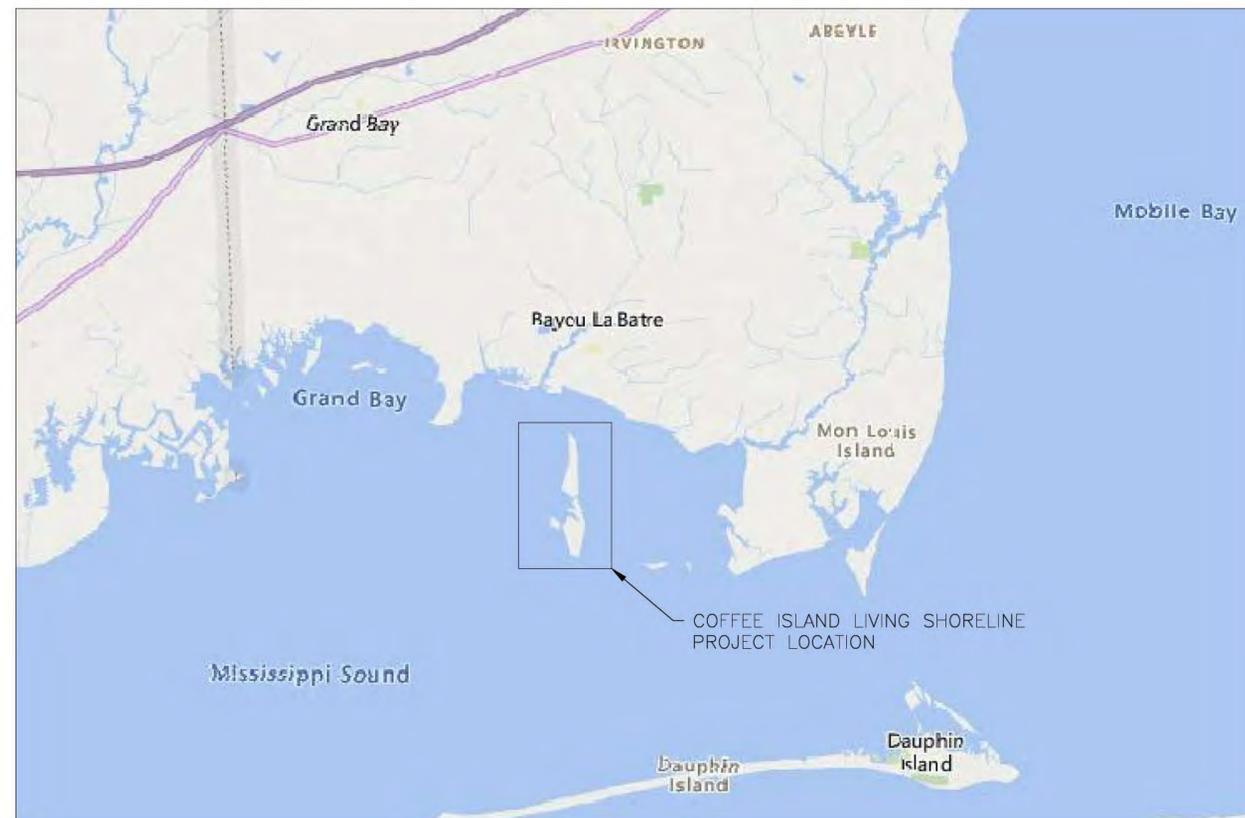
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

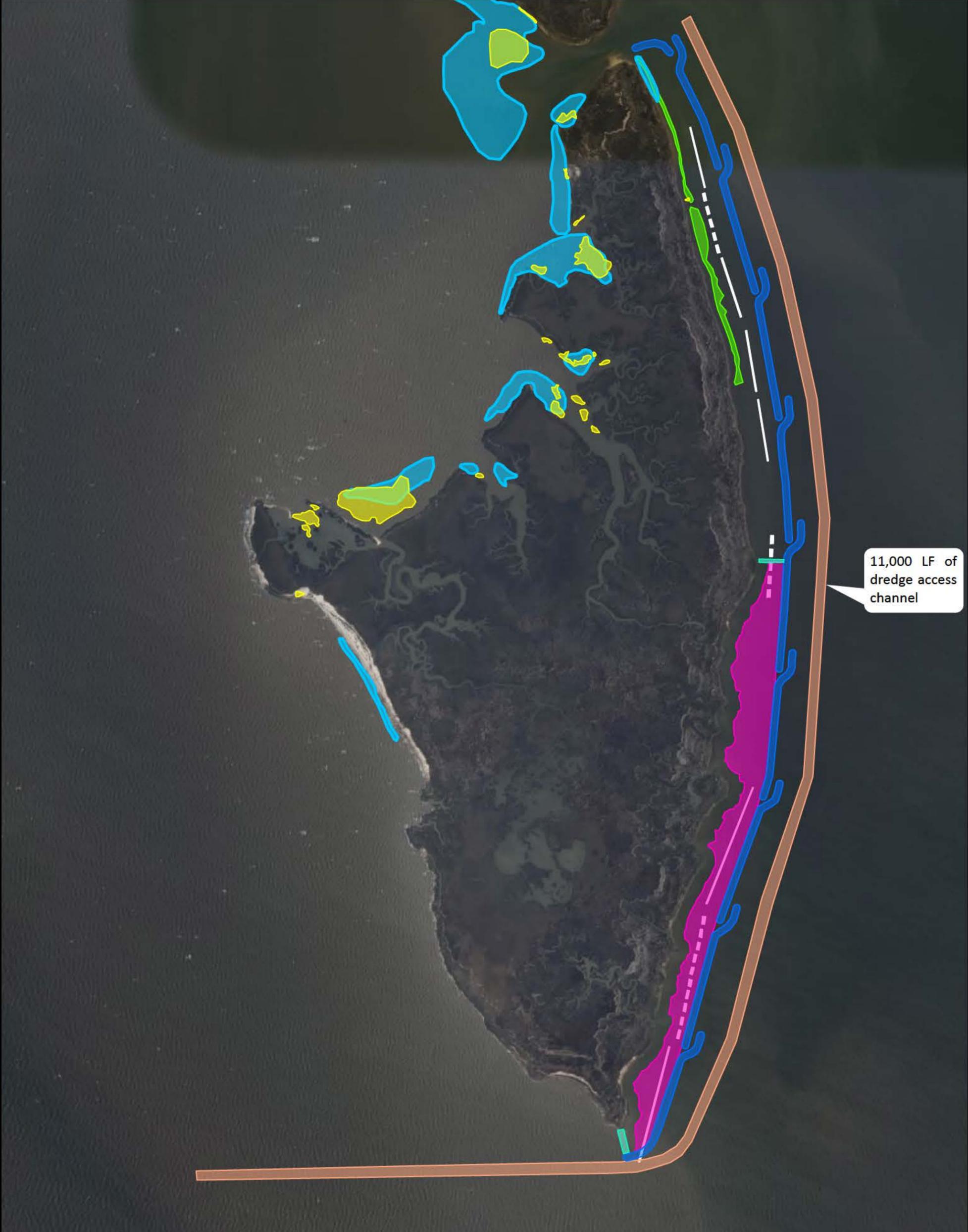
Attachments

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

## COFFEE ISLAND LIVING SHORELINE



VICINITY MAP



11,000 LF of dredge access channel

**Legend**

- Dredge Path
- SAV Survey 2020
- Dredge Disposal Area
- SAV Survey 2022
- Proposed Breakwaters
- Existing Breakwater
- SAV Survey 2019
- Super Sand Bags

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0 600 1,200 Feet

1 inch = 600 feet

Note: This map is not intended for construction.



**Map of Recent SAV Findings**  
Coffee Island Restoration  
Mobile County, Alabama

**VOLKERT**

**SAM-2017-00733-GAC**



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COFFEE ISLAND LIVING SHORELINE  
SITE PLAN

	Stone (CY)	WAD Units (EA)	Geotextile Fabric (SF)	Dredging (CY)
BW1	6157.82	204	47682.9	0
BW2	5525.28	194	44341.7	0
BW3	5456.26	196	44754.7	0
BW4	5724.68	194	45128.4	0
BW5	5533.34	194	44637.8	0
BW6	4973.01	188	41839.1	0
BW7	5107.53	194	42770	0
BW8	5311.9	194	43492.6	0
BW9	4723.55	180	40386.4	0
BW10	916.6	50	11449.5	0
Access Channel	0	0	0	54014.7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>49430</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>406483</b>	<b>54015</b>

SAM-2017-00733-GAC

**1680 W. 2ND ST. SUITE B**  
**CULF SHOES, ALABAMA**  
Telephone (251) 968-7551

ALA REG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECKED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESIGNED BY: M. SALMON  
 QAD/MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: JANUARY 2022  
 VOLKERT PROJ. #: 7600

**VOLKERT**  
Engineers • Surveyors • Planners

OWNER: ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROJ. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

REVISIONS	DATE	APPROVED BY

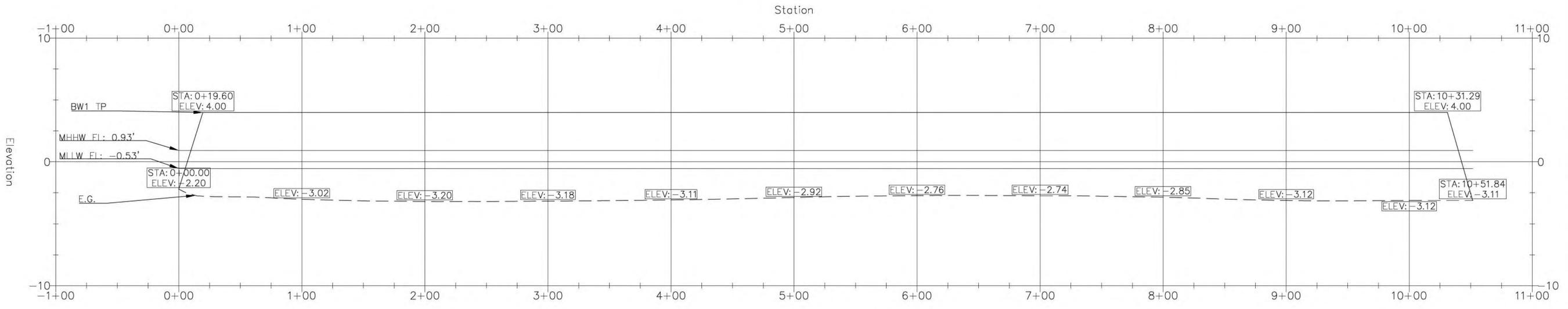
SHEET # 3



NOTE: CONTOURS AND AGGREGATE  
OMITTED FROM THIS PLAN FOR CLARITY

0 80 160  
Feet

BW1 PROFILE



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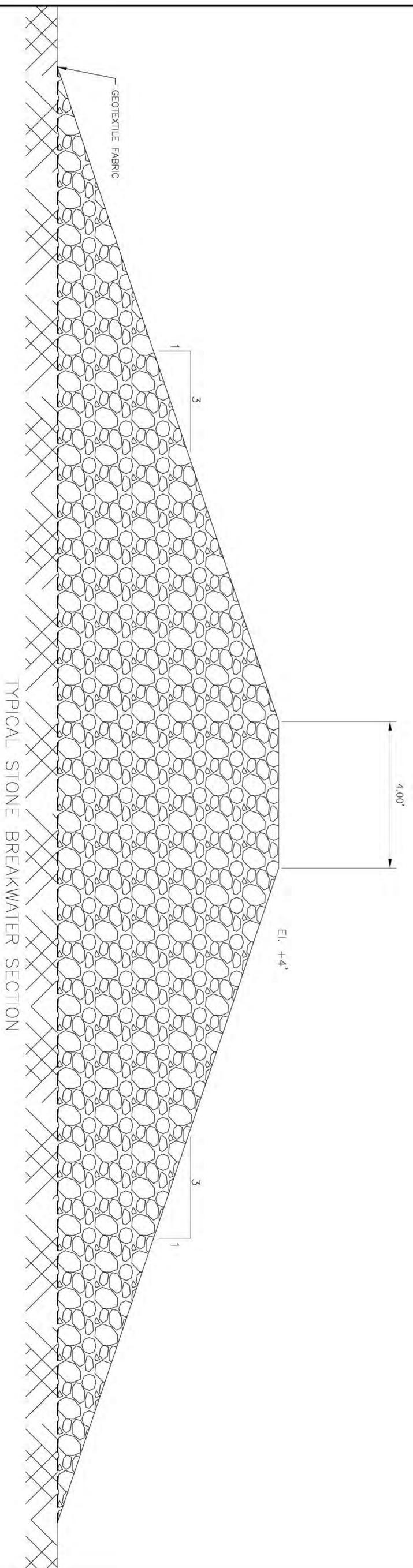
DESIGNED BY: M. SALMON	CHECKED BY: A. CELANO	DATE: JANUARY 2022	DATE: JANUARY 2022
OWNER: ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES	PROJECT NO.:	PROJECT NAME:	PROJECT LOCATION:
PROJECT #:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:

REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

SHEET #:  
4





SAM-2017-00733-GAC

NUMBER	REVISIONS	DATE	APPROVED BY

**VOLKERT**  
Engineers • Surveyors • Planners

1680 W 2ND ST SUITE B  
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA  
Telephone (251) 968-7551

DRAWN BY: A. CELANO	DESIGNED BY: M. SALMON	CHECKED BY:	ALA. REG. NO.:	DATE:
DATE: JANUARY 2022	QA/QC MANAGER:	OWNER: AL. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES	SIGNATURE:	
VOLKERT PROJ. #: 736100	AW PROJ. #:	BC PROJ. #:		

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COFFEE ISLAND LIVING SHORELINE

BREAKWATER TYPICAL SECTIONS

# Legend

- Proposed Dredge Path
- Proposed Breakwaters
- Existing Breakwaters
- 2022 SAV Data (DISL)
- 2020 SAV Data
- 2019 SAV Data

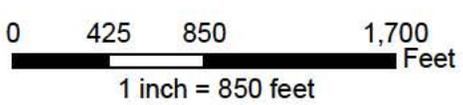


COFFEE ISLAND

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Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community. Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



**Map of Recent SAV Findings**  
Coffee Island Restoration  
Mobile County, Alabama