

**NEWBURYPORT HARBOR
PLUM ISLAND NORTH POINT
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS**

**§204 PROJECT
BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIALS**

**APPENDIX A
PERTINENT ORRESPONDENCE**

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**NEWBURYPORT HARBOR
AND PLUM ISLAND NORTH POINT
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS**

**DETAILED PROJECT REPORT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**APPENDIX A
PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE**

LIST OF PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE

Part 1 – Correspondence during Public Review of the Draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment and Preparation and Review of the Final Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment – Section to be Added After Conclusion of Draft Report Reviews

Part 2 – Correspondence during Preparation of the Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment

MA DCR – Letter to NAE – 23 December 2020

New England District – Letter to MA DCR – 4 August 2020

New England District – Memo to NAD – MDM Milestone – 30 July 2020

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Letter to NAE – 6 July 2020

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Letter to NAE – 29 June 2020

New England District – Coordinated Site Visit Letter to the Following – 19 May 2020

U.S. EPA Region I – Office of Environmental Coordination

U.S. EPA Region I – Wetlands Protection Unit

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – New England Field Office

NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division

NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office

Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Historical Commission

THPO Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe 19 May 2020

THPO Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) – 19 May 2020

Town of Newbury, Town Administrator – 19 May 2020

Town of Newbury. Executive Assistant to Board of Selectmen – 19 May 2020

Mayor, City of Newburyport – 19 May 2020

City of Newburyport, Chief of Staff – 19 May 2020

North Atlantic Division, CWID – Memo to NAE Approving FID – 6 November 2019

North Atlantic Division, Planning – Memo to CWID – Approves FID – 4 November 2019

New England District Memo to NAD – Transmitting Draft FID – 5 August 2019
MA DCR Study Request Letter to NAE – 7 September 2018
Massachusetts Historical Commission – Response to NAE – 20 August 2018
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources- Letter – 9 August 2018
New England District – Cultural Resources Coordination Letters – 1 August 2018
 Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Plum Island Residents’ Petition to Federal, State and Local Representatives – 3 Sept 2017
University of New Hampshire Letter to MRBA on Dune Retreat – 2 February 2017
Plum Island Residents’ Petition to USACE – 12 January 2016



Colonel John A. Atilano II
Commander/District Engineer
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

**RE: Newburyport Harbor FNP
Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - North Point, Plum Island**

Colonel Atilano:

Thank you for your August 4, 2020, letter requesting that the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) confirm our intent to act as Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS) for the subject project. We are pleased to learn that the Section 204 study performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assess the reuse of dredged material from Newburyport Harbor will recommend placement of dredged sand at North Point to delay additional loss of state land and potential impact to private properties. We look forward to receiving a copy of the final report.

Beneficial reuse of clean and compatible dredge material to nourish beaches is an important tool to offset coastal erosion and increase resilience with respect to coastal storms. We appreciate this opportunity to offset the greatly increased erosion rates at Plum Island Point.

As the Commonwealth agency with ownership of the property where the reuse is proposed, DCR intends to execute a Project Partnership Agreement with USACE upon federal approval of the project. We understand that our role as NFS will include a cost share of approximately \$195,000 - \$245,000 for 35% of the incremental construction cost between the base plan disposal option and beneficial reuse at North Point.

Gregory Robbins, DCR's Director of Waterways, will serve as the primary contact for this project. Greg's email address is gregory.robbs@mass.gov and his telephone number is 857-286-5393. We look forward to working cooperatively with USACE to implement this important project.

Sincerely


Jim Montgomery
Commissioner

12/3/2020
Date

cc: M. Habel, USACE
P. Geigis, DCR
G. Robbins, DCR

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 | 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-conservation-recreation



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Jim Montgomery, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

August 4, 2020

Planning Division

Jim Montgomery
Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Suite 600, 251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114-2104

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

We are nearing completion of the North Point, Plum Island feasibility study of beneficial use of dredged material in connection with the expected maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Project in Newburyport Harbor. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the Massachusetts DCR intends to be the Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS) for the design and construction phase of the beneficial use project.

This study is authorized by Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (33 USC Sec. 2326), as amended. The study investigated the beneficial use of dredged material as nourishment on North Point, Plum Island Beach in the Town of Newbury. The study area and recommended plan are shown in Figure 1.

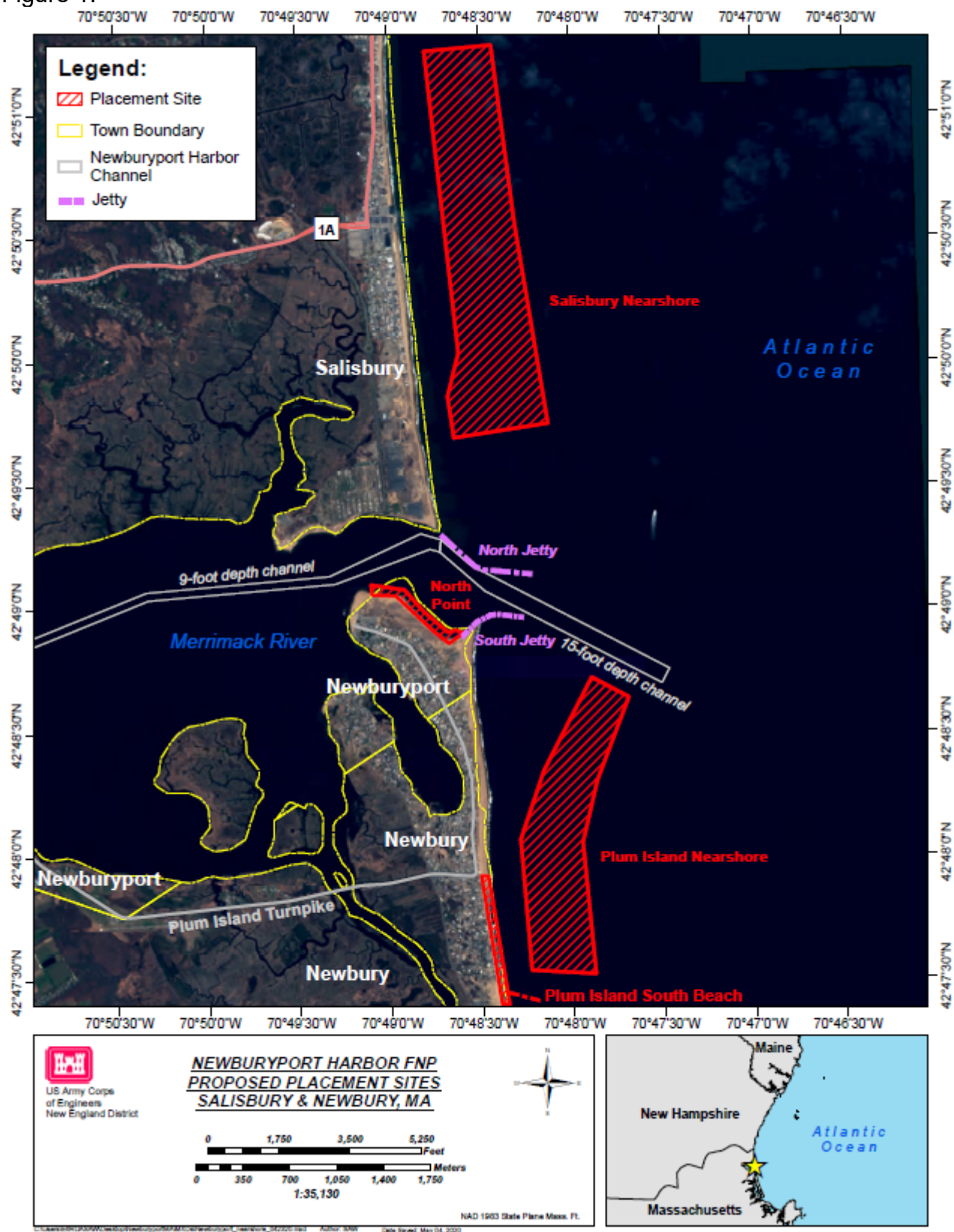
The Section 204 beneficial use project cost is approximately \$550,000. This is the incremental cost above the Federal base plan cost of \$6.4 million. The base plan includes placement of the dredged material nearshore (off the beaches of Salisbury and Plum Island) along with upland placement of a portion of the material in the vicinity of the Federal jetty. Cost sharing between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the NFS for the beneficial use is 65/35 percent, respectively. Execution of a Project Partnership Agreement between USACE and NFS is anticipated to occur in January 2021. Construction is estimated to take 3 to 4 months and is expected to occur sometime between the Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022, subject to the availability of maintenance funding for the Federal channel.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the Project Manager, Dr. Dot Lundberg, at (978) 318 - 8155.

Sincerely,

John A. Atilano
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Figure 1:





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

CENAE-PD

30 July 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FOR: Mr. Christopher Ricciardi, USACE-NAD, Fort Hamilton Military Community, 301 General Lee Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11252-6700

SUBJECT: Newburyport Harbor and Plum Island North Point, Newburyport, Massachusetts, Section 204 Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials Project – Feasibility Study – MSC Decision Milestone (MDM)

1. An MDM call was held on the subject study on 28 July 2020 from 01300 to 1400. The following persons participated:

NAD – Christopher Ricciardi, John O'Connor, Naomi Fraenkel, Valerie Cappola, Pat Falcigno, Roselle Stern, Young Kim, Donald Cresitello, and Henry Gruber

NAE – John Kennelly, Mark Habel, Mark Cutter, Jere Masey, Danielle Pruell and Josh Mulvey

2. Introductions were made. John Kennelly recapped the good pre-brief on 17 July. Mr. Gruber explained that the vertical team is looking to resolve remaining issues and get the go-ahead for public release. Ms. Fraenkel was looking forward to the BCR discussion.

3. Mark Habel gave the MDM Powerpoint presentation as the PM, Dot Lundberg, was absent due to an injury. The slides had been previously provided to the meeting participants as read-ahead material. The presentation covered: study background and location, sponsor, purpose, problems and opportunities, objectives and constraints, formulation and evaluation of alternatives, tentatively selected plan, current working cost estimate, economics and cost-benefit analysis, environmental compliance, real estate requirements, and milestone schedule.

4. Ms. Fraenkel questioned the relatively high BCR for the project. Mr. Habel and Mr. Masey explained the nature of the Federal Base Plan for maintenance of the navigation project with both nearshore and onshore components due to the need to prevent flanking of the south jetty, and the difference in dredge plants for the Base and 204 plans. Ms. Pruell also answered questions on the extent of properties included in the benefit analysis, and how the construction methods and value of the properties to be protected combined to yield the BCR.

5. Ms. Cappola questioned whether provisions for public access were adequate. The locations of parking areas and the fill area's location in a state park were pointed out. It was suggested that the report provide additional detail on public access and parking and their distance to the areas to be nourished. Mr. Cresitello said that public access

points should be every 1/2 mile within the project area. The District will cite and discuss the requirements for public access, including parking, as found on page 13 of ER 1165-2-130 in the DPR. Other than the State/City parking lot at North Point that was highlighted in the presentation as the project's staging area for construction, the next nearest parking areas open to public use are located one mile south of the south jetty at Newbury. The existing North Point parking area is located 800 to 1200 feet from the northwest and southeast ends of the beachfill area included exclusively in the Section 204 project. This is distinguished from the O&M base plan area of beachfill which is 1200 to 1800 feet (1/3 of a mile) distant, some of which would also be increased in elevation under the 204 project. These areas will be identified in the report text and graphics. It will also be noted that there are no areas available for development of additional public parking without taking and demolishing homes or leveling vegetated dune areas. It will also be noted in the DPR that prior to the serious erosion beginning in 2015 the north Point Reservation was almost entirely vegetated dune field that was closed to the public except for limited foot traffic to the beach. Beach activities were largely limited to bird watching, dog walking, and surf casting in the inlet. The narrow inlet beach area was not supportive of other typical beach recreation activities, or attractive for such use especially given the proximity of the ocean beach to the east.

6. Ms. Fraenkel reminded the District that recommended plan costs needed to be presented in an FY21 price level, since approval was not likely until FY21. The District has answered Patty Bolton's questions from the pre-brief also.

7. Mr. Kim questioned the construction method (pipeline for the 204 project) and what if we don't get that. Mr. Habel explained that the dredge type would be specified in the solicitation and contract.

8. Ms. Cappola asked about the review schedule. Mr. Habel explained that the draft would be released in August and the review and approval of the final report would occur in September to October 2020.

9. Mr. Ricciardi polled the review team and all responded that their questions had been answered. Mr. O'Conner Mr. Ricciardi gave permission to proceed to release of the draft Detailed Project Report for concurrent public review and agency technical review.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Mark L. Habel
District Navigation Technical Expert
Planning Division
New England District



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114-2136

(617) 626-1200 FAX: (617) 626-1240

July 6, 2020

Ms. Dorothea Lundberg
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

RE: Plum Island Continuing Authorities Program Feasibility Studies

Ms. Lundberg,

On May 29, 2020 the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) participated in a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar to discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies undertaken to address the beneficial reuse of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to review these two studies and provide comments to be addressed in the draft Environmental Assessments (EA) to be released in July 2020.

North Point Section 204 Study

Under CAP Section 204, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is considering the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point in Newburyport. The project proposes to place approximately 220,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand dredged from the Merrimack River (Newburyport Harbor FNP) onto North Point. This area is located inside the mouth of the Merrimack River upstream of the USACE owned South Jetty. The federal base plan involves disposal of the material in nearshore disposal locations offshore of Salisbury and Plum Island. The 204 study, if findings are approved, would allow for a 65/35 federal/non-federal cost share of the additional cost to put the sand on the beach. CZM has the following comments on this Section 204 study.

- Of primary concern, understanding the cause(s) of the erosion is important to determining how long the beneficially reused sediment will provide benefits in protecting the shoreline from erosion. The EA should evaluate the overall system contributing to the present loss of sediment from North Point including the effects of the recently repaired South Jetty.
- The towns of Salisbury and Newburyport have an existing agreement for sharing sediment from the federal navigation project for beneficial reuse. Based on the agreement, Salisbury is next in line to receive 75% of the sand. This agreement would need to be modified to allow for all the sand to go to North Point in Newburyport in the next round of dredging.
- The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns the North Point property to be nourished. If the project moves forward agreements with DCR would need to be secured.



- The local sponsor of the non-federal share of the 35% cost will need to be identified.
- Assuming that the local sponsor will be responsible for permits, local permits for the placement of this volume of sand in this location will need to be obtained. Existing permits for nourishment of the dune system may not be sufficient, as the area targeted for nourishment includes inter- or sub-tidal areas due to ongoing erosion, and the 220,000 CY of sediment is significantly more than was previously permitted.

South Beach Section 103 Study.

Under CAP Section 103, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is considering alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury. The project proposes to place an undetermined volume of sand to the area south of the Center Island Groin. Sand is proposed to be obtained from an upland quarry, material dredged from the Merrimack River (Newburyport Harbor FNP), or from a nearshore bar located seaward of the nourishment area. CZM has the following comments on this Section 103 study.

- Obtaining the sand from an upland quarry, has the least amount of impact from an environmental impact standpoint but will likely be more expensive than other options.
- The nearshore borrow site identified during the webinar may be located in the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan's Ocean Management Planning Area. If this is the case, the removal of sand from this site would be subject to review and provisions of the Plan.
- The proposed nearshore borrow site is seaward of the existing permitted nearshore disposal site proposed for placement of sand from the Piscataqua River Dredging Project (Portsmouth Harbor FNP); any impacts to this location or the effectiveness of placing sediment in the existing disposal site should be considered.
- Sediment in the nearshore area already provides protection to the subject beach area. CZM recommends that any sediment used for beneficial nourishment of the beach is sourced from a location outside the nearshore/littoral reach of the same system.
- Structures and activities on South Beach, including revetments, possible alterations of existing groins, and ongoing beach scraping activities may be affecting erosion rates and may impact the effectiveness and longevity of sediment to be placed on South Beach. These structures and activities should be evaluated when determining the feasibility and longevity of nourishment in this location.

Federal Consistency Review

The proposed project is subject to CZM federal consistency review and if so must be found to be consistent with CZM's enforceable program policies. For further information on this process, please contact Robert Boeri, Project Review Coordinator, at 617-626-1050, or visit the CZM web site at www.mass.gov/czm.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Boeri
Project Review Coordinator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

June 29, 2010

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: Scoping Input for the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies for work at North Point and South Beach, Newbury, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Lundberg:

We are writing in response to your letter dated May 19, 2020 requesting scoping input related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) analysis of the projects at North Point (CAP Section 204) to beneficially use dredged material and the South Beach (CAP Section 103) which is intended to address beach erosion and reduce hurricane and storm damage. In addition to your letter, we based our comments on a virtual site visit hosted by the Corps on May 29, 2020. It is our understanding that the Corps will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that describes the impacts of the proposed work associated with each project.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

Based on scoping provided this nourishment project would place approximately 220,000 cubic yards of dredged shoal material from the Newburyport Federal Navigation Project (planned for 2021) on North Point. The Corps expects impacts from this beneficial placement to be largely limited to short-term periods of elevated water turbidity in, and adjacent to, the dredging and placement areas. Turbidity can impede fish migration, particularly anadromous species entering the Merrimack River to spawn, such as alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). Turbidity can also result in the burial of fish eggs for species that spawn in nearshore waters such as winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) as material suspended in the water column settles out. While turbidity levels should return to ambient levels soon after dredging and placement activities are completed, it will be important to understand the expected duration and timing for these activities.

EPA requests that the Corps EA fully evaluate how the timing and duration of dredging and placement activities might affect migrating fish, as well as possible impacts to vulnerable life stages of fish present in and adjacent to the work areas during operations, and identify the appropriate actions that will be taken to avoid adverse impacts to these important fish species. During the May 29, 2020 virtual site visit, the Corps mentioned that fishery issues will be discussed during consultation with NOAA Fisheries. We support that consultation and

recommend that the Corps also consult with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) on identifying species of concern and appropriate time-of-year (TOY) restrictions, if any, for all aspects of the proposed activities. MA DMF has area-specific fisheries resource information based on its long-term marine resource assessments throughout state waters. MA DMF generally recommends that a TOY restriction of February 15 – June 30 be applied to dredging activities in state waters north of Cape Cod for the protection of spawning winter flounder.

During the virtual site visit the Corps stated that no eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) was found in the area off North Point, but there was no mention of how that was determined. We recommend that the EA include any data or documents, such as a habitat or resource assessment of the area, to support this conclusion. Of greatest interest are the subtidal and intertidal areas immediately adjacent to the nourishment site, as well as any vegetated bottom that may be impacted by pipes, equipment, or barges used in the movement of material from the dredge site to nourishment site.

South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

According to information provided by the Corps, the proposed project at South Beach would address coastal storm damages for an approximate 2,500-foot stretch of shoreline south of the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA. The options identified by the Corps as source material are upland, a nearshore “borrow” site, and overdredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project.

The proposed Plum Island nearshore borrow site is located just offshore (east) of the area off South Beach proposed for the near-shore placement of nourishment material. The placement area is within the 20-30-foot depth contours, as described by the Corps during the virtual site visit. We recommend that the Corps EA describe benthic habitats that could be affected by dredging at the borrow site and placement of that material at the nourishment site. The analysis should also describe the species likely to utilize affected habitats. We also recommend that the Corps conduct bathymetric and/or side scan surveys of the borrow and nourishment sites, as well as representative sediment sampling throughout these areas. This information will help support the Corps’ selection of the appropriate source material for this project. As with the review of appropriate TOY restrictions, the Corps’ evaluation of fish habitat of these areas would benefit from input from MA DMF, which has collected fish and invertebrate data in this general area for many years.

In addition to assessing the potential impacts to benthic habitats located within the proposed nourishment and borrow sites, the EA for this Corps Section 103 project should describe the role existing hard structures along the affected shoreline may have in contributing to the erosion problem on South Beach. The aerial photographs presented in the virtual site visit presentation clearly show that erosion is most severe on the north side of the groins located on South Beach. This pattern of erosion adjacent to rock groins is consistent with many other locations throughout New England where erosion is a problem. As part of the long-term strategy for managing this area and protecting it from future erosion, the Corps should consider the removal of these groins. Similarly, other hard structures such as revetments constructed by private landowners should be evaluated to determine if they too are causing erosion to adjacent shorelines.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the EA. We are available to answer questions as you work to prepare the EA and look forward to reviewing the analysis when it is complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Timmermann", written in a cursive style.

Timothy Timmermann, Director
Office of Environmental Review



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Timothy L. Timmermann, Director
Office of Environmental Review
EPA New England-Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code OEP 06-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Mr. Timmermann:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

North Point is located at the northern portion of Plum Island within the City of Newburyport, along the south side of the Merrimack River inlet. Plum Island is a barrier island that stretches along approximately eight miles of the northeast coast of Essex County, just north of Cape Ann (Attachment 1). North Point is a State reservation operated by the City of Newburyport under agreement with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR). The beach at North Point has experienced severe erosion due to coastal storms and wave action, which has increased the risk of storm damage to residential and commercial buildings that are landward of the beach. The erosion area at North Point is approximately 2,300 feet long to the west of the South Jetty. Much of the area's beach and dune lands fronting the river inlet have been lost over the past eight years due to coastal erosion. Placing dredged material on the beach would abate the erosion and lower the risk of property damage. Maintenance dredging of shoaled areas of the Newburyport Federal Navigation Project (FNP) is likely to occur in 2021, and would provide about 220,000 cubic yards of dredged material for beneficial placement on North Point. The Federal Base Plan for the dredging project is nearshore placement off of Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Beach, and the beneficial use alternative consists of direct placement of dredged material at North Point.

South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

The proposed project at South Beach would address coastal storm damages for an approximate 2,500 foot stretch of shoreline south of the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA (Attachment 2). The area is vulnerable to erosion caused by winter storms due to its exposure to the Atlantic Ocean. Several residential buildings were lost during a March 2013 Nor'easter. The proposed project would involve the placement of sand to nourish the beach, which would diminish the risk of property damage caused by coastal storms. Material placed for beach nourishment would be sourced from an upland quarry, material dredged from the Newburyport Harbor FNP, or material borrowed from nearshore bar areas seaward of the nourishment zone.

The Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and obtaining a Water Quality Certificate to address impacts to the environment. The proposed virtual site visit will include members of state and federal natural resource agencies, town officials and non-governmental organizations. We are requesting written preliminary comments on the proposed project, which will be described in more detail during the virtual site visit. Comments should include any concerns that need to be addressed during the planning of the proposed projects. Comments in support of these projects as presented are also encouraged. We request that comments be submitted within 30 days of the virtual meeting.

The webinar meeting can be accessed at the following website:
<https://usace.webex.com/meet/dot.j.lundberg>. We look forward to your contribution towards these projects. If you or your staff have any questions about the project or webinar, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me, at (978) 318-8155 (Dot.J.Lundberg@usace.army.mil) or Reid Lichwell, Biologist at (978) 318-8148 (Reid.E.Lichwell@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

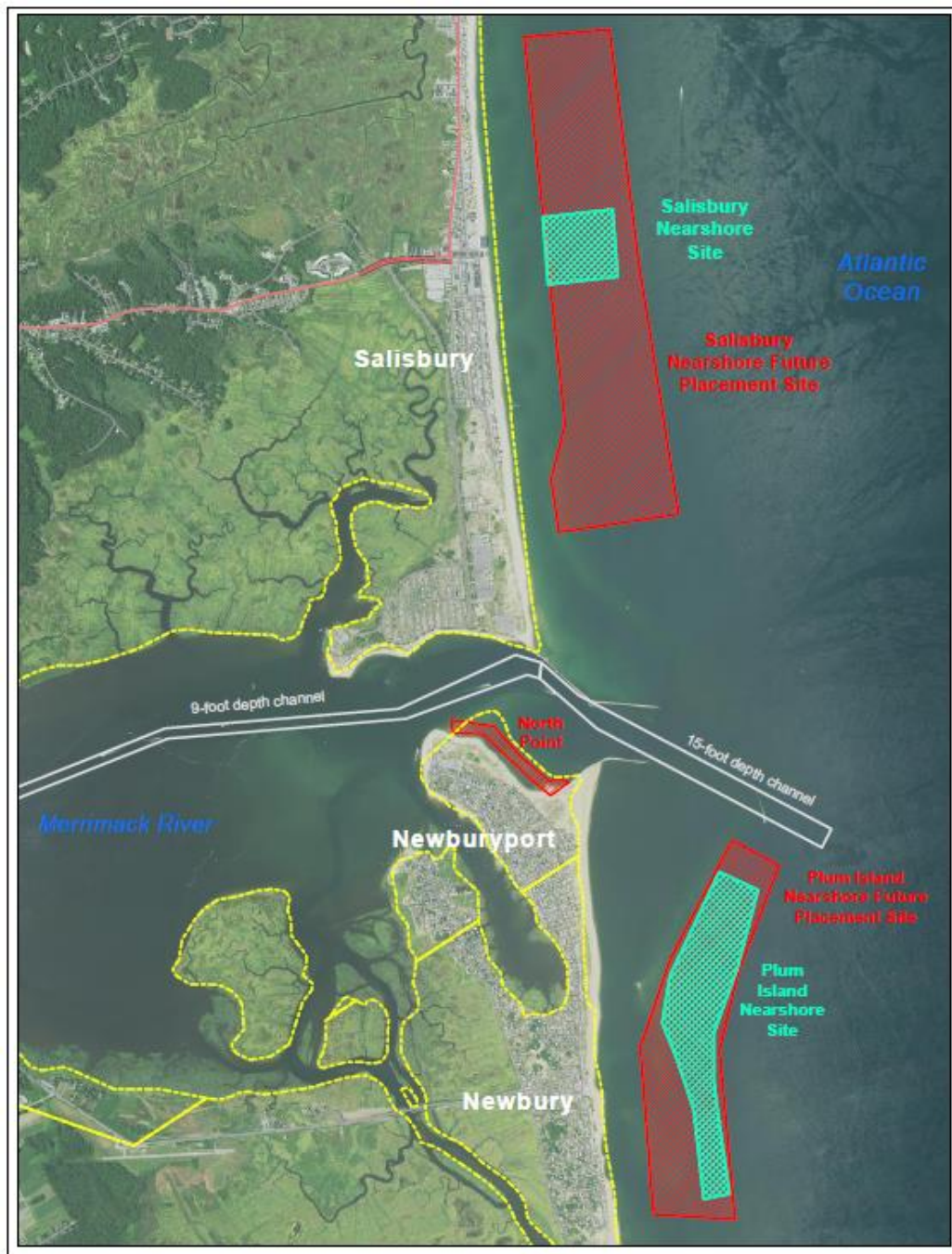
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Date: 2020.05.19 15:55:49 -0400

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



LEGEND	
	Nearshore Site
	Future Placement Site
	Newburyport Harbor Channel
	Town Boundary

TITLE
North Point Placement Areas
Newburyport, MA

LOCATION MAP



L&B Engineering, Inc.
 100 Academy Street
 Newburyport, MA 01860
 Tel: 978.366.1111
 Fax: 978.366.1112
 Web: www.lnb.com

Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Jackie Leclaire
Wetlands Protection Unit
U.S EPA New England, Region 1
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Ms. Leclaire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

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South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

The proposed project at South Beach would address coastal storm damages for an approximate 2,500 foot stretch of shoreline south of the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA (Attachment 2). The area is vulnerable to erosion caused by winter storms due to its exposure to the Atlantic Ocean. Several residential buildings were lost during a March 2013 Nor'easter. The proposed project would involve the placement of sand to nourish the beach, which would diminish the risk of property damage caused by coastal storms. Material placed for beach nourishment would be sourced from an upland quarry, material dredged from the Newburyport Harbor FNP, or material borrowed from nearshore bar areas seaward of the nourishment zone.

The Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and obtaining a Water Quality Certificate to address impacts to the environment. The proposed virtual site visit will include members of state and federal natural resource agencies, town officials and non-governmental organizations. We are requesting written preliminary comments on the proposed project, which will be described in more detail during the virtual site visit. Comments should include any concerns that need to be addressed during the planning of the proposed projects. Comments in support of these projects as presented are also encouraged. We request that comments be submitted within 30 days of the virtual meeting.

The webinar meeting can be accessed at the following website: <https://usace.webex.com/meet/dot.j.lundberg>. We look forward to your contribution towards these projects. If you or your staff have any questions about the project or webinar, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (978) 318-8155 (Dot.J.Lundberg@usace.army.mil) or Reid Lichwell, Biologist at (978) 318-8148 (Reid.E.Lichwell@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Thomas R. Chapman, Supervisor
New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

Dear Mr. Chapman:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

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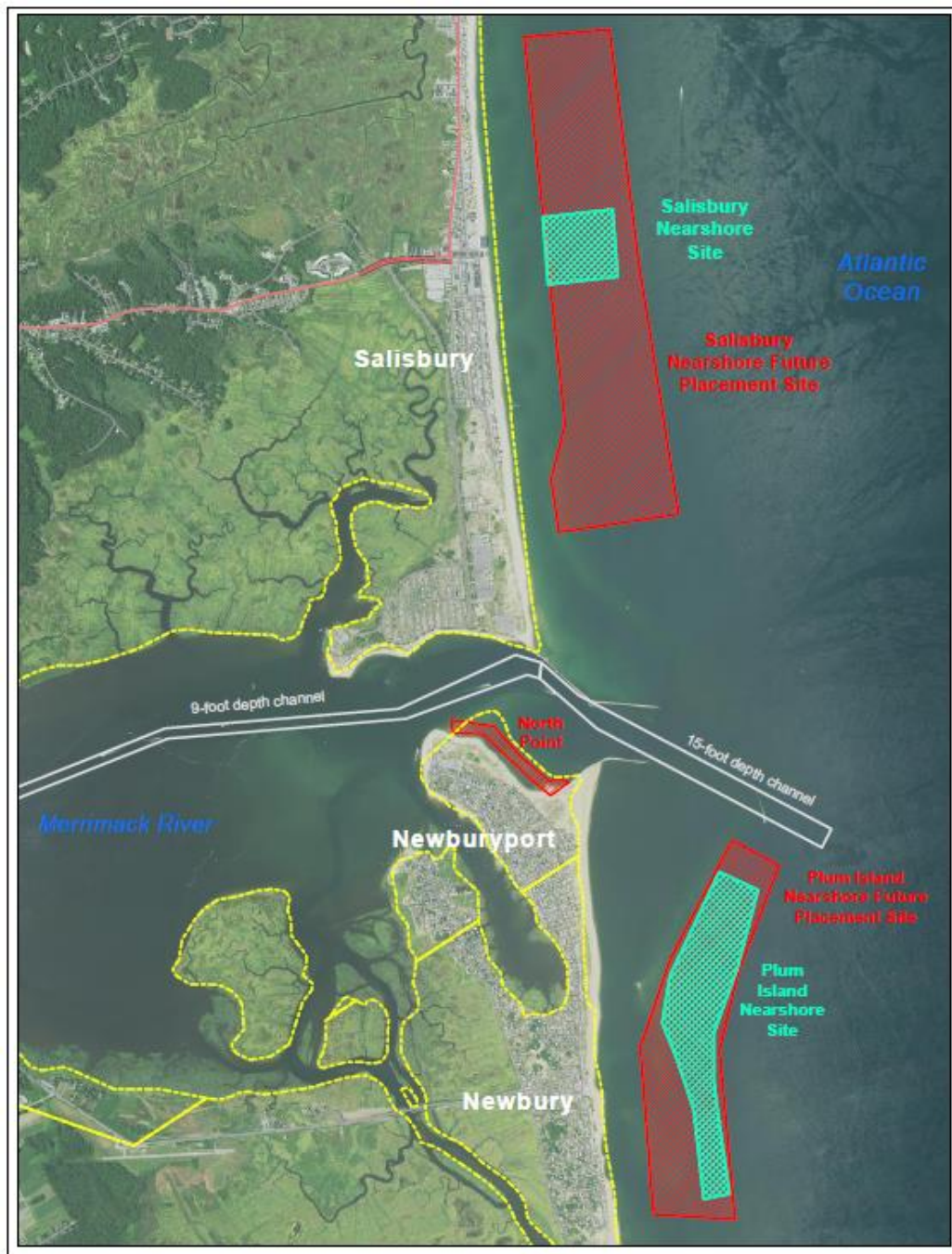
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Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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LEGEND	
	Nearshore Site
	Future Placement Site
	Newburyport Harbor Channel
	Town Boundary

TITLE
North Point Placement Areas
Newburyport, MA

LOCATION MAP



L&L Survey Group of Engineers
 New England District
 100 Main Street, Suite 200
 Newburyport, MA 01950
 Tel: 603.881.1111
 Fax: 603.881.1112
 Web: www.llsurvey.com

Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Louis A. Chiarella
Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation
NOAA Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
Habitat Conservation Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Chiarella:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Mark Murray-Brown
Section 7 Coordinator
Protected Resources Division
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Murray-Brown:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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Project Manager

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Robert Boeri
The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114-2138

Dear Mr. Boeri:

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Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Eric Worrall
Regional Director
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887

Dear Mr. Worrall:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Ronald Amidon
Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game
251 Causeway St
Suite 400
Boston, MA. 02114-2152

Dear Mr. Amidon:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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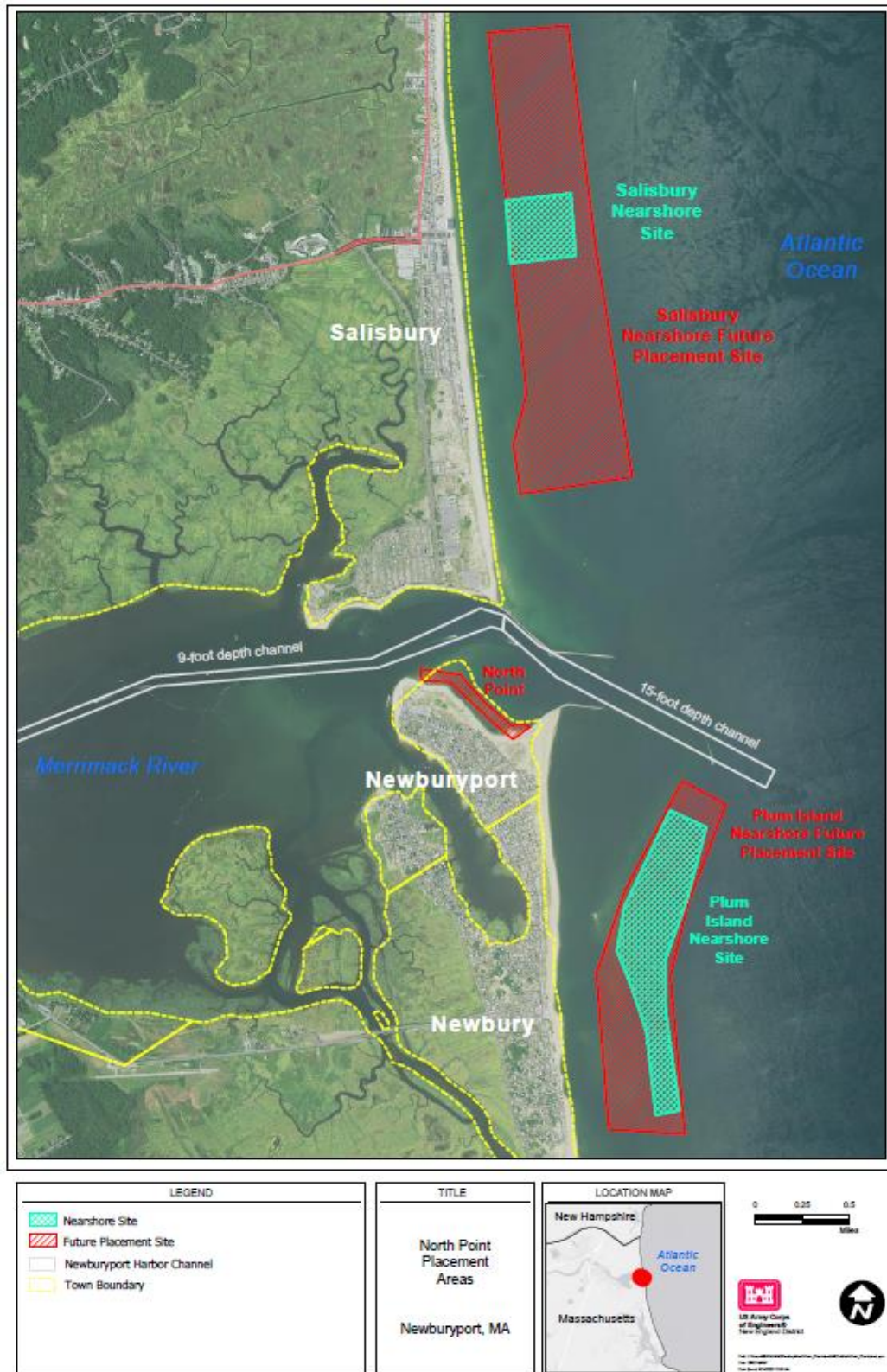
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Thomas French
Assistant Director
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230
West Boylston, MA 01583

Dear Mr. French:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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North Point is located at the northern portion of Plum Island within the City of Newburyport, along the south side of the Merrimack River inlet. Plum Island is a barrier island that stretches along approximately eight miles of the northeast coast of Essex County, just north of Cape Ann (Attachment 1). North Point is a State reservation operated by the City of Newburyport under agreement with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR). The beach at North Point has experienced severe erosion due to coastal storms and wave action, which has increased the risk of storm damage to residential and commercial buildings that are landward of the beach. The erosion area at North Point is approximately 2,300 feet long to the west of the South Jetty. Much of the area's beach and dune lands fronting the river inlet have been lost over the past eight years due to coastal erosion. Placing dredged material on the beach would abate the erosion and lower the risk of property damage. Maintenance dredging of shoaled areas of the Newburyport Federal Navigation Project (FNP) is likely to occur in 2021, and would provide about 220,000 cubic yards of dredged material for beneficial placement on North Point. The Federal Base Plan for the dredging project is nearshore placement off of Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Beach, and the beneficial use alternative consists of direct placement of dredged material at North Point.

South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

The proposed project at South Beach would address coastal storm damages for an approximate 2,500 foot stretch of shoreline south of the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA (Attachment 2). The area is vulnerable to erosion caused by winter storms due to its exposure to the Atlantic Ocean. Several residential buildings were lost during a March 2013 Nor'easter. The proposed project would involve the placement of sand to nourish the beach, which would diminish the risk of property damage caused by coastal storms. Material placed for beach nourishment would be sourced from an upland quarry, material dredged from the Newburyport Harbor FNP, or material borrowed from nearshore bar areas seaward of the nourishment zone.

The Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and obtaining a Water Quality Certificate to address impacts to the environment. The proposed virtual site visit will include members of state and federal natural resource agencies, town officials and non-governmental organizations. We are requesting written preliminary comments on the proposed project, which will be described in more detail during the virtual site visit. Comments should include any concerns that need to be addressed during the planning of the proposed projects. Comments in support of these projects as presented are also encouraged. We request that comments be submitted within 30 days of the virtual meeting.

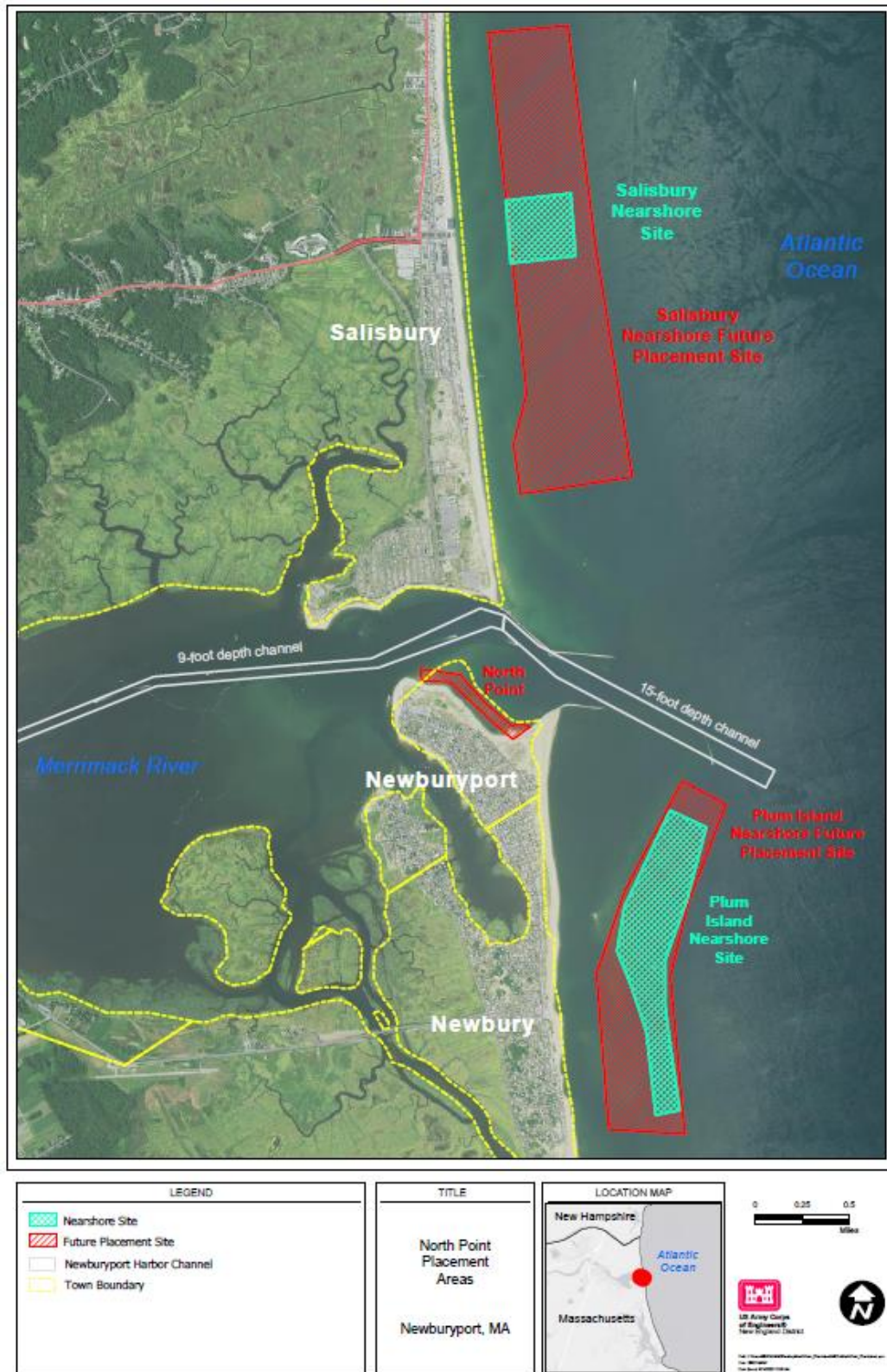
The webinar meeting can be accessed at the following website: <https://usace.webex.com/meet/dot.j.lundberg>. We look forward to your contribution towards these projects. If you or your staff have any questions about the project or webinar, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (978) 318-8155 (Dot.J.Lundberg@usace.army.mil) or Reid Lichwell, Biologist at (978) 318-8148 (Reid.E.Lichwell@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Commissioner George N. Peterson, Jr.
Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

North Point is located at the northern portion of Plum Island within the City of Newburyport, along the south side of the Merrimack River inlet. Plum Island is a barrier island that stretches along approximately eight miles of the northeast coast of Essex County, just north of Cape Ann (Attachment 1). North Point is a State reservation operated by the City of Newburyport under agreement with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR). The beach at North Point has experienced severe erosion due to coastal storms and wave action, which has increased the risk of storm damage to residential and commercial buildings that are landward of the beach. The erosion area at North Point is approximately 2,300 feet long to the west of the South Jetty. Much of the area's beach and dune lands fronting the river inlet have been lost over the past eight years due to coastal erosion. Placing dredged material on the beach would abate the erosion and lower the risk of property damage. Maintenance dredging of shoaled areas of the Newburyport Federal Navigation Project (FNP) is likely to occur in 2021, and would provide about 220,000 cubic yards of dredged material for beneficial placement on North Point. The Federal Base Plan for the dredging project is nearshore placement off of Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Beach, and the beneficial use alternative consists of direct placement of dredged material at North Point.

South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

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The Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and obtaining a Water Quality Certificate to address impacts to the environment. The proposed virtual site visit will include members of state and federal natural resource agencies, town officials and non-governmental organizations. We are requesting written preliminary comments on the proposed project, which will be described in more detail during the virtual site visit. Comments should include any concerns that need to be addressed during the planning of the proposed project specifically with regards to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Comments in support of these projects as presented are also encouraged. We request that comments be submitted within 30 days of the virtual meeting.

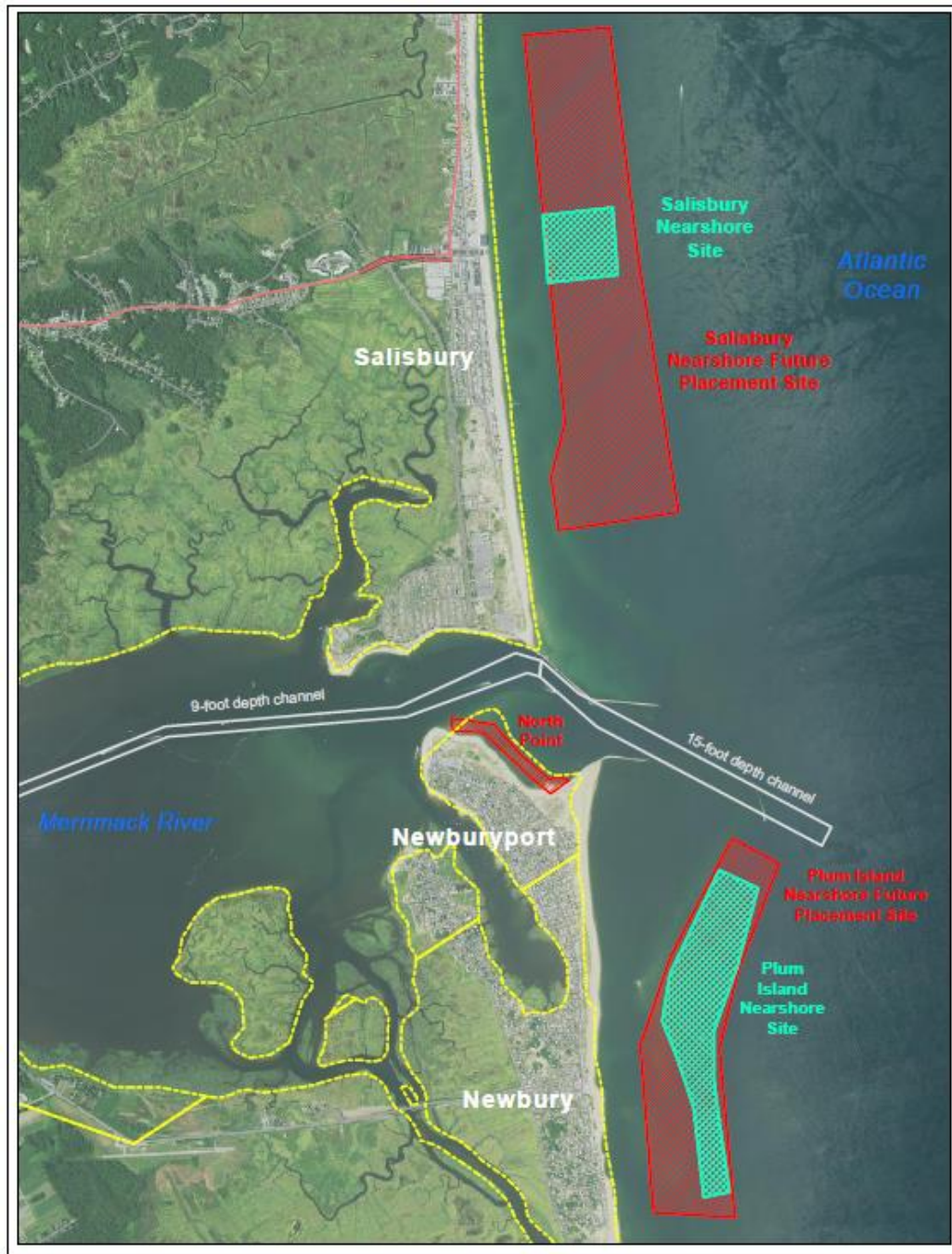
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Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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LEGEND	
	Nearshore Site
	Future Placement Site
	Newburyport Harbor Channel
	Town Boundary

TITLE
North Point Placement Areas
Newburyport, MA



L&L Survey Group of Engineers
 New England District
 100 Main Street, Suite 200
 Newburyport, MA 01950
 Tel: 978.366.1111
 Fax: 978.366.1112
 Web: www.l&l-survey.com

Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Brona Simon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Simon:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Ramona Peters
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649

Dear Ms. Peters:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Bettina Washington
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
20 Black Brook Rd.
Aquinnah, MA 02535

Dear Ms. Washington:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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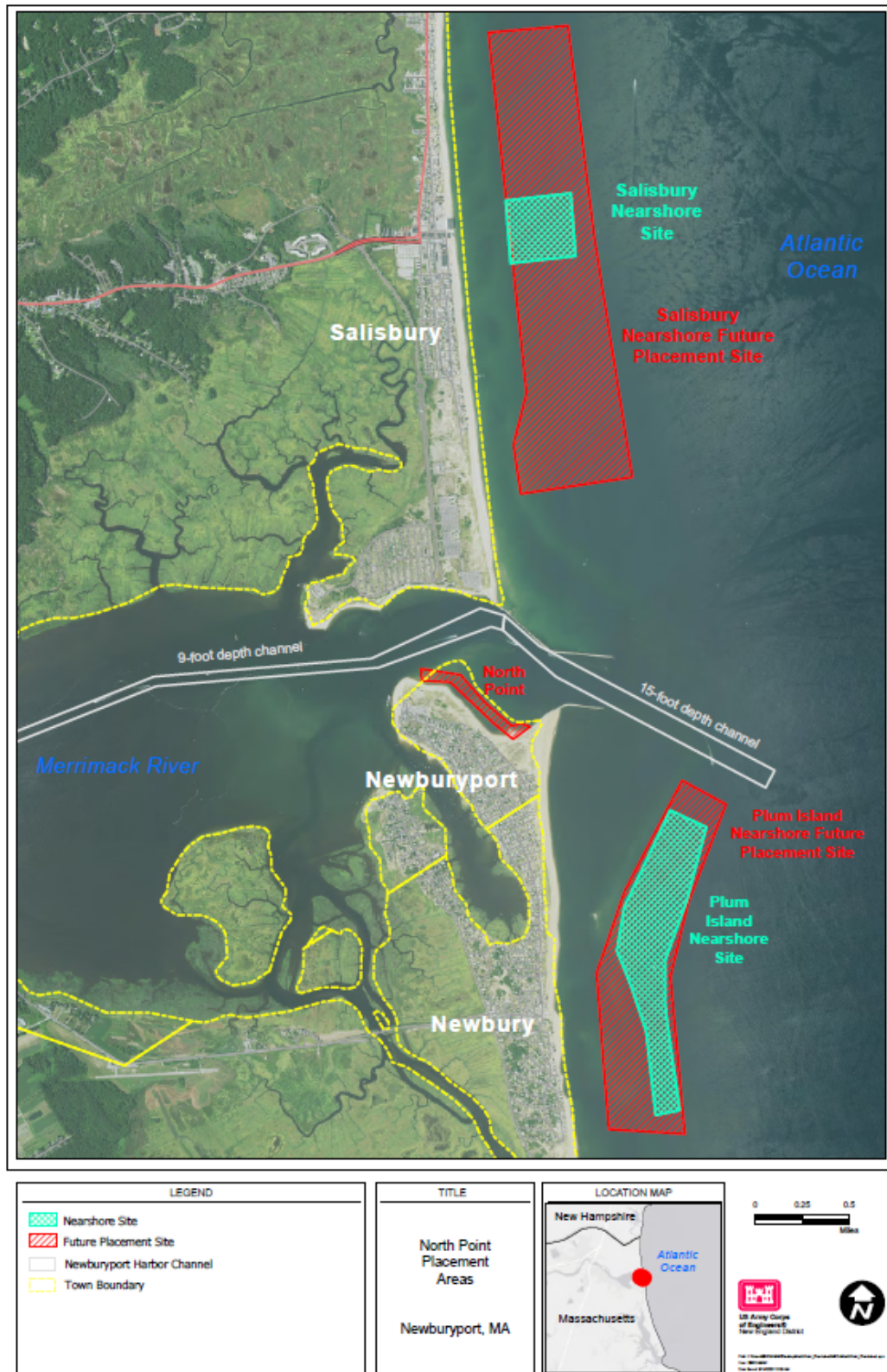
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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Tracy Blais
Town Administrator
Town of Newbury
12 Kent Way, Suite 101
Byfield, MA 01922
978.465.0862 X301

Dear Ms. Blais:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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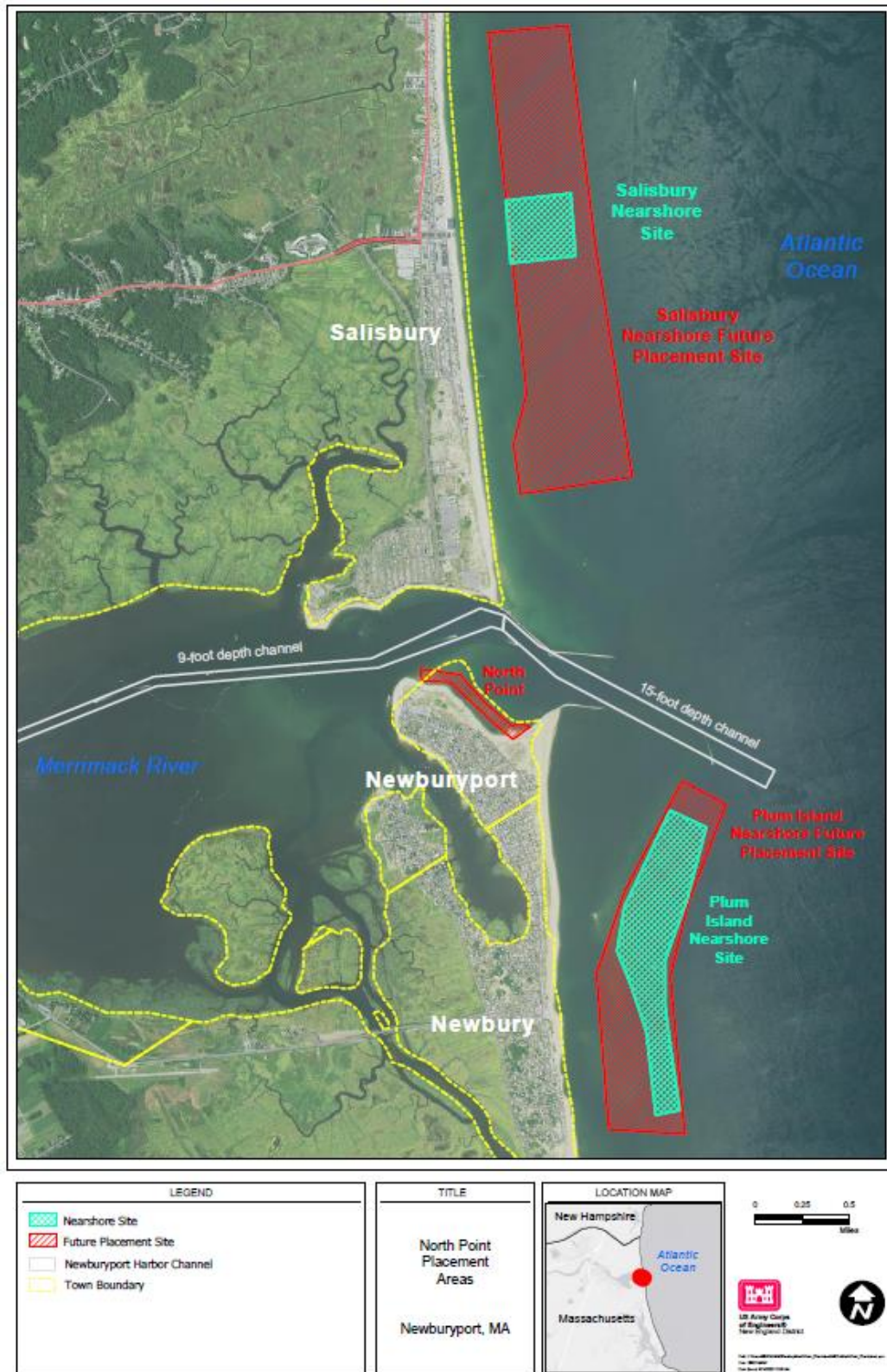
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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

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Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Ms. Ellen Jameson
Executive Administrator
Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator
12 Kent Way, Suite 101
Newbury, MA 01922
Phone: 978-465-0862 X301

Dear Ms. Jameson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Donna D. Holaday, Mayor
City of Newburyport
60 Pleasant St.
PO Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Ms. Holaday:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NED), the City of Newburyport, and the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts would like to formally invite a member of your staff to a virtual coordinated site visit via online webinar, on May 29, 2020 at 10:00am. This meeting will discuss two Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) feasibility studies to address beneficial use of dredged material and storm damage risk on Plum Island. Under CAP Section 204 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1986, as amended), USACE will consider the beneficial placement of dredged material at Plum Island's North Point, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Under CAP Section 103 (authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended), a USACE feasibility study will look at alternatives associated with reducing hurricane and storm damage risk at South Beach in Newbury, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this virtual site visit is to obtain your comments on the proposed projects, as currently planned. Location maps are enclosed to aid you in your review of the project areas.

North Point (CAP Section 204) - Beneficial uses of dredged material

North Point is located at the northern portion of Plum Island within the City of Newburyport, along the south side of the Merrimack River inlet. Plum Island is a barrier island that stretches along approximately eight miles of the northeast coast of Essex County, just north of Cape Ann (Attachment 1). North Point is a State reservation operated by the City of Newburyport under agreement with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR). The beach at North Point has experienced severe erosion due to coastal storms and wave action, which has increased the risk of storm damage to residential and commercial buildings that are landward of the beach. The erosion area at North Point is approximately 2,300 feet long to the west of the South Jetty. Much of the area's beach and dune lands fronting the river inlet have been lost over the past eight years due to coastal erosion. Placing dredged material on the beach would abate the erosion and lower the risk of property damage. Maintenance dredging of shoaled areas of the Newburyport Federal Navigation Project (FNP) is likely to occur in 2021, and would provide about 220,000 cubic yards of dredged material for beneficial placement on North Point. The Federal Base Plan for the dredging project is nearshore placement off of Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Beach, and the beneficial use alternative consists of direct placement of dredged material at North Point.

South Beach (CAP Section 103) - Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction

The proposed project at South Beach would address coastal storm damages for an approximate 2,500 foot stretch of shoreline south of the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA (Attachment 2). The area is vulnerable to erosion caused by winter storms due to its exposure to the Atlantic Ocean. Several residential buildings were lost during a March 2013 Nor'easter. The proposed project would involve the placement of sand to nourish the beach, which would diminish the risk of property damage caused by coastal storms. Material placed for beach nourishment would be sourced from an upland quarry, material dredged from the Newburyport Harbor FNP, or material borrowed from nearshore bar areas seaward of the nourishment zone.

The Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and obtaining a Water Quality Certificate to address impacts to the environment. The proposed virtual site visit will include members of state and federal natural resource agencies, town officials and non-governmental organizations. We are requesting written preliminary comments on the proposed project, which will be described in more detail during the virtual site visit. Comments should include any concerns that need to be addressed during the planning of the proposed projects. Comments in support of these projects as presented are also encouraged. We request that comments be submitted within 30 days of the virtual meeting.

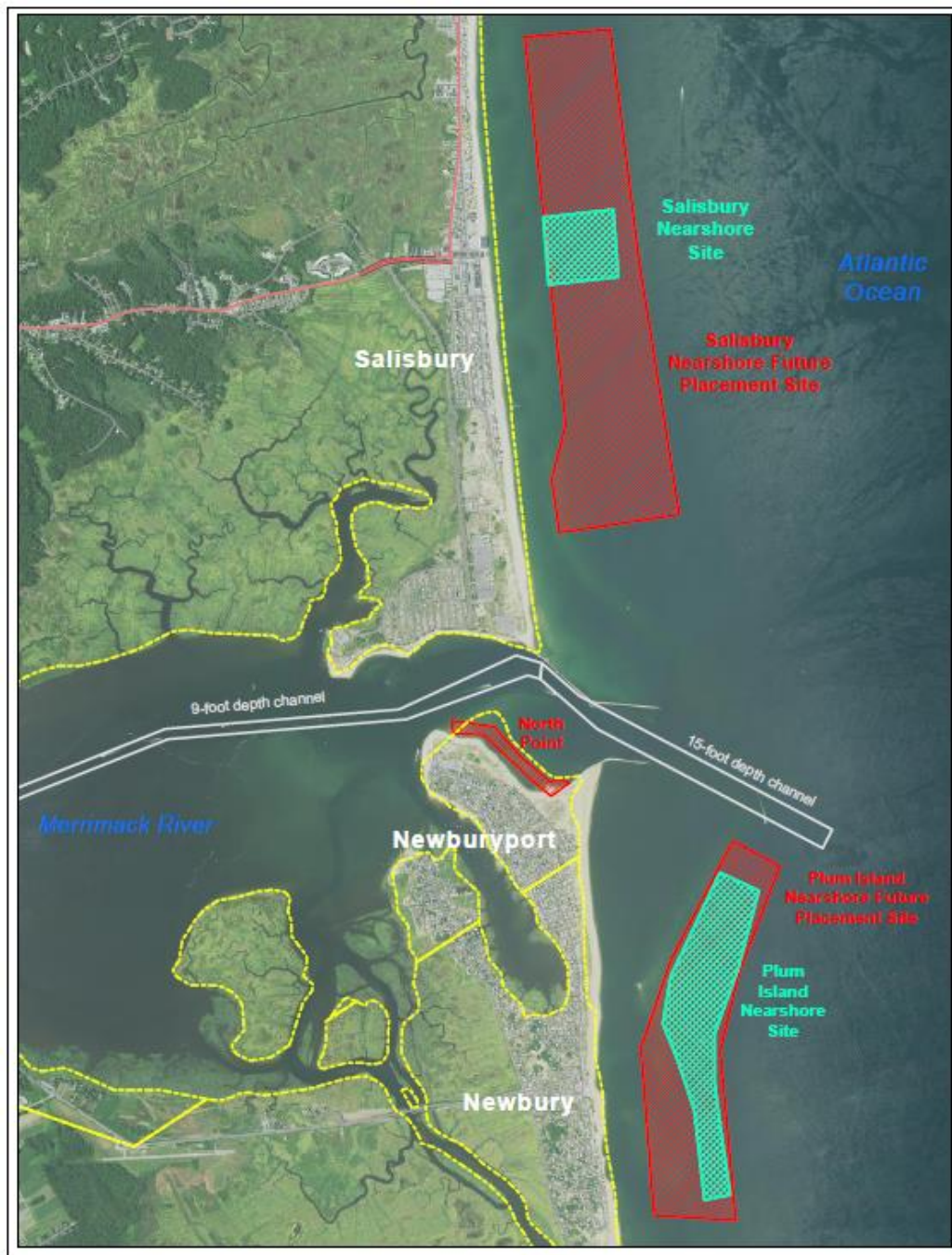
The webinar meeting can be accessed at the following website:
<https://usace.webex.com/meet/dot.j.lundberg>. We look forward to your contribution towards these projects. If you or your staff have any questions about the project or webinar, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (978) 318-8155 (Dot.J.Lundberg@usace.army.mil) or Reid Lichwell, Biologist at (978) 318-8148 (Reid.E.Lichwell@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



LEGEND	
	Nearshore Site
	Future Placement Site
	Newburyport Harbor Channel
	Town Boundary

TITLE
North Point Placement Areas
Newburyport, MA

LOCATION MAP



L&L Survey Corp. of Engineers
 New England District
 100 Main Street, Suite 200
 Newburyport, MA 01860
 Tel: 978.366.1111
 Fax: 978.366.1112
 Web: www.l&l-survey.com

Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751**

May 19, 2020

Planning Division

Mr. Matthew Coogan
Chief of Staff
City of Newburyport
Office of Mayor Donna D. Holaday
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

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Sincerely,

Dot Lundberg, PhD
Project Manager

Enclosure

Attachment 1. Newburyport Harbor FNP Dredge Material Placement Areas



Attachment 2. South Beach Mining Area and Dredge Material Placement Area





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT HAMILTON MILITARY COMMUNITY
GENERAL LEE AVENUE, BLDG 301
BROOKLYN, NY 11252

CENAD-PD-CS

06 November 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR, US Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696
Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751

Subject: Federal Interest Determination, Continuing Authority Feasibility
Investigation, Section 204, North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts

1. Reference:

- a. CENAE-PDP Memorandum, 05 August 2019 and enclosed materials
- b. CENAD-PD-P Memorandum 04 November 2019

2. The New England District requested approval of the Federal Interest Determination (FID) Report for the North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts (Reference 1.a.)

3. The North Atlantic Division (NAD) has completed their review of the package and concurs with the District's finding of Federal Interest approves the FID report (Reference 1.b.). Please mark the completion of this FID milestone (CW 170) in both the P2 project network schedule and in the CAP database.

4. The point of contact for this action is Mr. Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D. He may be reached at: (347) 370-4534.

JOHN O'CONNOR, P.E.
Civil Works Integration Division
Continuing Authorities Program Manager



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION
FORT HAMILTON MILITARY COMMUNITY
302 GENERAL LEE AVENUE
BROOKLYN NY 11252-6700

CENAD-PD-P

4 November 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Civil Works Integration Division (Mr. Forcina)

SUBJECT: Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Federal Interest Determination,
Section 204, North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts

1. References:

a. CENAD-PD- P Memorandum dated 18 September 2019 transmitting comments on the subject North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts – CAP 204 FID of August 2019.

b. CENAD-PD-C Email dated 10 October 2019 requesting backcheck review on the revision of the North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts – CAP Section 204 FID report.

c. CENAE-PDP Email dated 10 October 2019 transmitting the revised Plum CAP Section 204 FID report as per Reference 1a.

2. North Atlantic Division Planning and Policy Division (CENAD-PD-P) has performed backcheck review on the revised FID package for the North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, MA – CAP Section 204 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Study as per the review request (References 1b & 1c).

3. CENAD-PD-P has determined that all comments have been adequately addressed and satisfactory; therefore, CENAD-PD-P concurred with the District's determination that there is Federal interest in the continuation of the Feasibility Study under CAP Section 204, North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts.

4. Please direct any questions to Ms. Valerie A. Cappola, Ph.D., Program Manager at (347) 370-4557 or Mr. Young S. Kim, P.E., Planning Program Manager at (347) 370-4514.

JOSEPH R. VIETRI
Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Programs Directorate

Cc: Christopher Ricciardi, Ph. D./CWID DST



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

CENAE-PDP

5 August 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (CENAD-PD-CID-P/Dr. Christopher Ricciardi), Fort Hamilton Military Community, 301 General Lee Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11252-8400

SUBJECT: Continuing Authorities Federal Interest Determination, Section 204, North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts

1. Enclosed is the Federal Interest Determination (FID) for the proposed Section 204 Beneficial Use of Dredged Material project, for North Point Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts for your review and approval. The determination will be provided to the Sponsor for their information upon completion of your review and incorporation of any comments and revisions.
2. For the purpose of this FID, NAE evaluated the applicability of the Section 204 authority to use hydraulically dredged material from the maintenance of Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project to rebuild the beach at North Point on Plum Island.
3. The FID determined that North Point on Plum Island could benefit from dredge material which would reduce the risk of coastal storm damages in the community. We recommend continuing with the Feasibility Study to evaluate the project area in Plum Island under Section 204 authority.
4. The New England District has completed a District Quality Control review of the subject FID in accordance with EC 1165-2-217.
5. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Dr. Dot Lundberg at (978) 318-8155 or Dot.J.Lundberg@usace.army.mil.

for Christopher L. Whitfield
John R. Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures



To: Mr. John Kennelly
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

September 7, 2018

Subject: Beneficial use of dredged material from the maintenance of the Newburyport Harbor
Federal Navigation Project

Dear Mr. Kennelly,

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation And Recreation (DCR) requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigate the potential for beneficial use of dredged material from the maintenance of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project to address erosion problems at North Point on Plum Island, Newburyport, MA, under the continuing authority of Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended. The DCR is the owner of the North Point Reservation. Erosion in recent years has resulted in significant shoreline retreat, which if unaddressed will endanger many residential properties, roadways, utilities and public parkland. The DCR, as sponsor of the Section 204 project in Newbury and Salisbury, MA constructed in 2010-2011, understands that study costs would be borne by the Federal government, and design and implementation costs for any recommended project would be cost-shared. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Leo P. Roy, Commissioner

CC: Senator Tarr, P. Kish, D. Forgione,

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-conservation-recreation



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Leo Roy, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2018

MASS. HIST. COMM

RC. 5315

August 1, 2018

Programs & Project Management Division
Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch
Navigation Section

CONCURRENCE.

8/20/18

Brona Simon
BRONA SIMON
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director and SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
The Massachusetts State Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RE: Federal Maintenance Dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (Newburyport, MA) and Placement of Dredge Material

Dear Ms. Simon:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment for maintenance dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) in Newburyport, MA (Figure 1 and 2). It is the responsibility of USACE to maintain this FNP to ensure shoaling does not present a hazard to vessels navigating the Merrimack River. This is a recurring maintenance dredging project that involves dredging 50,000 to 200,000 cubic yards of sandy material typically every three to four years from the 9-foot and 15-foot sections of the Federal navigation channel. The present dredging effort involves the removal of approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sandy material that has shoaled areas of the navigation channel since the previous maintenance dredging in 2010. We would like your comments on the following undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

The FNP in Newburyport Harbor consists of a channel 400 feet wide and 15 feet deep through the sand bar at the mouth of the Merrimack River, then 200 feet wide and 9 feet deep through the harbor, which includes a widened turning basin in front of the city wharves. Coastal storms and natural shoaling have reduced available depths in the channel, creating a hazard to vessel navigation. The primary location of the dredging activity is a recurring sandbar seaward of the jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River along the 15-foot channel (Figure 1). The other dredge locations reside within the 9-foot channel just downriver of the Route 1 Bridge in Newburyport Harbor (Figure 2). Dredging will most likely be conducted using a hopper dredge or a mechanical dredge. Dredge material will be placed on either Plum Island Inner Beach, or at two nearshore placement areas off Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Outer Beach for the purposes of beach nourishment (Figure 3). All dredge disposal locations are within 1.5 miles of the Newburyport Harbor FNP and have been previously utilized for dredge material disposal.

A review of the Massachusetts Historical Commission MACRIS Maps database identified several historic archaeological sites, namely shipwrecks including the Jennie M. Carter (1874) and the Salisbury Shipwreck (no date), as well as a Native American shell midden site, along the Salisbury Beach State Reservation. In the Plum Island area, the Newburyport Harbor Light and the Plum Island Light Keeper's House are recorded in the database. However, none of these sites are located within the Newburyport Harbor FNP or any of the proposed dredged material disposal sites.

USACE has previously coordinated with your office by letters dated June 1, 2009 and June 26, 2009 for the last maintenance dredging of the Newburyport Harbor FNP with disposal at Salisbury and Plum Island nearshore disposal sites and we received concurrence that the project would not adversely affect submerged cultural resources

Therefore, the maintenance dredging of the Newburyport FNP with disposal at either the Plum Island Inner Beach, Salisbury Nearshore, or Plum Island Nearshore disposal sites will have no effect upon any site or structure of historic, architectural or archaeological significance as defined by Section 106 of the NHPA and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. We would appreciate your concurrence with this determination. I would appreciate your comments within 30 days of this letter.

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Marc Paiva, Archaeologist of the Evaluation Branch at (978) 318-8796 or myself at (978) 318-8012.

Sincerely,



Coral Siligato
Navigation Project Manager

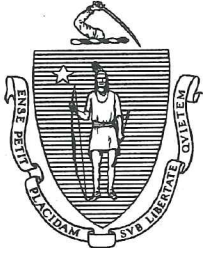
Enclosures

SAME LETTER SENT TO (with enclosures):

Mr. Victor Mastone, Director
Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2136

Ms. Bettina Washington, THPO
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535

Ms. Ramona Peters, THPO
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649



The COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114-2136

Tel. (617) 626-1141 Fax (617) 626-1240

Web Site: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-underwater-archaeological-resources>

August 9, 2018

Ms. Coral Silgato
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: FNP Merrimack River Dredging and Nearshore Placement of Sediment
Newburyport and Salisbury, MA

Dear Ms. Silgato,

The staff of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR) has reviewed your letter, dated August 1, 2018, for the above referenced Federal navigation Project (FNP). We offer the following comments.

The Board has conducted a preliminary review of its files and secondary literature sources to identify known and potential submerged cultural resources in the proposed project areas in the Merrimack River for maintenance dredging and nearshore sediment placement as depicted in the map accompany the above referenced letter. No record of any underwater archaeological resources was found for the areas proposed for dredging nearshore sediment disposal. Based on the results of this review and the nature of near shore sediment placement, the Board expects that this project is unlikely to impact submerged cultural resources.

However, the proposed Salisbury Nearshore site includes a portion of one Board issued permit area and is adjacent to one documented historic archaeological site. The Board notes the existence of Jennie M. Carter Shipwreck [historic archaeological] Site, along Salisbury Beach State Reservation. This site is located in the vicinity of the so-called "Beach Center" Access Area. This site is landward of the disposal location and should be avoided. Any disturbance of this site, including the placement of sand over it, should not be undertaken without additional consultation with the Board. The Board also notes the northern end of the Salisbury Nearshore site may include the southern end of BUAR Reconnaissance Permit #94-00. It is held Victor Ricardo of 148 Kings Highway, Hampton, NH 03842. His permit area forms a square beginning at MLW and extend seaward 1 nautical and beginning at the NH/MA border running south 1 nautical mile.

With respect to the Plum Island Inner Beach and the Plum Island Nearshore sites, these areas may be archaeologically sensitive for shipwreck events. Approximately 40 shipwrecks have in the vicinity of the river's mouth and to the south along Plum Island. While locale is only generally known, the precise locations remain unknown. Many of lost vessels were fishing and/or coastal schooners of

the mid to late nineteenth century. At least one vessel, the Revolutionary War privateer *Neptune* (1777) was reportedly lost in that area.

Given the proximity to known and potential historic archaeological sites, the Board considers both nearshore disposal areas to be highly archaeologically sensitive. Therefore, should heretofore-unknown submerged cultural resources be encountered during the course of the project, the Board expects that the project's sponsor will take steps to limit adverse affects and notify the Board, as well as other appropriate agencies, immediately in accordance with the Board's *Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources*.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments as part of the review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address above, by email at victor.mastone@state.ma.us, or by telephone at (617) 626-1141.

Sincerely,



Victor T. Mastone
Director

/vtm

Cc: Brona Simon, MHC
Robert Boeri, MCZM (via email attachment)
Marc Paiva, USACE (via email attachment)
Victor Ricardo (via email attachment)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

August 1, 2018

Programs & Project Management Division
Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch
Navigation Section

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director and SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
The Massachusetts State Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RE: Federal Maintenance Dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (Newburyport, MA) and Placement of Dredge Material

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Sincerely,



Coral Siligato
Navigation Project Manager

Enclosures

SAME LETTER SENT TO (with enclosures):

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Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2136

Ms. Bettina Washington, THPO
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535

Ms. Ramona Peters, THPO
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649

FIGURE 1 – NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP OUTER HARBOR DREDGE AREA

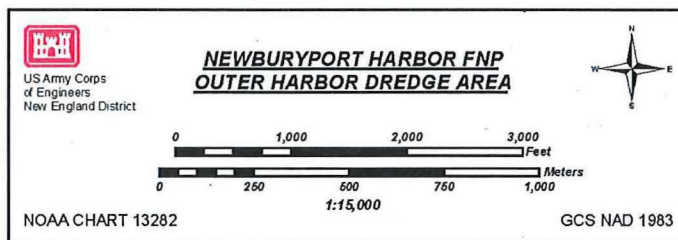
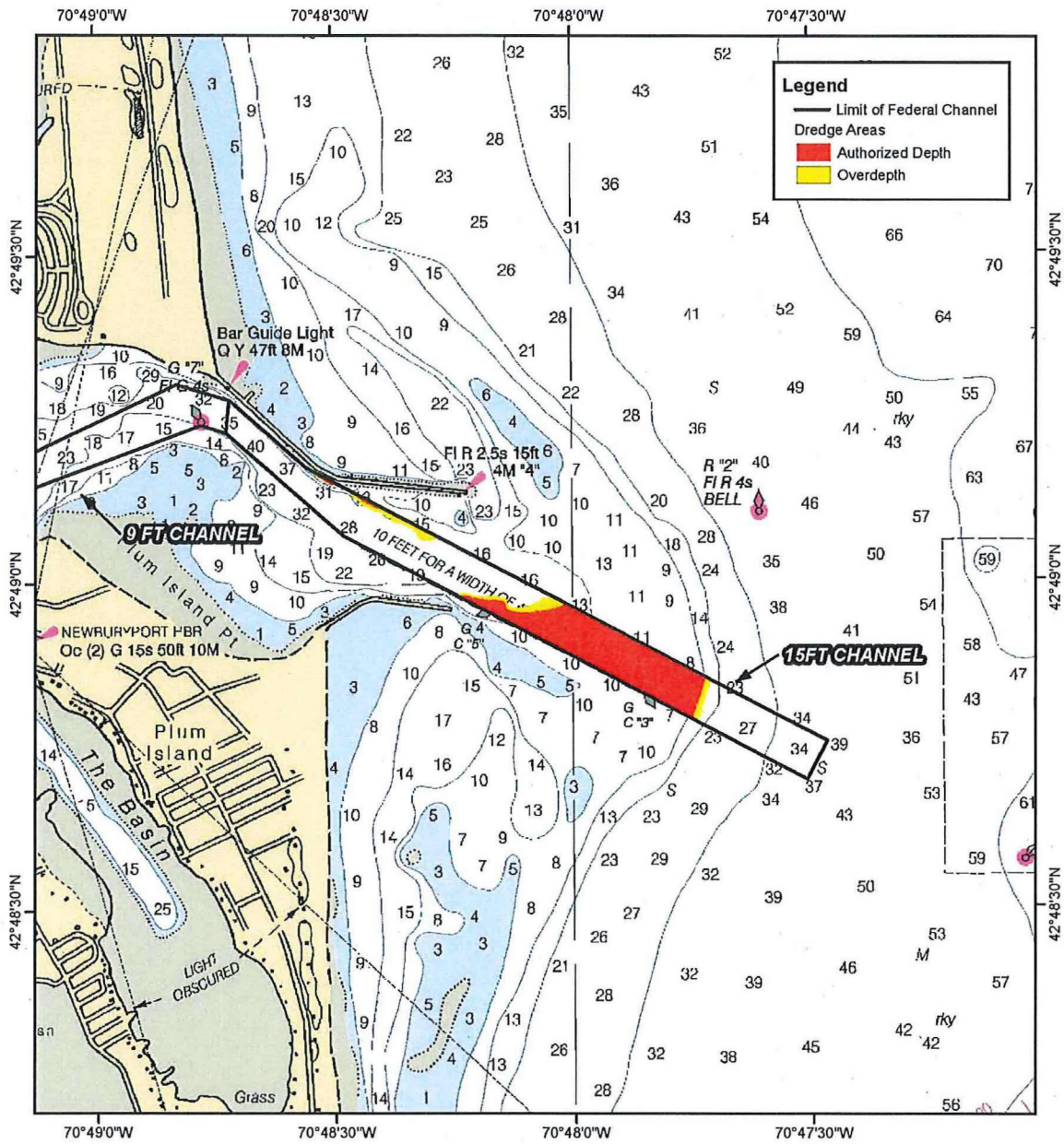


FIGURE 2– NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP INNER HARBOR DREDGE AREA

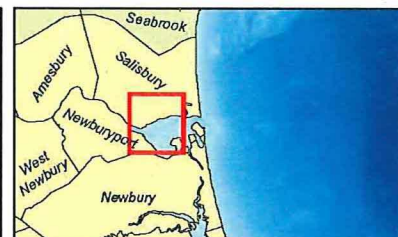
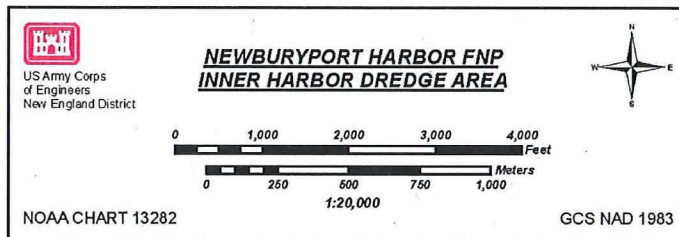
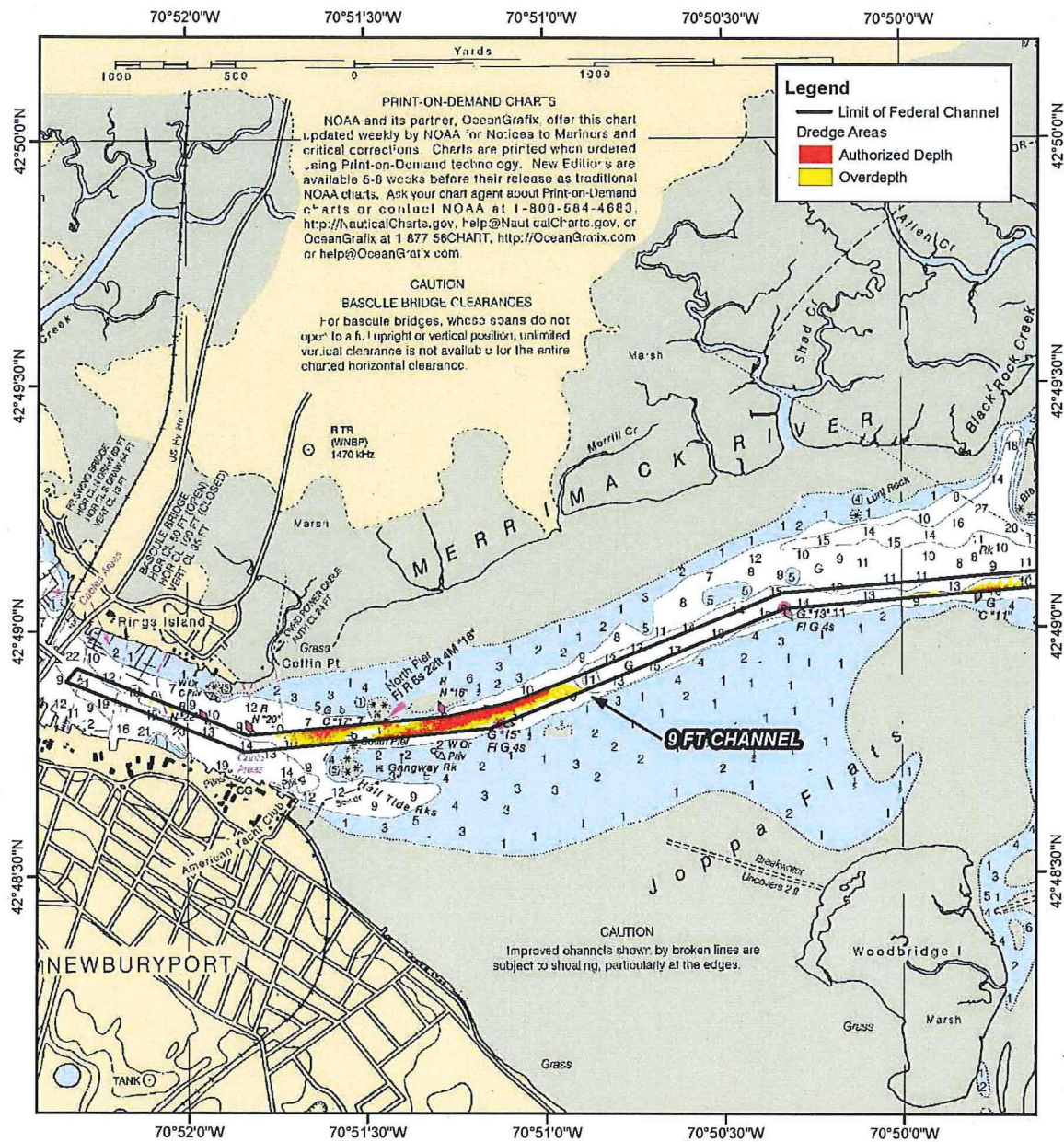
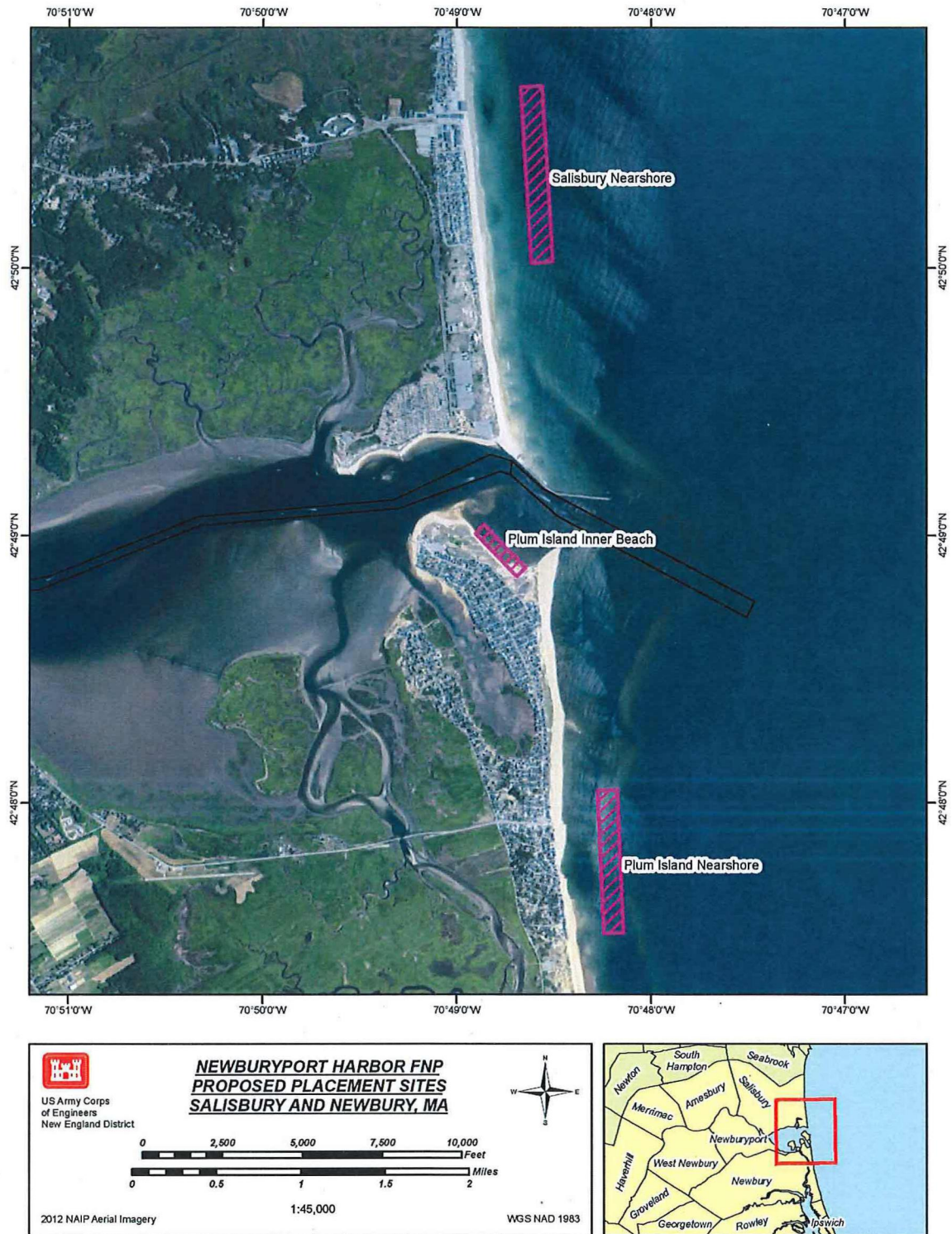


FIGURE 3– NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP PROPOSED DREDGE MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITES





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

August 1, 2018

Programs & Project Management Division
Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch
Navigation Section

Mr. Victor Mastone, Director
Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2136

RE: Federal Maintenance Dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (Newburyport, MA) and Placement of Dredge Material

Dear Mr. Mastone:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment for maintenance dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) in Newburyport, MA (Figure 1 and 2). It is the responsibility of USACE to maintain this FNP to ensure shoaling does not present a hazard to vessels navigating the Merrimack River. This is a recurring maintenance dredging project that involves dredging 50,000 to 200,000 cubic yards of sandy material typically every three to four years from the 9-foot and 15-foot sections of the Federal navigation channel. The present dredging effort involves the removal of approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sandy material that has shoaled areas of the navigation channel since the previous maintenance dredging in 2010. We would like your comments on the following undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

The FNP in Newburyport Harbor consists of a channel 400 feet wide and 15 feet deep through the sand bar at the mouth of the Merrimack River, then 200 feet wide and 9 feet deep through the harbor, which includes a widened turning basin in front of the city wharves. Coastal storms and natural shoaling have reduced available depths in the channel, creating a hazard to vessel navigation. The primary location of the dredging activity is a recurring sandbar seaward of the jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River along the 15-foot channel (Figure 1). The other dredge locations reside within the 9-foot channel just downriver of the Route 1 Bridge in Newburyport Harbor (Figure 2). Dredging will most likely be conducted using a hopper dredge or a mechanical dredge. Dredge material will be placed on either Plum Island Inner Beach, or at two nearshore placement areas off Salisbury Beach and Plum Island Outer Beach for the purposes of beach nourishment (Figure 3). All dredge disposal locations are within 1.5 miles of the Newburyport Harbor FNP and have been previously utilized for dredge material disposal.

A review of the Massachusetts Historical Commission MACRIS Maps database identified several historic archaeological sites, namely shipwrecks including the Jennie M. Carter (1874) and the Salisbury Shipwreck (no date), as well as a Native American shell midden site, along the Salisbury Beach State Reservation. In the Plum Island area, the Newburyport Harbor Light and the Plum Island Light Keeper's House are recorded in the database. However, none of these sites are located within the Newburyport Harbor FNP or any of the proposed dredged material disposal sites.

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Therefore, the maintenance dredging of the Newburyport FNP with disposal at either the Plum Island Inner Beach, Salisbury Nearshore, or Plum Island Nearshore disposal sites will have no effect upon any site or structure of historic, architectural or archaeological significance as defined by Section 106 of the NHPA and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. We would appreciate your concurrence with this determination. I would appreciate your comments within 30 days of this letter.

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Marc Paiva, Archaeologist of the Evaluation Branch at (978) 318-8796 or myself at (978) 318-8012.

Sincerely,



Coral Siligato
Navigation Project Manager

Enclosures

SAME LETTER SENT TO (with enclosures):

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director and SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
The Massachusetts State Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Ms. Bettina Washington, THPO
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535

Ms. Ramona Peters, THPO
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649

FIGURE 1 – NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP OUTER HARBOR DREDGE AREA

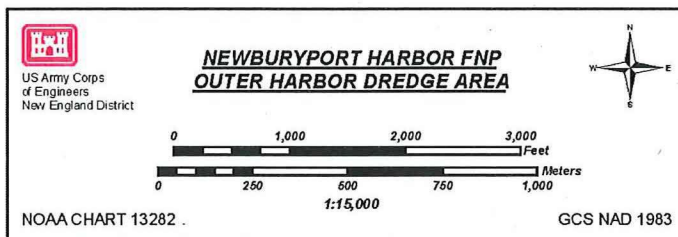
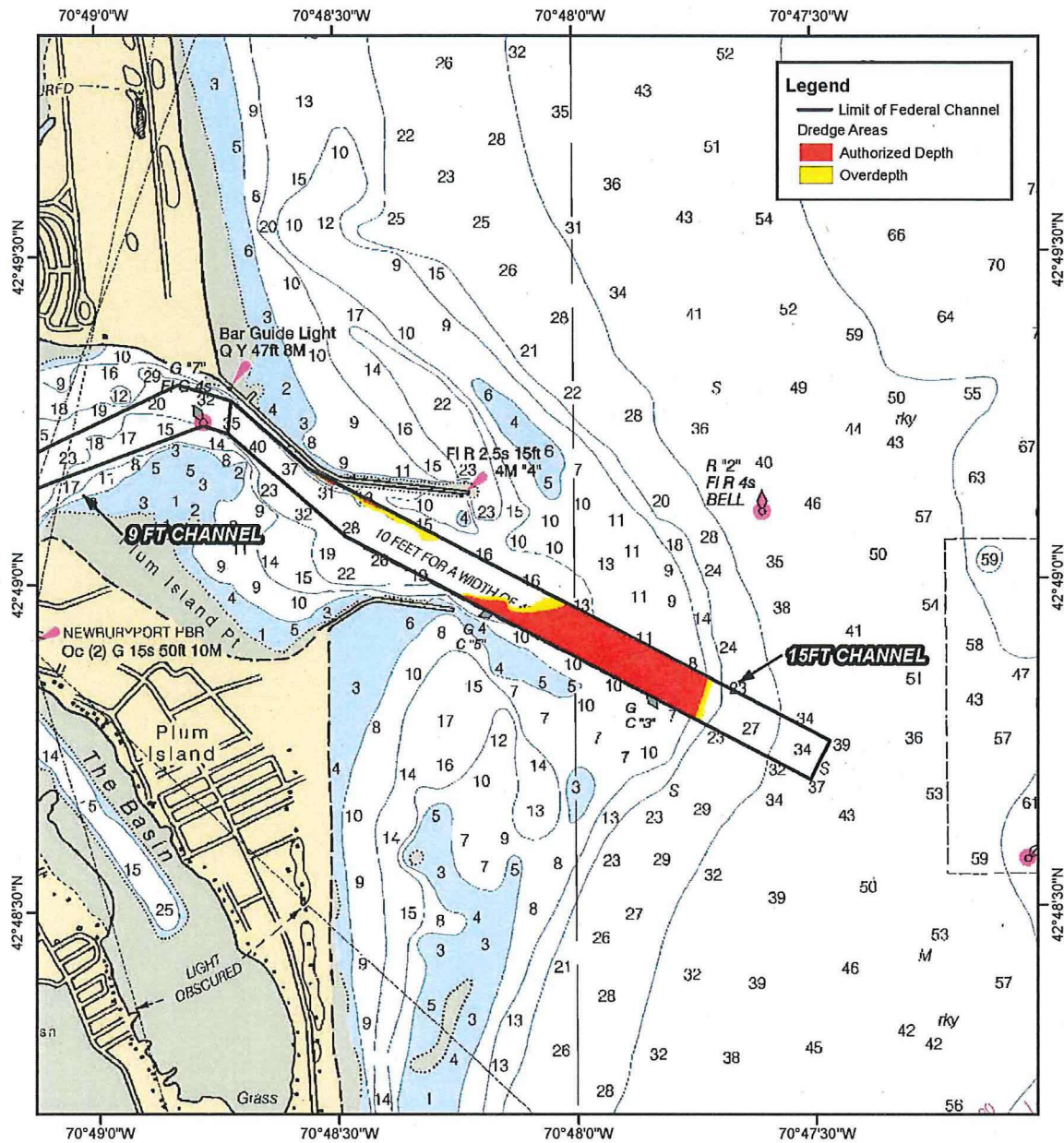


FIGURE 2- NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP INNER HARBOR DREDGE AREA

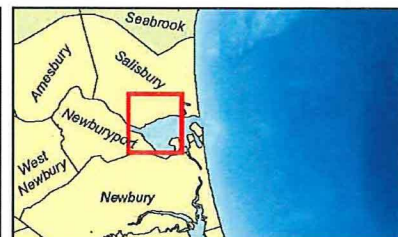
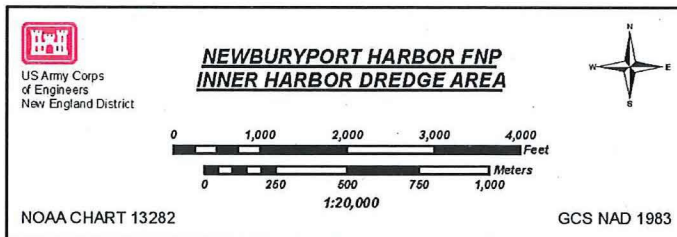
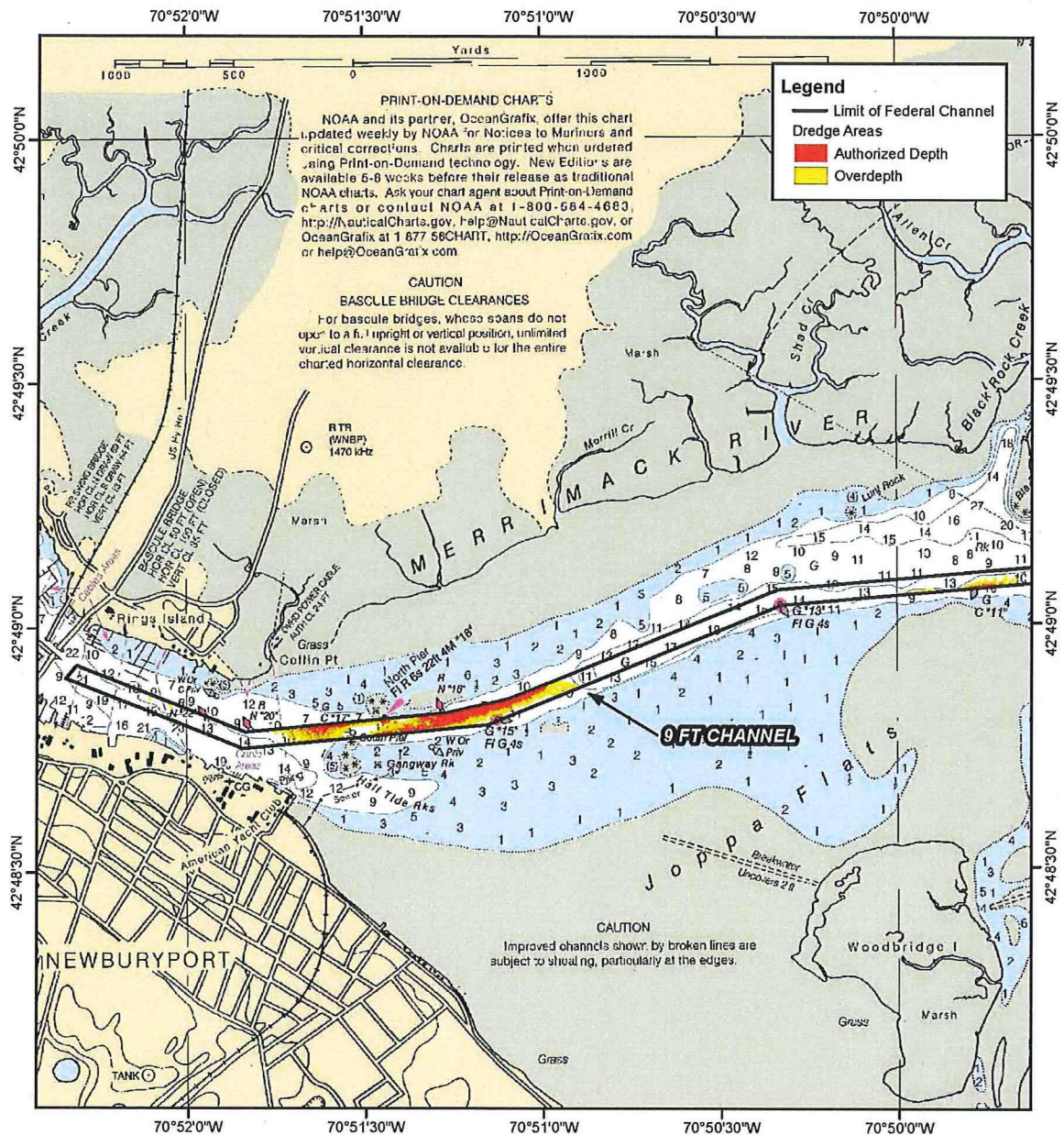
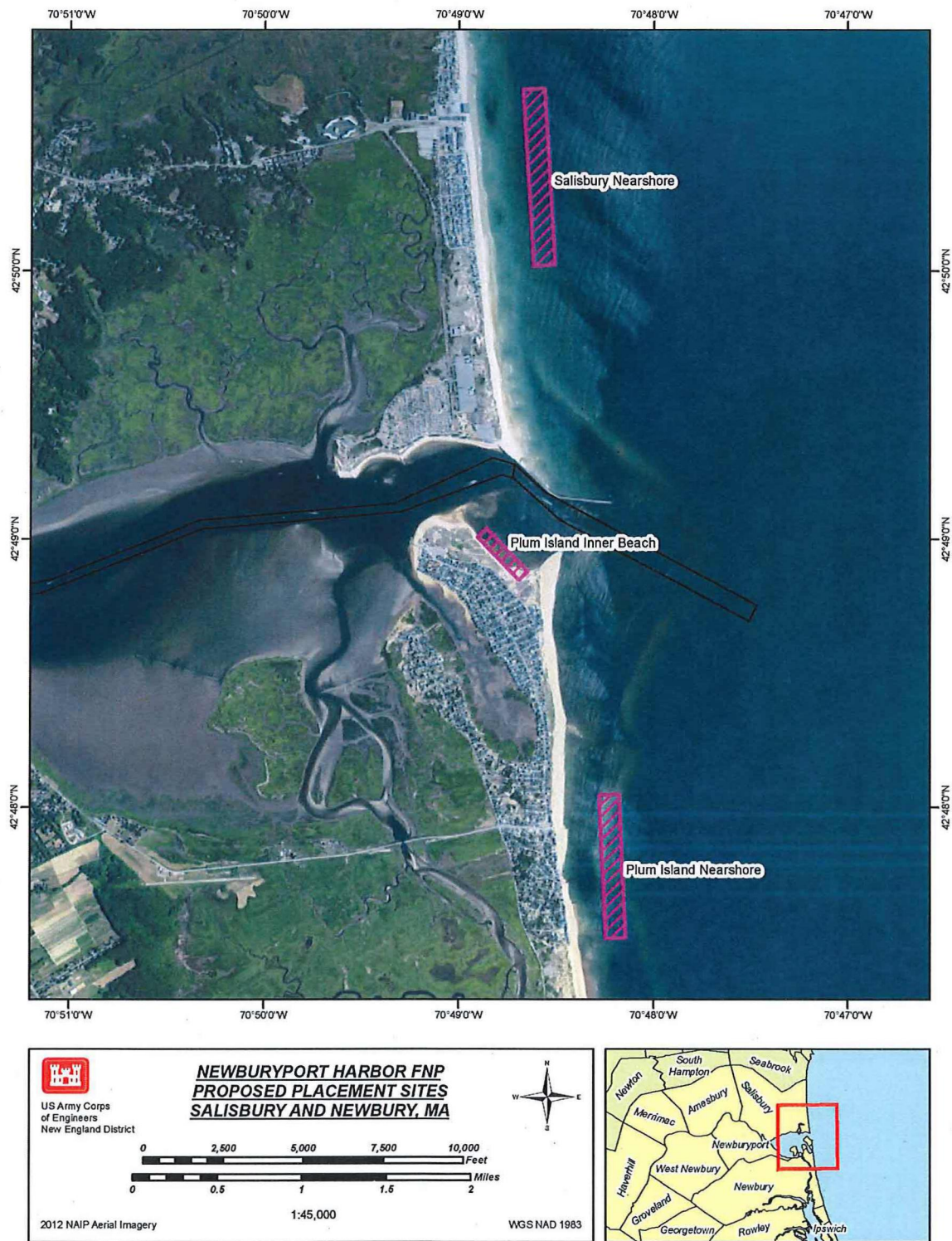


FIGURE 3- NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP PROPOSED DREDGE MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITES





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

August 1, 2018

Programs & Project Management Division
Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch
Navigation Section

Ms. Ramona Peters, THPO
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649

RE: Federal Maintenance Dredging of the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (Newburyport, MA) and Placement of Dredge Material

Dear Ms. Peters:

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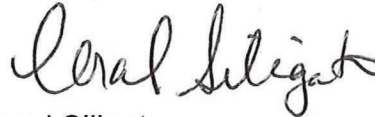
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Sincerely,



Coral Siligato
Navigation Project Manager

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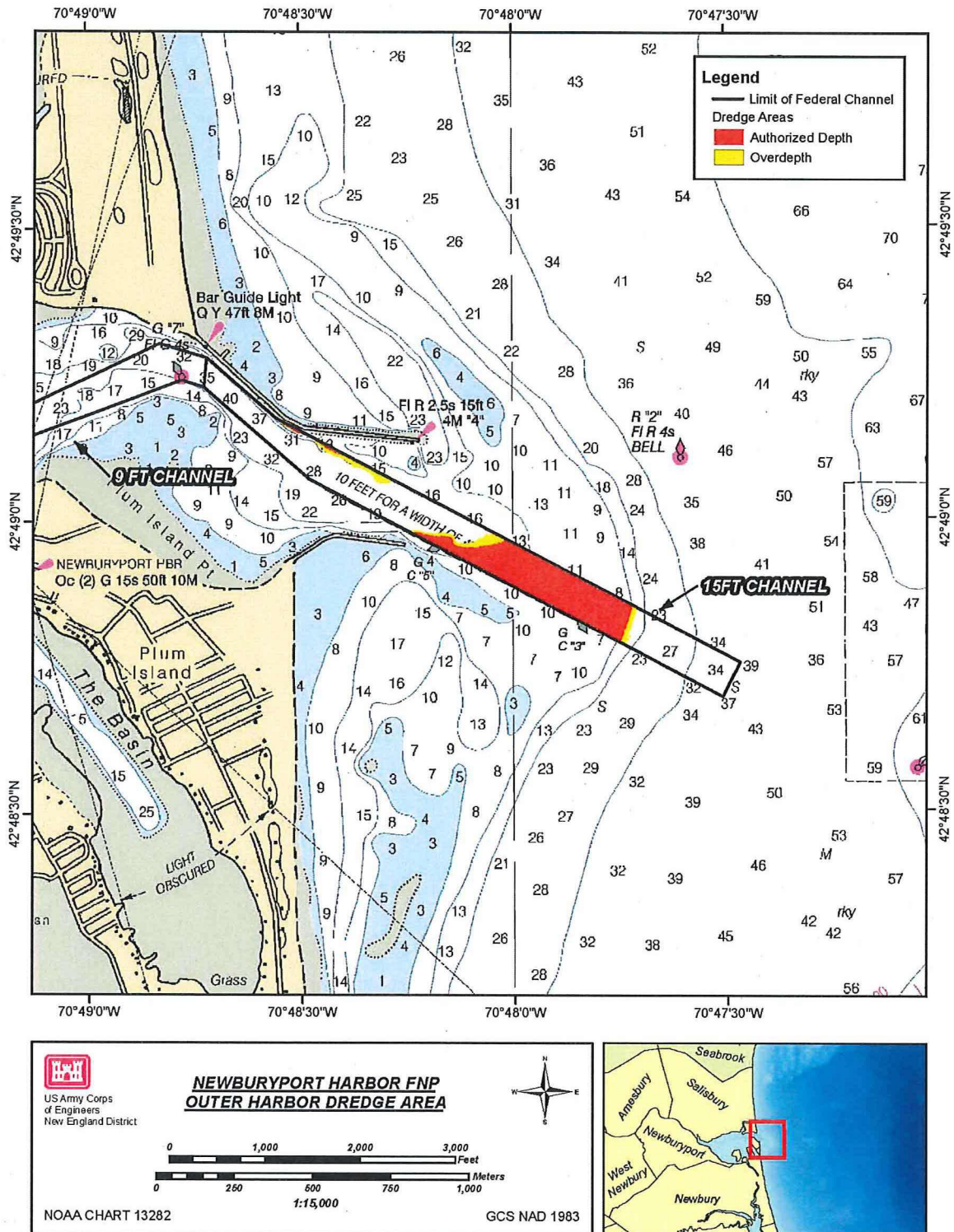


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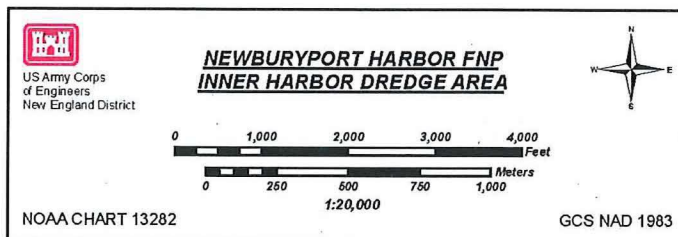
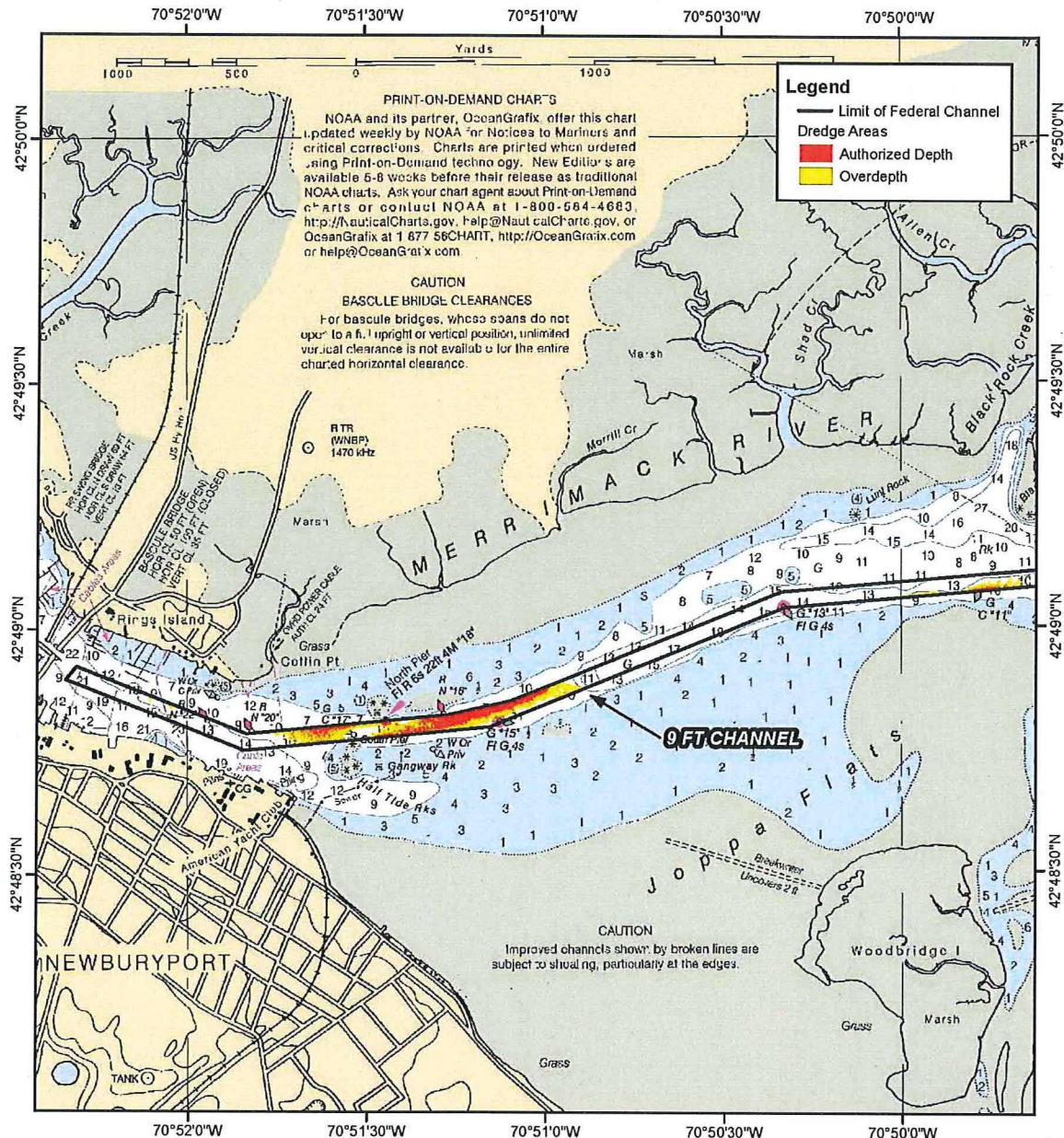
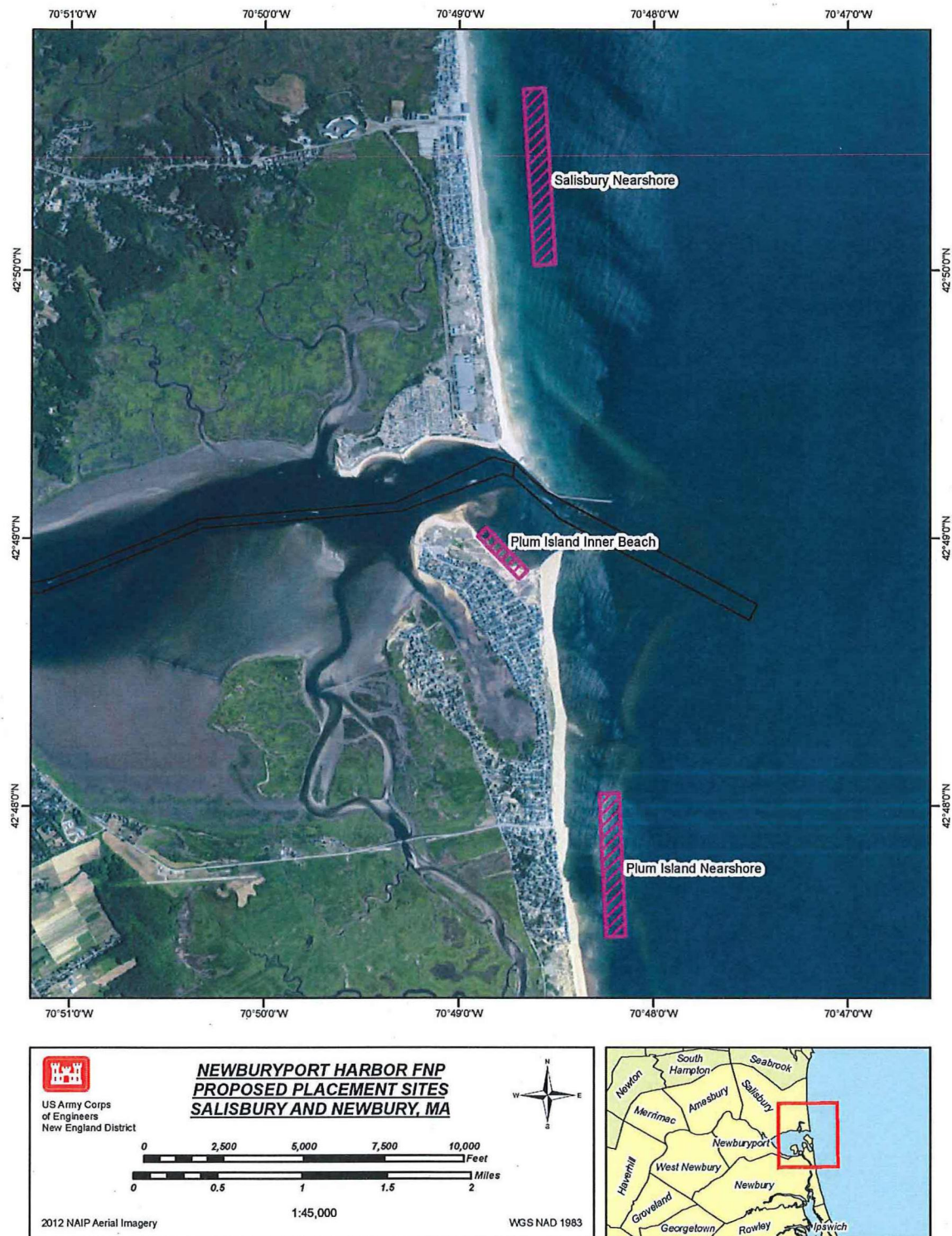


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20 Black Brook Road
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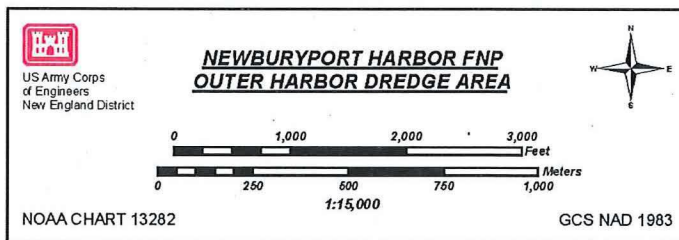
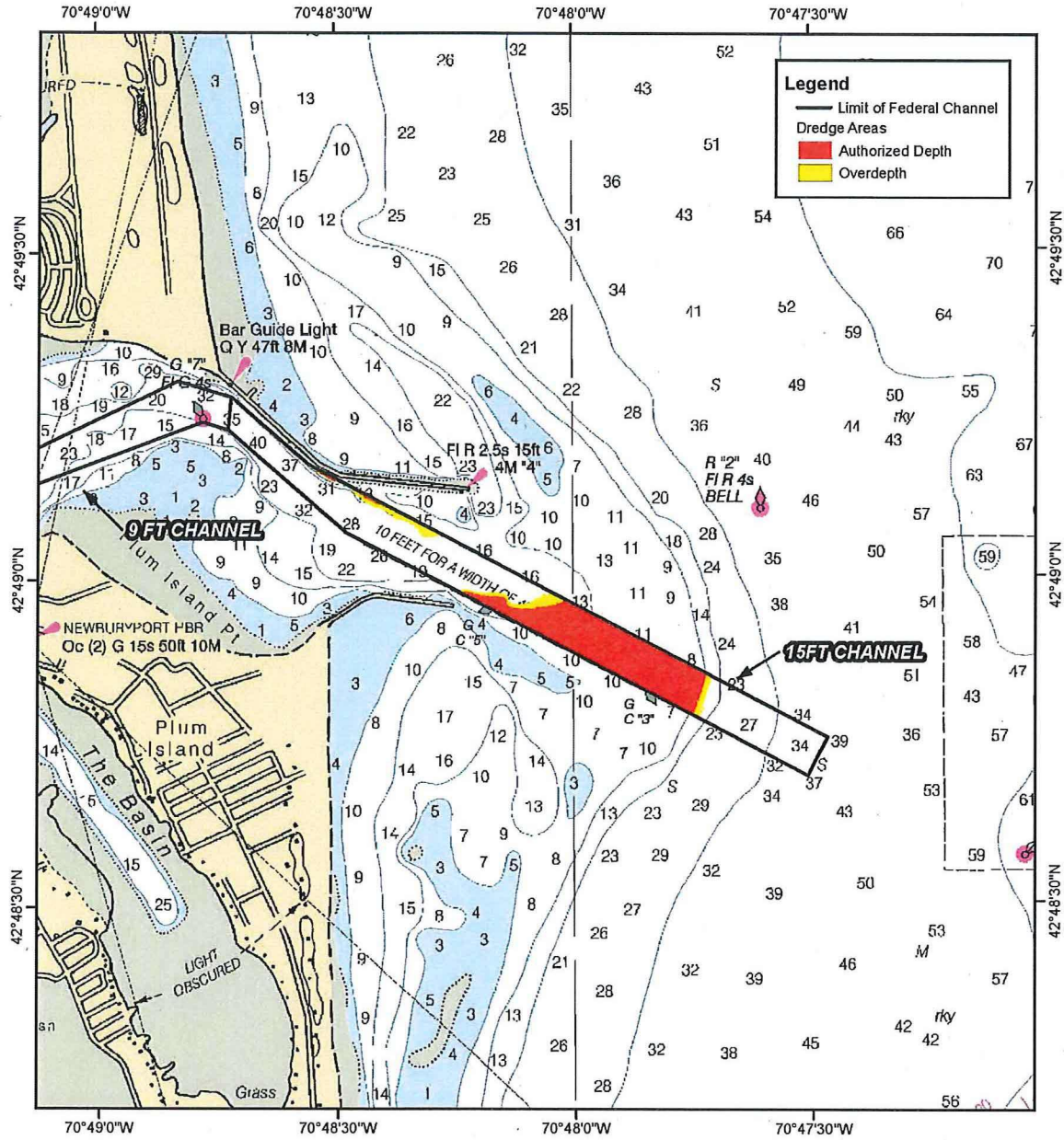


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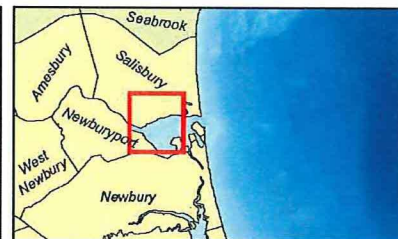
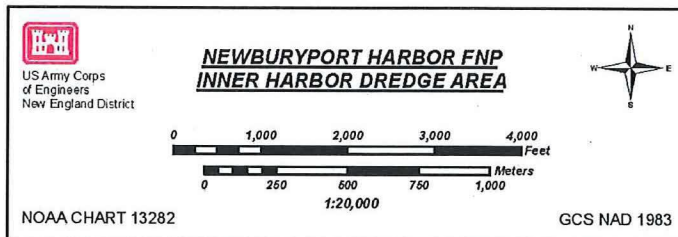
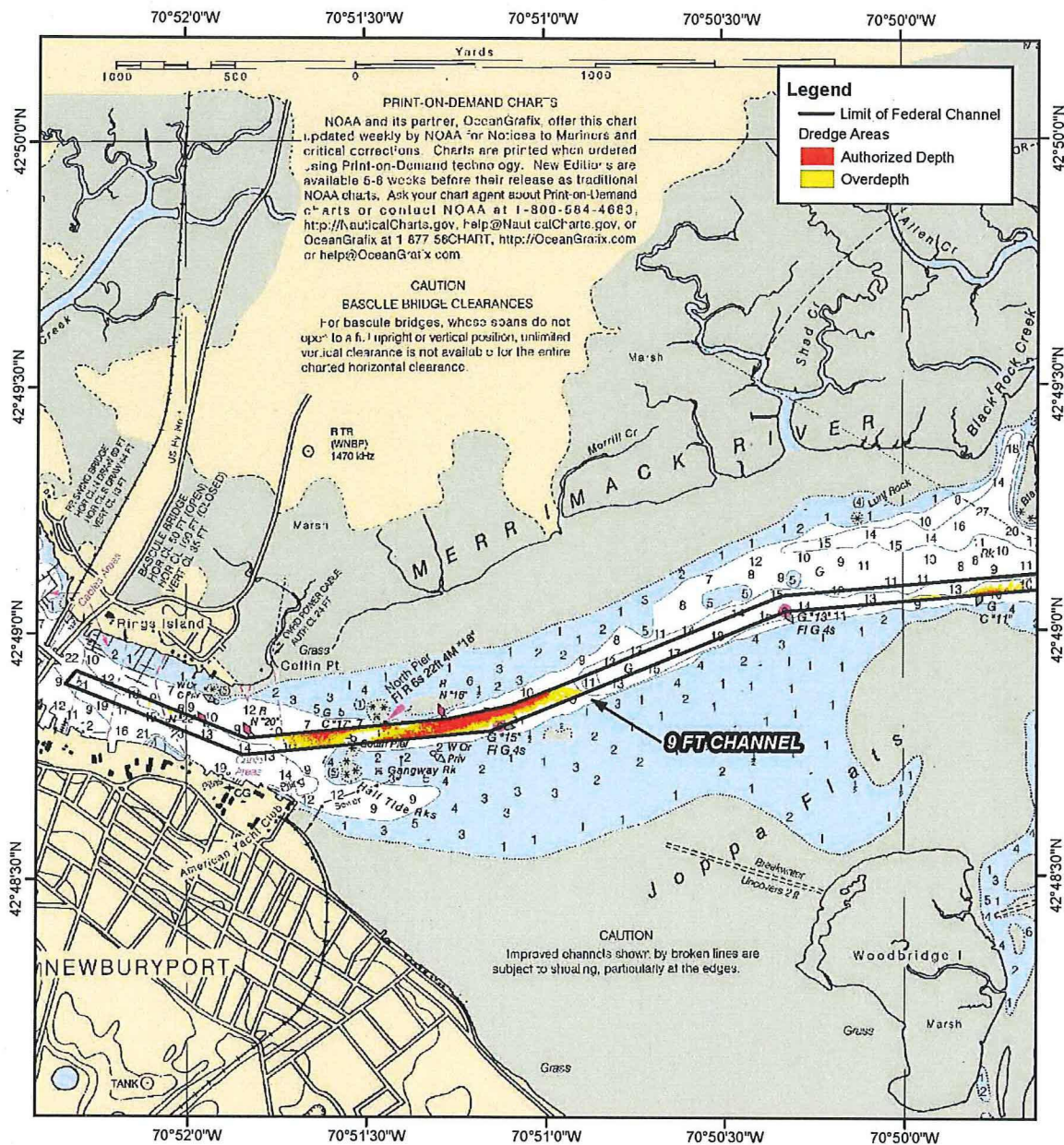
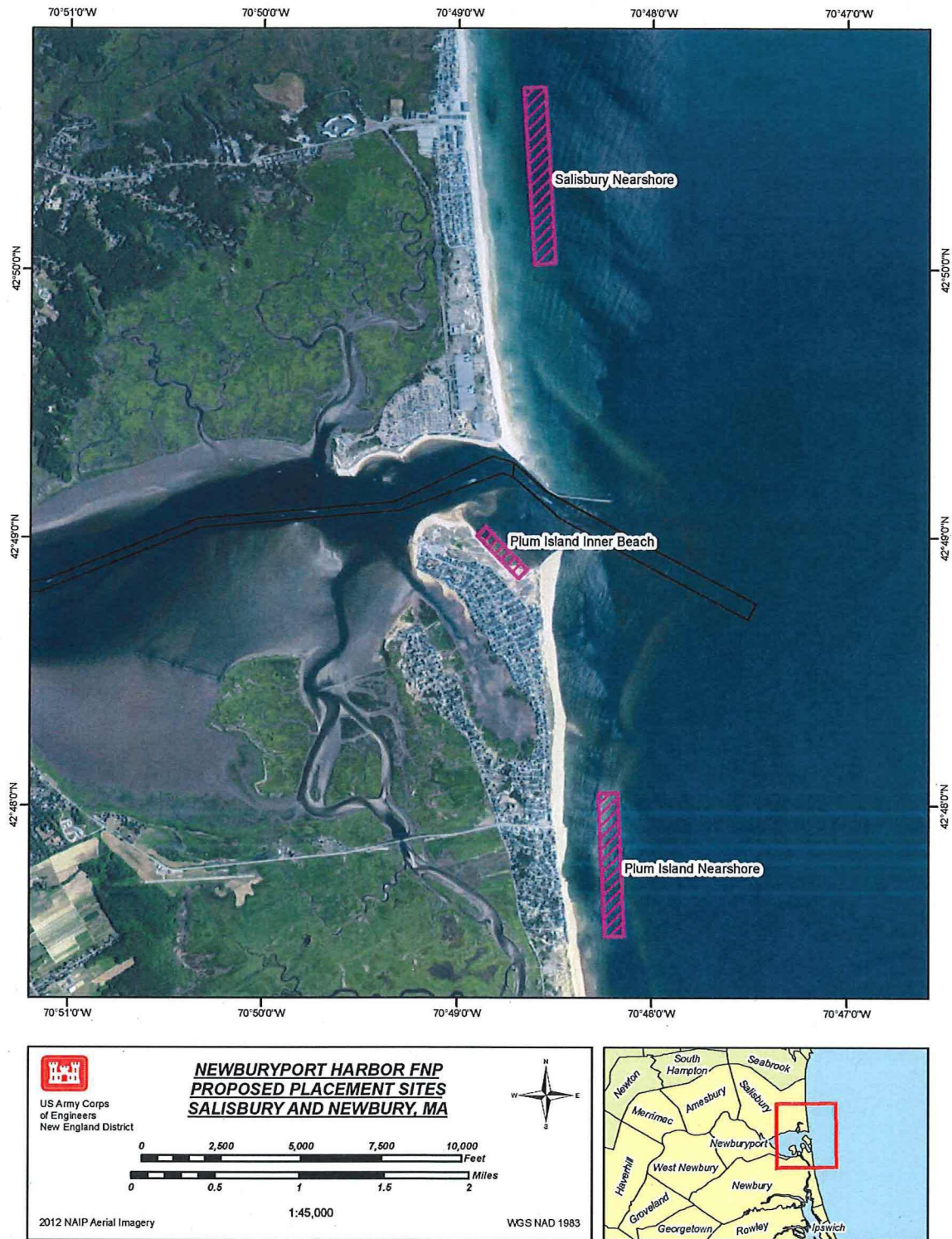


FIGURE 3— NEWBURYPORT HARBOR FNP PROPOSED DREDGE MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITES



September 3, 2017

From the Residents of Plum Island
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Federal, State and Local Politicians;

We are writing to you to make you aware of a serious situation caused by the Army Corps of Engineers. From 2013–2015 they rebuilt the jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River and 300' of vegetated dunes have eroded during the last 3 years, leaving approximately 50' of dunes in front of the most vulnerable stretch of Plum Island Point along Reservation Terrace. We see the obvious near term destruction and devastation that is coming and are extremely disappointed by the lack of effort to resolve this issue. There must be a much more concerted effort to solve this problem before the imminent and catastrophic event occurs, shutting down the water and sewer systems for the island and severe property damage.

The Issue

When the Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) rebuilt the jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River in the late 1960s it stopped the northward flow of sand and caused serious erosion along the south jetty inside the mouth of the river. They built a sand berm to protect the coast guard buildings at the mouth, but when the project failed they had to remove the station from that location. The blizzard of '78 "broke" the jetty allowing the sand to flow north and the dunes on Plum Island Point started to come back to their previous size.

ACoE again rebuilt the south jetty in 2013–2014 and the north jetty in 2015 using the exact plans from the 1960s re-build. They said they didn't have the funds at the time to do a study because of Hurricane Katrina. This was a serious error in judgment for which no excuse is satisfactory; ACoE knew there would be the same results. What had been a stable dune system for 40 years has eroded at an alarming rate, similar to the previous re-build, except we are now experiencing increased storm intensity and the work on the north jetty seems to have intensified the wave reflection toward the beach on PI Point. During the last 3 years the dunes have eroded over 300' and in some areas the wrack line is a mere 50' away from Reservation Terrace. The last few erosion seasons (winter) since the jetties were rebuilt, have been considered mild. When the ocean water breaches the remains of the dune it will create serious issues such as shutting down the island's water and sewer systems and damaging many of the residences along Reservation Terrace and on Plum Island.

Solutions

Long-term

The ACoE must conduct a study, with observable and quantifiable monitoring benchmarks of expected progress, to inform the creation of an equilibrium between completely stopping the sand from passing the south jetty, and letting enough sand pass through to limit the erosion on Plum Island Point. At a recent MRBA meeting the ACoE said they are ignoring DCR's 2015 request for a study of the situation because they do not see any economic impact. Basically, they said a house has to fall into the water before they will act. If ACoE started their study today, we would not see any resolution of the issue for at least 4-5 years at the earliest, which leads to the need to establish short term management strategies.

Short-term

The Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA), chaired by Senator Tarr, the City of Newburyport, the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the residents have been working on "Band-Aid" solutions for the erosion issue. They provided a dune nourishment project in late 2016. They also established specific paths to the beach for people to use, significantly reducing the number of paths, allowing the dune grass to replenish, grow and protect the dunes. The nourishment project must continue annually to avoid a complete washout while we wait for

the long-term solution. Funding needs to be appropriated to support scientifically determined measures to protect the dunes, the infrastructure and the housing during this time period.

Long-term Funding

A funding mechanism needs to be established to maintain the dunes and the PI Point beach. We should establish something similar to the Salisbury Beach Trust Fund where \$2.00 of each parking fee goes to a dune preservation fund. There also needs to be more of an authority presence to help maintain the beach.

There are approximately 50' of dunes left in front of the most vulnerable area where 300' of vegetated dunes have already eroded. This is not natural dune erosion, as experienced in other areas, it is a man-made problem. We must work with all stakeholders: the Federal, State and local governments and the residents to come up with a time-line and solutions to this problem. MRBA has been addressing the issue, but not adequately based on the situation. Attached is a letter from Gregg Moore dated February 2, 2017 about the erosion issue. Since he wrote the letter we have lost another 50-60' of dunes. We must act now to avoid this catastrophic event.

Thank you for your help in resolving this issue.

One / City
Name

Harry Fensom Jr
Name

Marcy Freedman
Name

Verna Ewis
Name

Kurtis -
Name

Lisa Nardone
Name

Pat Cooney
Name

Eileen Scudate
Name

Brenda Baklan
Name

Randy King
Name

Randy Stearns
Name

Clare Williams
Name

13 67th STREET NEWBURYPT, MA.
Address

7 67th St., Newburypt, MA
Address

13 67th St Newburypt MA
Address

10 77th ST NBPT
Address

29 Harbor St.
Address

20 Dartmouth Way
Address

101 Balsam Place, Twesbury
Address

266 W. Blvd.
Address

268 Northern Blvd NBPT
Address

266 Northern Blvd
Address

95 V. Reservation Tr.
Address

95 N Reservation Tr
Address

Name Barth Mugoeseo

Name Candace

Name U. Muguu

Name Catherine Phelan

Name Edith

Name Cliff Bealvik

Name Robert Moore

Name William

Name James Haucher

Name Anne Haukes

Name Harriet Negan

Name Steve Negan

Name Dayna A Brooks

Name Hanna R. Condon

Name Mark Ryzin

Name John McLean

Name Marilene Ramose

Name Marilene Ramose

Address 8 77th St Newburyport

Address 6 77th St Newburyport

Address 8 77th ST NBPT.

Address 231 N. Blvd. Newburyport

Address 5 77th St Newburyport

Address 5 77th St NBPT

Address 16 Basin St. NBPT.

Address 16 Basin St. NBPT.

Address 15 Harbor St. Newburyport

Address 5 Taylor St. NBPT.

Address 6 Point Rd Newburyport

Address 6 Paul Rd Newburyport

Address 51A RESERVATIONS TERR

Address 51B RESERVATIONS TERR NB

Address 51A RESERVATION TERR NBPT.

Address 231 N. Blvd.

Address 23 Harbor St. Newburyport

Address 6 78th St Newburyport

Name Gail Fenson
Name Joanne Baber
Name Richard Baker
Name Kenneth
Name Theresa D. Lynn
Name Jim King
Name Bob Ben
Name S. A. G.
Name Lynn Soutter
Name Chyller Cign
Name Anna L. Mann
Name Lucy King
Name Roger King
Name Barry Rosenfeld
Name Karen Rosenfeld
Name STEVE CASEY
Name Siame Bellis Casey
Name George Chase

Address 7 67th Street, Newburyport
Address 55 Reservation Terrace
Address 55 RESERVATION TERRACE
Address 11 73rd St
Address 69 St
Address 8 67th St.
Address 8 67th St.
Address 196 NORTHERN BLVD
Address 65th St
Address 196 N. Blvd
Address 12 67th Street
Address 4 Grant St.
Address 4 Grant St
Address 5 73RD ST
Address 5 73RD Street
Address 5 41ST STREET
Address 5 41st street
Address 10-82nd ST.

Name Susan A

Name Peggy Brown

Name Chris Charos

Name John M Kucinski

Name Gene Kucinski

Name R D Q

Name Ellen L. Manig

Name James O'Heary

Name LSH Sam

Name Diane Sereno

Name M L A

Name Gloria Mintz

Name William Edwards

Name Michele Edwards

Name Annette Trivette

Name Share Levens

Name Jan Kupper

Name Zandra Curry

Address 10 Sweeny South P.I.

Address 5-78th St. P.I.

Address 10-82nd ST PLUM ISLAND

Address 12 75th ST PLUM ISLAND

Address 12 75th St, Plum Island

Address 10 75th St Newburyport

Address 6 75th St Newburyport

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Address 8 75th St Newburyport

Address 8 75th St. Newburyport

Address 3 75th ST NEWBURYPORT

Address 9 73rd St. Newburyport

Address 53 Reservation Terrace Newburyport

Address 53 Reservation Terrace P.I. NPT

Address 39 Reservation

Address 39 Reservation

Address 6 78th St

Address 30 Jackson St

DEB SILLIE
Name

Kenn Lawson
Name

Susan B. Lawson
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Elaine King Nickerson
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Rose King
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February 2, 2017

Senator Bruce E. Tarr
Senate Minority Leader
State House, Room 308
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Tarr and Members of MRBA,

As many of you know, the UNH Coastal Habitat Restoration Team has been actively monitoring dune resilience in Newburyport, with particular emphasis on the increasingly threatened dunes of Reservation Terrace. We have seven permanent dune profile transects in the area as part of our regional monitoring program. Each transect is marked with a 15ft rebar rod driven into the dune ~10 ft landward of the dune crest. Since installing rebar three years ago, we have been forced to relocate rebar 3 or more times – a testament to how regular the loss of dune is at this site.

To put the rate of loss into perspective, we've prepared a figure that shows the leading edge of dune that we surveyed in March 2016 and again in late January 2017 just after an unnamed nor'easter. These are shown overlain upon an orthophoto from 2013. The loss of dune has been staggering. In less than one year, the dune edge and beach has eroded landward over 40 linear feet, along a roughly 1,600 ft stretch of beach, much of this occurring overnight. That equates to an estimated 1.5 acres of dune loss in less than a year! In addition, storm surge caused impacts to the vegetation landward of the eroded edge, flooding dune vegetation and depositing extensive piles of wrack.



Figure 1. Leading edge of vegetated dune from March 2016 (blue line) and January 2017 (red line). The red line represents the edge of dune today, a distance of over 200ft landward of 2013 in some areas.

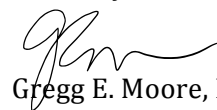
Furthermore, the wrack line's landward limit was surveyed within 75 ft of homes along Reservation Terrace. Had it not been for the recent dune nourishment spearheaded by Darryl Forgione and his team at DCR, it is my professional opinion that homes on Reservation Terrace would have suffered direct water damage from the tidal surge. DCR's efforts should be commended for helping this community and the City of Newburyport avoid potentially serious and expensive coastal storm related damage. The season for additional storms remains upon this community. I want to take this opportunity to underscore the importance of the MRBA *and* its regular inclusion of community members who, together, pushed for this protective action by voicing their concerns to a capable and receptive group.



Figure 2. Overview photo showing loss of dune, fence, and the importance of DCR's sand additions that formed a protective barrier stopping tidal surge from the late January storm. Note the extent of wrack deep into the dune system, stopping at the foot of the dune nourishment. (Photo date: January 27, 2017.)

Over the next few weeks, our UNH Team will be preparing an interim report that details the results of our quarterly dune profile sampling, and information from the additional storm-specific field surveys we conducted in response to community concerns to detail the rate and magnitude of change at this site. As an important component of the report, we will calculate the volume of sand lost and provide estimates of plant loss and changes in vegetation density and species richness we have noted as well. We believe it is imperative to provide the group with an accurate depiction of the changes that have been occurring at this site so that management goals can align with the day-to-day reality of a rapidly eroding dune system. We look forward to an opportunity to share these results and discuss the consequences as we look for management solutions with all stakeholders at an upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,



Gregg E. Moore, Ph.D.
Associate Research Professor

cc: Darryl Forgione, DCR
Julia Godtfredsen, City of Newburyport

12 January 2016

Edward O'Donnell
US Army Engineer District, New England
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Edward

We the residents, property owners and abutters to Reservation Terrace in Newburyport, MA are extremely concerned about the dune erosion that has occurred since the jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River have been rebuilt. In the three years since the construction started on the south jetty we have lost over 150' of vegetated dunes on the river side of the south jetty. After completion of the north jetty the dunes along Plum Island point back to the bend before the cruise dock have been severely carved away.

Prior to rebuilding the jetty, the dunes on Plum Island point were growing approximately 3' per year from sand that spilled over the south jetty. When the jetty was "repaired" it cut off the supply of sand and the erosion on the river side of the south jetty commenced.

With the completion of the north jetty this summer, the erosion on Plum Island point has drastically accelerated. It appears the ocean waves are reflecting off the rebuilt north jetty and the waves are crashing on the Plum Island side of the river. Currently we are losing approximately 2-3' of vegetated dunes per storm, and we have not had a Nor'easter yet this winter. We have never heard waves crashing on the river side of the island, just from the ocean side. We now hear the waves all the time.

We also understand there is a serious sandbar at the mouth of the river, which is most likely the sand washing away from Plum Island point.

At the current rate of the erosion, the waves will be lapping at our front doors in a matter of years. We are asking you to please be proactive about this situation. It seems there should be a happy medium between keeping the sand on the ocean side and letting enough flow to reduce the severe erosion.

We would like to know if you have any plans to mitigate the situation. If there aren't any plans what needs to be done to start the process?

Thank you for your prompt response and attention to this matter.

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