# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Comment Period Begins: 8 August 2017 Comment Period Ends: 8 September 2017 File Number: NAE-2016-01773 In Reply Refer To: Phillip Nimeskern Phone: (978) 318-8660 E-mail: phillip.w.nimeskern@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Mildred Bowler and Jack Gillon, 105 River Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts, 02191. This work is proposed in Weymouth Back River at Back River Road, Weymouth, Massachusetts. The site coordinates are: Latitude 42.25405°, Longitude -70.9334°.

The work involves constructing and retaining a 6' by 20' wooden pile and timber pier, a 20' long gangway with a 6' by 60' pile secured float (1.5 to 2.5 feet over bottom). Float stops on the piles will keep the float at a minimum height of 2.5' MLW. The pier will cross 13 linear feet of salt marsh. The bottom of the pier will be 5 to 7 feet above the surface of the marsh. This structure will provide waterway access for two adjacent residence properties.

The work is shown on the attached plans entitled "Back River Road, Weymouth, Massachusetts" on 5 sheets, and not dated.

The applicants have redesigned their project to avoid crossing a wider section of saltmarsh and to minimize the area of saltmarsh that will be shaded by the pier.

#### AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- x Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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 may reasonably 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, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers 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 Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess

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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.

## ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

This project will impact 0.011 acres of Essential Fish Habitat *(EFH)* for those species listed on the attached table. This habitat consists of subtidal estuarine. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect these species. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.

d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency concur with our determination.

## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable, the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

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The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (x) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (x) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- () Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Phillip Nimeskern at (978) 318-8660, (800) 343-4789, or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

#### THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Barbara H. Neroman

Barbara H. Newman Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at <u>bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</u>. You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

		Life Stage				
Species	Scientific Name	Eggs	Larvae	Juvenile	Adult	All Life Stages
American plaice	Hippoglossoides platessoides					х
Atlantic butterfish	Peprilus triacanthus	x	x			
Atlantic cod	Gadus morhua					x
Atlantic halibut	Hippoglossus hippoglossus		•			х
Atlantic herring	Clupea harengus					х
Atlantic mackerel	Scomber scombrus					x
Atlantic wolffish	Anarhichas lupus					x
Black sea bass	Centropristis striata			х	·X	
Bluefin tuna	Thunnus thynnus				x	
Bluefish	Pomatomus saltatrix			x	x	
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	x	x			
Little skate	Leucoraja erinacea			х	x	
Long-finned squid	Doryteuthis pealeii			x	x	
Ocean pout	Macrozoarces americanus					х
Pollock	Pollachius virens					x
Red hake	Urophycis chuss	X		x	×	
Scup	Stenotomus chrysops			x	x	
Sea scallop	Placopecten magellanicus					x
Silver hake or Whiting	Merluccius bilinearis					x
Spiny dogfish	Squalus acanthias				x	
Surf clam	Spissula solidissima					x
White hake	Urophycis tenuis					x
White shark	Carcharodon carcharias					x
Windowpane flounder	Scophthalmus aquosus					x
Winter flounder	Pseudopleuronectes americanus					x
Winter skate	Leucoraja ocellata			х		
Yellowtail flounder	Limanda ferruginea					x



Scale: 1" = 30' - 0"





