



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

**CESAM RD-A**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-01015-DJL**

**June 25, 2024**

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

**REQUEST TO DREDGE AND TRANSPORT MATERIAL TO BE DISPOSED AT THE**  
**MOBILE, ALABAMA OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)**  
**LOCATED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This 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 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1413). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Alabama State Port Authority  
Attention: Mr. Doug Otto  
250 N. Water Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

**AGENT:** Moffatt & Nichol  
Attention: Ms. Meg Goecker  
11 N. Water Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

**LOCATION/WATERS:** The disposal site is located within the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 4 nautical miles offshore from Mobile Point, South of Dauphin Island; center coordinates: Latitude 30.155322, Longitude -88.104158; in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. See attachments for location details.

<b>ODMDS Boundaries</b>	<b>Latitude, Longitude (Decimal Degrees)</b>	
NW Corner	30.166667	-88.128333
NE Corner	30.173333	-88.086667
E Corner	30.156667	-88.078333
SE Corner	30.141667	-88.086667
SW Corner	30.141667	-88.136667

The dredging locations include berths at Upper Harbor, Choctaw Point, Pinto Island, and McDuffie Island (outlined below); in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. See attachments for location details.

<b>Berth</b>	<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Choctaw	NE	30.67128	-88.0345
Choctaw	NW	30.67107	-88.0347
Choctaw	SE	30.66423	-88.0319
Choctaw	SW	30.66423	-88.0326
McDuffie 1	NE	30.65475	-88.0322
McDuffie 1	NW	30.65476	-88.0327
McDuffie 1	SC	30.65136	-88.0327
McDuffie 1	SE	30.65132	-88.0324
McDuffie 1	SW	30.65153	-88.0329
McDuffie 2	NE	30.65767	-88.0321
McDuffie 2	NW	30.65767	-88.0327
McDuffie 2	SE	30.65475	-88.0322
McDuffie 2	SW	30.65476	-88.0327
McDuffie 3	NE	30.66122	-88.032
McDuffie 3	NW	30.6612	-88.0326
McDuffie 3	SE	30.65767	-88.0321
McDuffie 3	SW	30.65767	-88.0327
Pinto	NE	30.67114	-88.0311
Pinto	NW	30.67147	-88.0321
Pinto	SC	30.66756	-88.0295
Pinto	SE	30.66782	-88.0289
Pinto	SW	30.66774	-88.0299
Upper Harbor	NE	30.71001	-88.0402
Upper Harbor	NW	30.71194	-88.0448
Upper Harbor	SE	30.69344	-88.0372
Upper Harbor	SW	30.69345	-88.0375

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The basic project purpose is to dredge and transport and place dredged material into the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), south of Dauphin Island.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The dredging and transportation of dredged material from the Alabama State Port Authority maintained Mobile River/ Dauphin Island channel reaches and berthing areas. The applicant proposes an annual average of 231,265 cubic yards of dredged material over 82-acre footprint of identified public berths for maintenance dredging, plus an additional 700,000 cubic yards of dredged material for the deepening. The authorized depth in the lower harbor is -54 feet and in the upper harbor it is -49 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). Dredging methodology for the berths consists of using clamshell/bucket dredge or a cutterhead dredge that would hydraulically excavate and

pump the dredged material into a split hopper barge for transport and disposal by dumping in the ODMDS.

**MOBILE, ALABAMA ODMDS:** The Mobile, Alabama ODMDS was designated by the EPA, pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, as suitable for the ocean disposal of dredged material. A Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) was developed for the Mobile, Alabama ODMDS and addresses the transportation and disposal of dredged material at the ODMDS. Additionally, the SMMP provides a framework for site monitoring and management as required by MPRSA.

The Mobile ODMDS became active in 1976 and was most recently used in 2021, with a total of 104 dredge events with 147,036,750 cubic yards of material placed at the site. The site is a 4.75 square- nautical-mile area. The site (see Figure 1) lies on the shallow continental shelf, 4 nautical miles offshore Mobile Point, Alabama with an average depth of 14 meters. Physical, chemical, and biological conditions at the ODMDS are described in, "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pensacola, FL, Mobile, AL, and Gulfport, MS Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation." (EPA, 1987).

Sampling and testing were conducted following standards as described in Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposal for Ocean Disposal, Testing Manual (OTM) (commonly called "The Green Book"), the Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Discharge in Waters of the U.S.- Testing Manual (ITM), and the Regional Implementation Manual, Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of the Ocean Disposal of Dredged Material in Southeastern Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Waters (SERIM).

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.

**DREDGING:** The expected methods for both new work and maintenance dredging in the berths consist of using either a cutterhead dredge or clamshell/bucket dredge or both to fill hopper barges (scows). Filled scows will be transported to the ODMDS via tugboat and bottom dumped consistent with requirements of the Gulf Regional Biological Opinion (GRBO). Operations involving scows bottom dumping offshore in the ODMDS will follow all guidance for tracking and reporting discharge of dredged material laid out in the Mobile ODMDS Site Management and Monitoring Plan. Some redistribution of localized mounds of viscous material (fluff) created by ship propellers inside the berths will be accomplished by drag bar.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The proposed dredging, transportation and placement of dredged material has been designed to avoid aquatic resources through the utilization of construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent potential impacts to surrounding waters. 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.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** The applicant received certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, as well as Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program.

This notice serves as a notification to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting a determination of potential water quality impacts to neighboring jurisdictions, 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. 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 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. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally recognized tribes will be performed 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.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicates the proposed activity will have no effect on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. The USACE, Mobile District has determined that the proposed transportation and placement of dredge material may be covered by the Gulf Regional Biological Opinion (GRBO). Further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be performed 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 quality, 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.

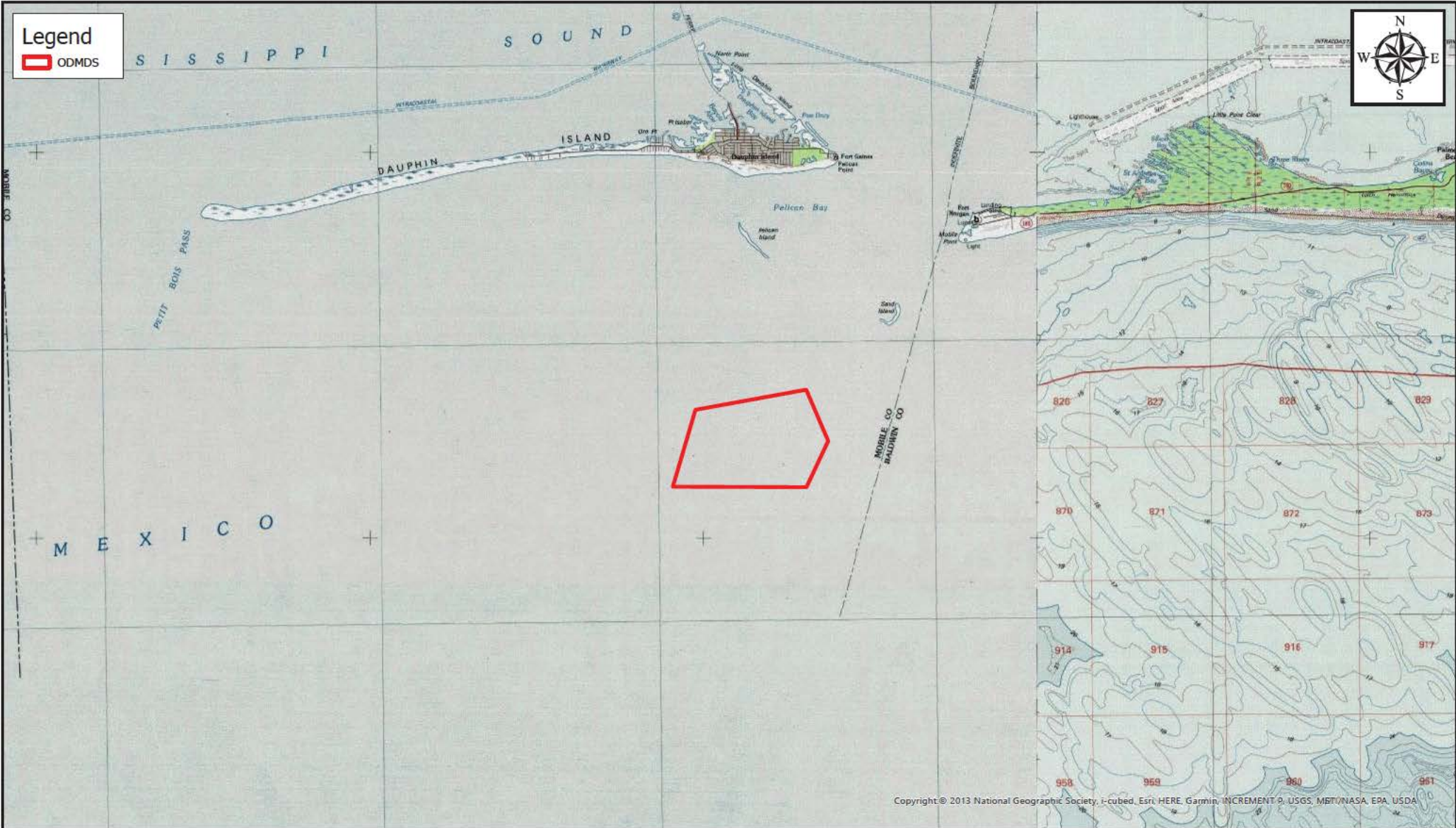
Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-01015-DJL** and should be directed to the project manager, Mr. Dana John Leach by e-mail at [Dana.J.leach@usace.army.mil](mailto:Dana.J.leach@usace.army.mil), or to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Dana John Leach, 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.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact Mr. Dana John Leach by e-mail at [Dana.J.Leach@usace.army.mil](mailto:Dana.J.Leach@usace.army.mil), or by phone at (251) 305-8963. Please refer to the above Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-01015-DJL**, in any communication concerning this project.

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



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Map Center: 88.115273°W 30.16443°N

Map Created by: Dane J. Leach, Senior Project Manager

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere  
 Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

