

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

December 18, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2020-01127-DCH

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

REQUEST TO RENOVATE THE BILLYGOAT HOLE BOAT RAMP, DAUPHIN ISLAND, 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: Alabama Marine Resources Division Attention: Mr. M. Scott Bannon P.O. Box 189 Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

AGENT: Alabama Marine Resources Division Attention: Mr. Craig Newton P.O. Box 189 Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

LOCATION: Fort Gaines Channel; within Section 0, Township 9 South, Range 1 West; at Latitude 30.250088° North, Longitude -88.076520° West; Dauphin Island, Mobile County, Alabama.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The Alabama Marine Resources Division proposes to renovate the Billy Goat Hole Boat Ramp to facilitate efficient safe access to the coastal waters of Alabama.

PROPOSED WORK: Four existing concrete boat ramps and five wooden piers are proposed to be removed. Approximately 2,300 cubic yards of fill material consisting of class II riprap, #57 stone and concrete will be along the shoreline and adjacent water bottoms to reconstruct four new ramps. Fill material will be utilized to shift the ramps northward to allow for safe operations along the right-of-way with traffic from the ferry and launching/retrieving vessels at the ramp. Additionally, the five finger piers will be replace with 4 finger piers to allow safe dockage of vessels utilizing the ramps. Two dolphins will be placed on the eastern side and one dolphin will be placed on the western side of the boat ramp complex to facilitate docking of the Mobile Bav Ferry and the offshore supply vessels utilized at adjacent properties/facilities.

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AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The structures will be upgraded with the approximate footprint of the existing facility. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent water quality impacts to Mobile Bay. 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.

MITIGATION: The project will not result in the permanent loss of a special aquatic site. No compensatory mitigation is required for this proposed project.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). This notice will serve as the notification to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the Mobile District has determined the permit area consists of the entire undertaking in waters of the United States as well as portions of the upland residential lot. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Coordination with the SHPO and federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed separately from this notice, as determined to be appropriate. The permit area described above is currently under review by District Archaeologists to provide a determination on the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: No aquatic vegetation is within the footprint of the proposed activities. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have an adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries due to the nature of impacts. 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).

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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 following listed endangered or threatened species have the potential to exist within the watershed of the permit area: West Indian manatee (T), Piping plover (T), Red knot (T), Eastern indigo snake (T), Gopher tortoise (T), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (T), Loggerhead sea turtle (T), and Gulf sturgeon (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area. The USACE determination will be based on review of the Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) programmatic agreement species effects determination keys for the aforementioned listed species. Coordination with the USFWS will be performed separately from this notice, as determined to be appropriate.

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. The Mobile District 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 the 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 guality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed below. 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. 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, 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. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will also include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2020-01127-DCH**, and should be directed to the project manager, Mr. Eric Buckelew by e-mail at james.e.buckelew@usace.army.mil 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, 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 <u>www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments

STATE OF ALABAMA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Engineering Section

Kay Ivey, Governor Christopher M. Blankenship, Commissioner

BOAT RAMP RENOVATIONS AND DOCK IMPROVEMENT AT BILLY GOAT HOLE BOAT RAMP

MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA Project No. 2-MR-215 FEBRUARY

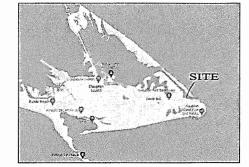
2022

Director of

Alabama Marine Resources Divison

Scott Bannon

Chief of Engineering Section Terry N. Bovd, PE, PLS VICINITY MAP



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