



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New England District

Maine Project Office

442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350

Augusta, Maine 04351

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: JULY 23, 2019

Comment Period Ends: AUGUST 22, 2019

File Number: NAE-2019-01433

In Reply Refer To: Jay L. Clement

Or by e-mail: jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil

30 DAY NOTICE

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below.

APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, 574 WASHINGTON STREET, BATH, MAINE 04530

ACTIVITY: The applicant is seeking a 10-year permit in order to conduct periodic maintenance dredging of portions of the Kennebec River federal channel in order to facilitate the movement of U.S. naval ships constructed at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in and out of the river. Based on historic shoaling rates and current and projected Navy shipbuilding schedules at BIW, maintenance dredging is anticipated to be needed and performed at about three year intervals. However, there may be occasions when, depending on ship movements and unanticipated shoaling, that dredging may occur more frequently. The first maintenance dredging event will occur during the winter of 2019/2020.

Up to 80,000 cubic yards (cy) of predominantly sand would be periodically dredged from two locations that are prone to shoaling and have been dredged repeatedly in the past by the Corps of Engineers. Up to 50,000 cy will be dredged off Doubling Point, within a 45 acre area to a depth of -32' mllw and disposed of in-river, off Bluff Head. At the river mouth, up to 20,000 cy will be dredged within a 31 acre area to a depth of -29' mllw and disposed of in the vicinity of Jackknife Ledge. Actual quantities may vary depending on the frequency and degree of shoaling. The in-river disposal site is located just south of Bluff Head in about 95-100 feet of water. The Jackknife Ledge site is located about 0.4 nautical miles south of Jackknife Ledge and in about 40-50 feet of water. Both disposal sites have been used repeatedly for similar dredging conducted by the Corps of Engineers and at the Bluff Head site, also by Bath Iron Works. Dredging would be conducted by hopper dredge and/or mechanical dredge.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE WORK: Kennebec River; Bath & Phippsburg, Maine. The project is located at latitude 43.896126°N; and longitude -69.810770°W, on the USGS BATH, ME quadrangle sheet (Doubling Point Site – Bath), and at latitude 43.749292°N; and longitude -69.778277°W, on the USGS SMALL POINT, ME quadrangle sheet (Popham Beach Site – Phippsburg).

AUTHORITY:

A permits was required pursuant to:

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit is based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

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

Dredging and disposal activities will impact EFH for a variety of species and their various life stages. The habitat consists of subtidal river or ocean bottom composed primarily of sand and some silt. Impacts to the listed species include turbidity and benthic disturbance, however these impacts have been found to be generally minimal and of short duration. The Department of the Navy (DON) has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Although the DON has taken the lead in this consultation, the District Engineer has made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the NMFS regarding EFH is being conducted and will be addressed in the environmental documentation.

Similarly, the DON has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Kennebec River supports the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon, federally threatened Atlantic sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon Critical Habitat (Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, and Chesapeake Bay DPS), and is within the range of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (“DPS”) of Atlantic salmon. Consultation with the NMFS will be concluded and will be addressed in the environmental documentation. Although the DON has taken the lead in this consultation, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency also provide comments to the Corps regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or critical habitat.

SECTION 106 COORDINATION: The DON has initiated consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Maine's Indian Tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Although the DON has taken the lead in this consultation, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work is not likely to affect properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. The DON and the Corps will continue review and consultation to fulfill requirements under the Historic Preservation Act as part of the permit review process.

OTHER APPROVALS: The applicant has supplied the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) with a permit application for the work described in this public notice and is requesting that the Department either grant or waive Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Comments regarding the applicant's Permit/Water Quality Certification request may be submitted in writing to: Nick Livesay, Director, Bureau of Land Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME, 04333-0017 or by email to: nick.livesay@maine.gov

In order to conclude our environmental documentation, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Jay Clement at 207-623-8367, ext. 1 at our Augusta, Maine Project Office.

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

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

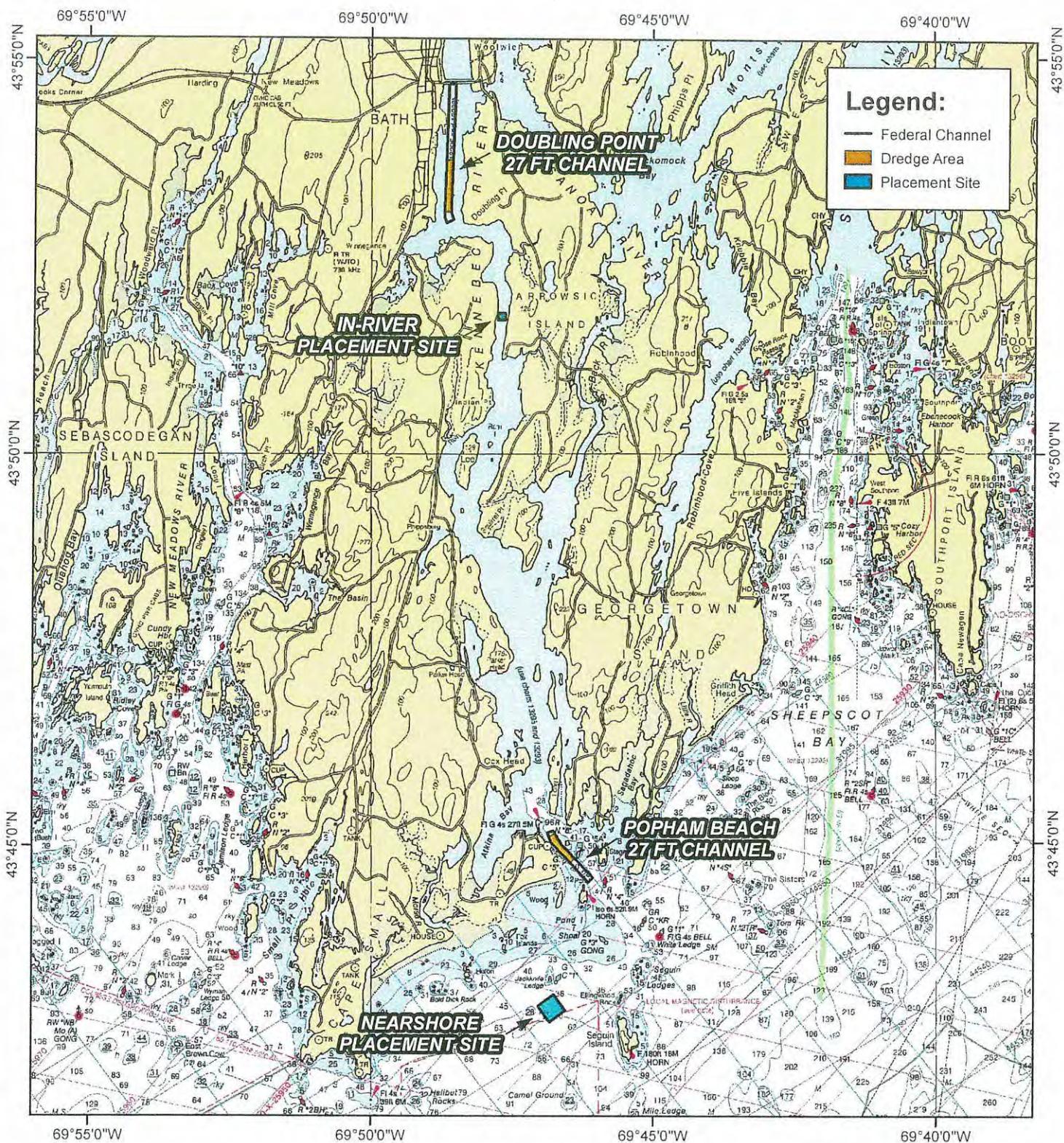
For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.



Frank J. Del Giudice
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

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

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____



**FIGURE 1:
KENNEBEC RIVER
DREDGING PROJECT OVERVIEW**



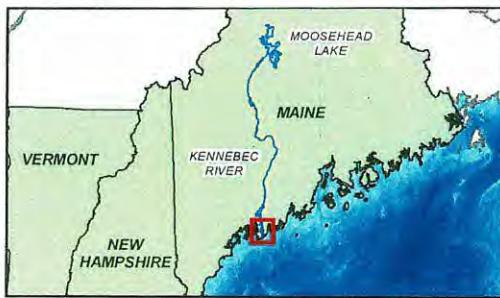
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New England District

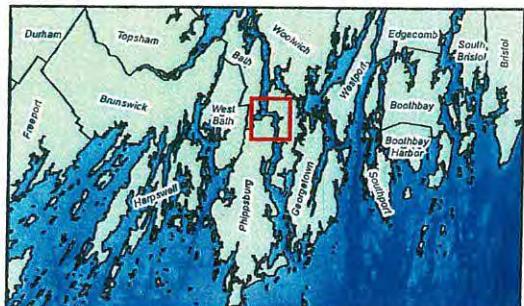
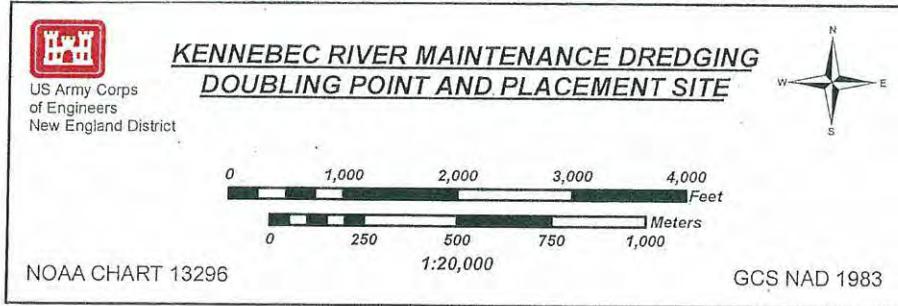
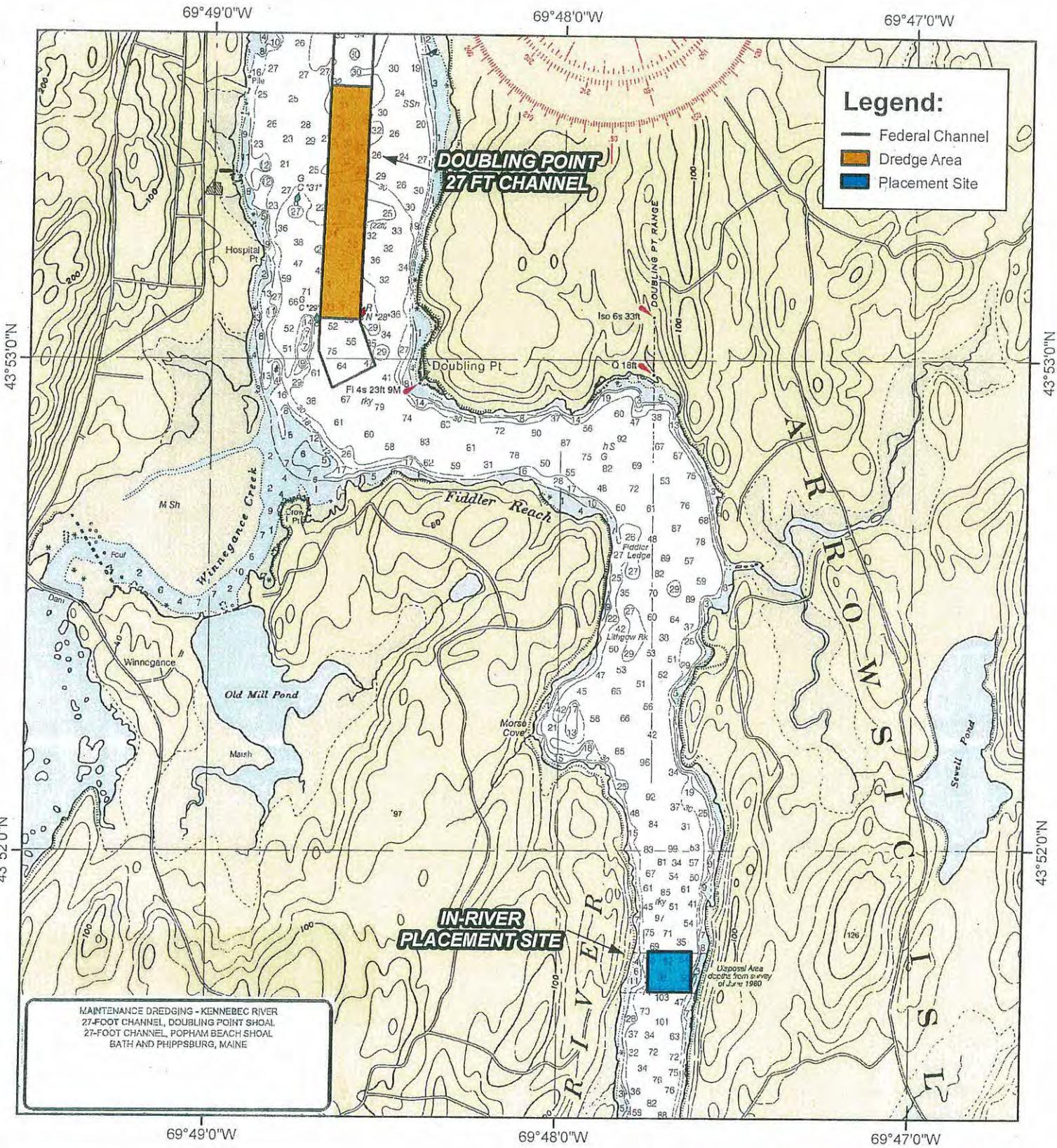
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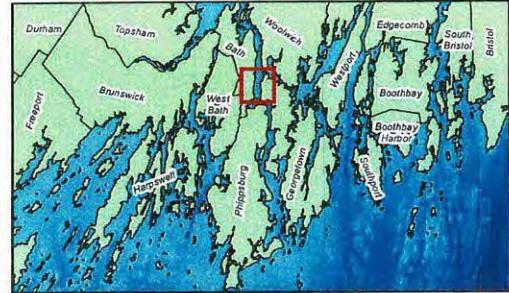
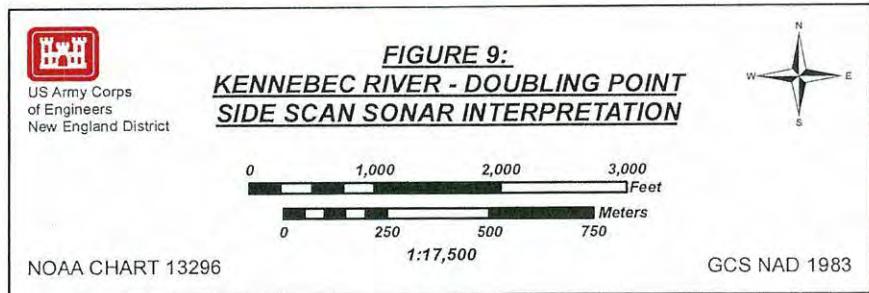
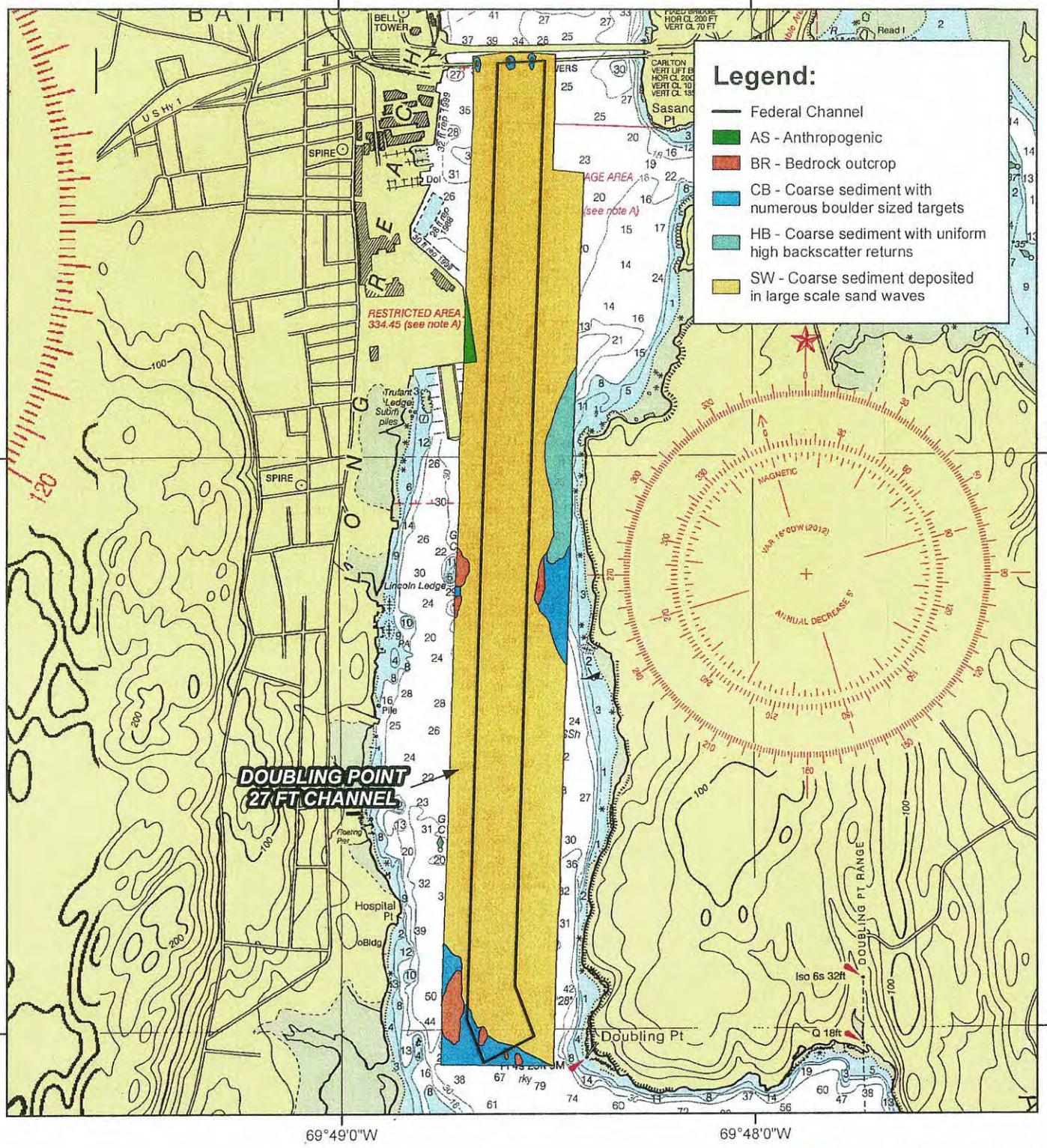
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GCS NAD 1983







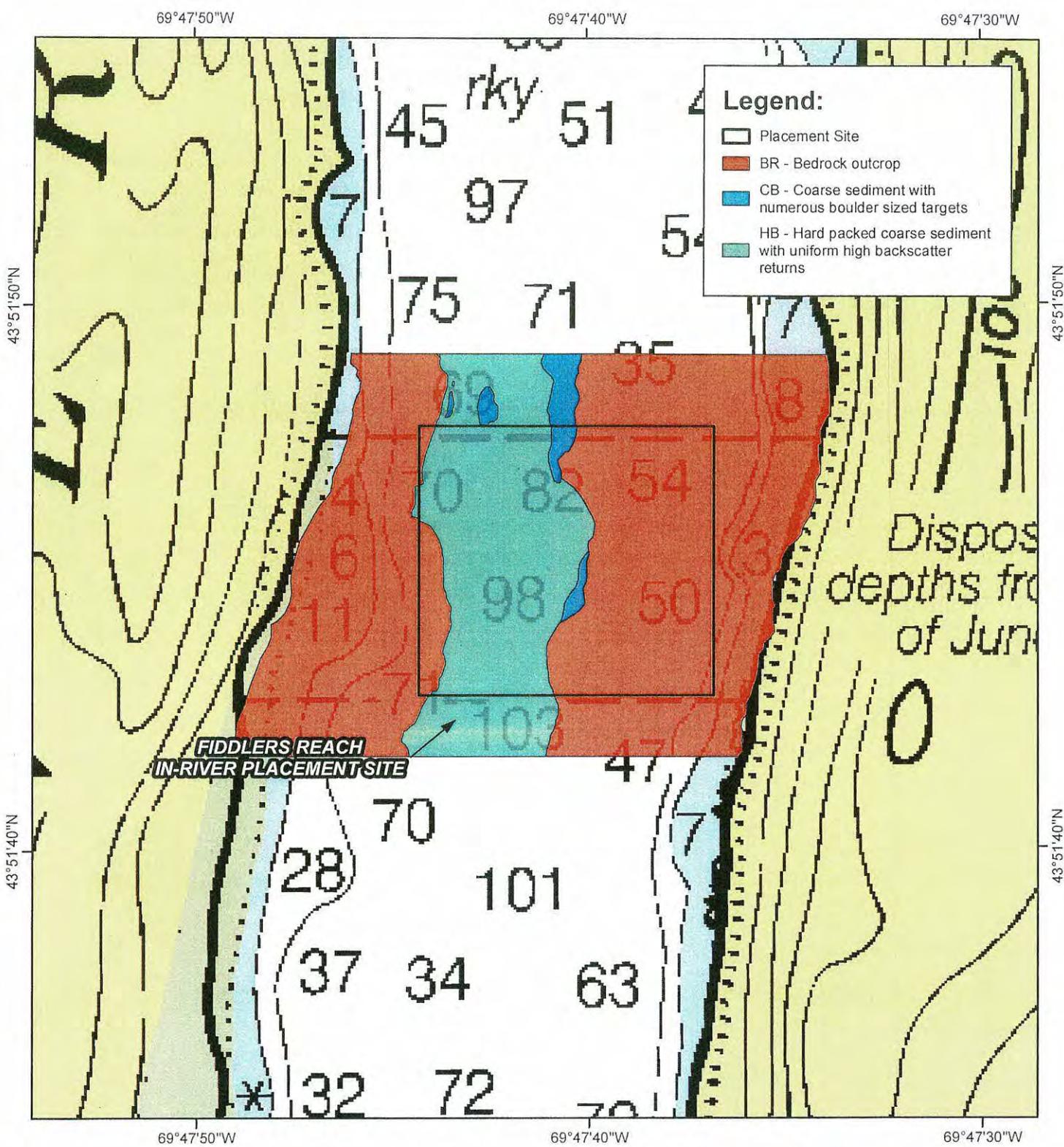
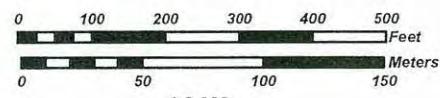


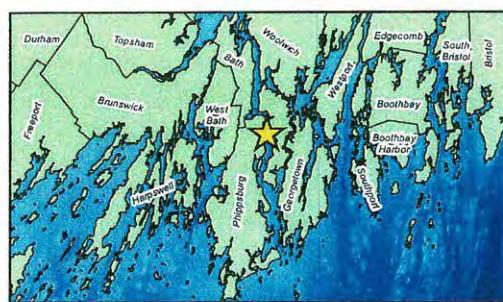
FIGURE 11:
KENNEBEC RIVER - FIDDLERS REACH
SIDE SCAN SONAR INTERPRETATION



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1:3,000

GCS NAD 1983



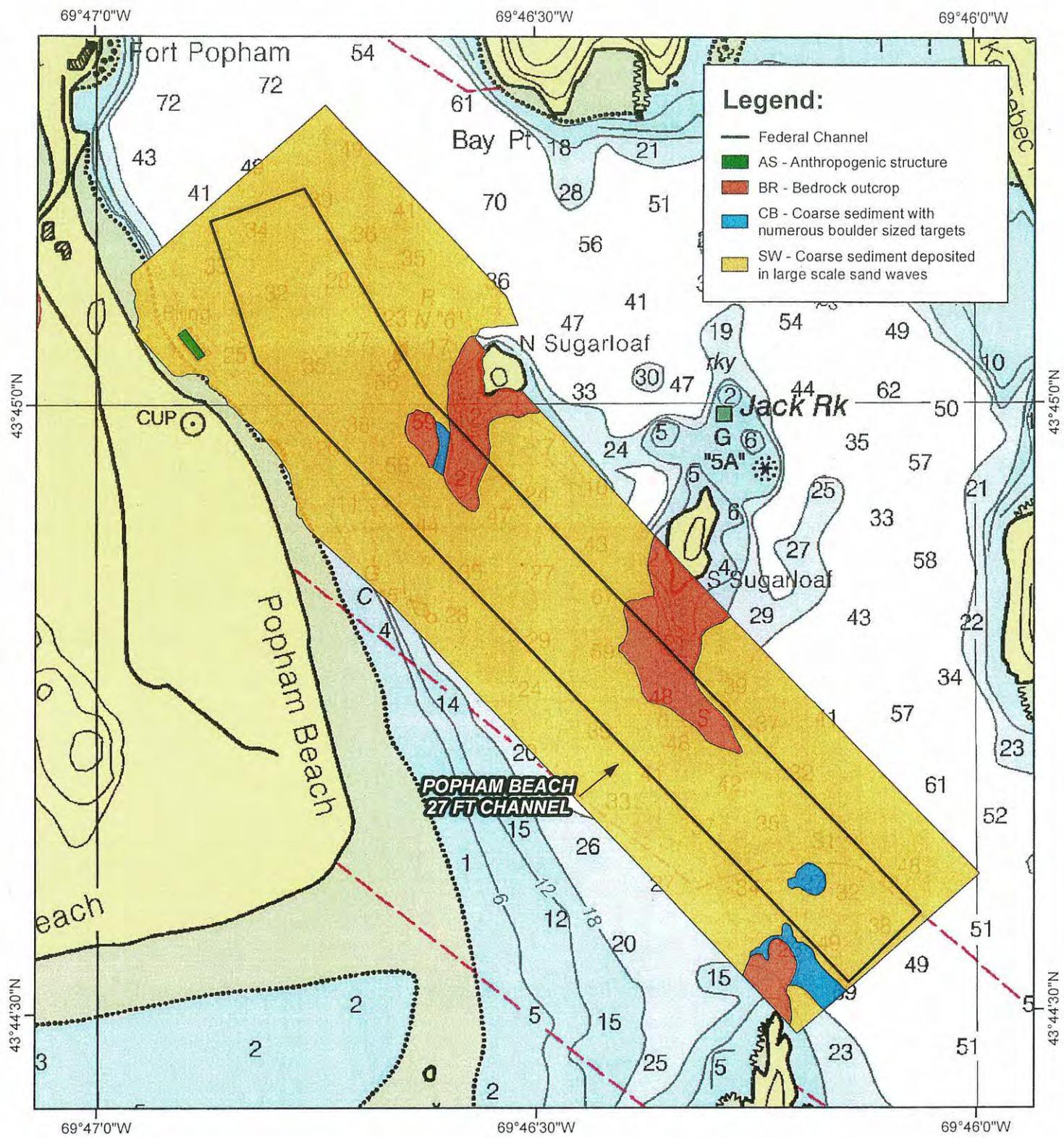
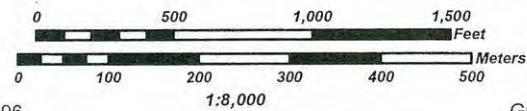
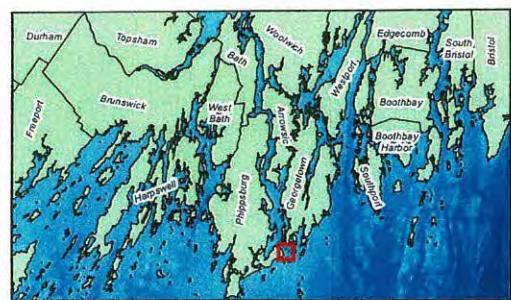


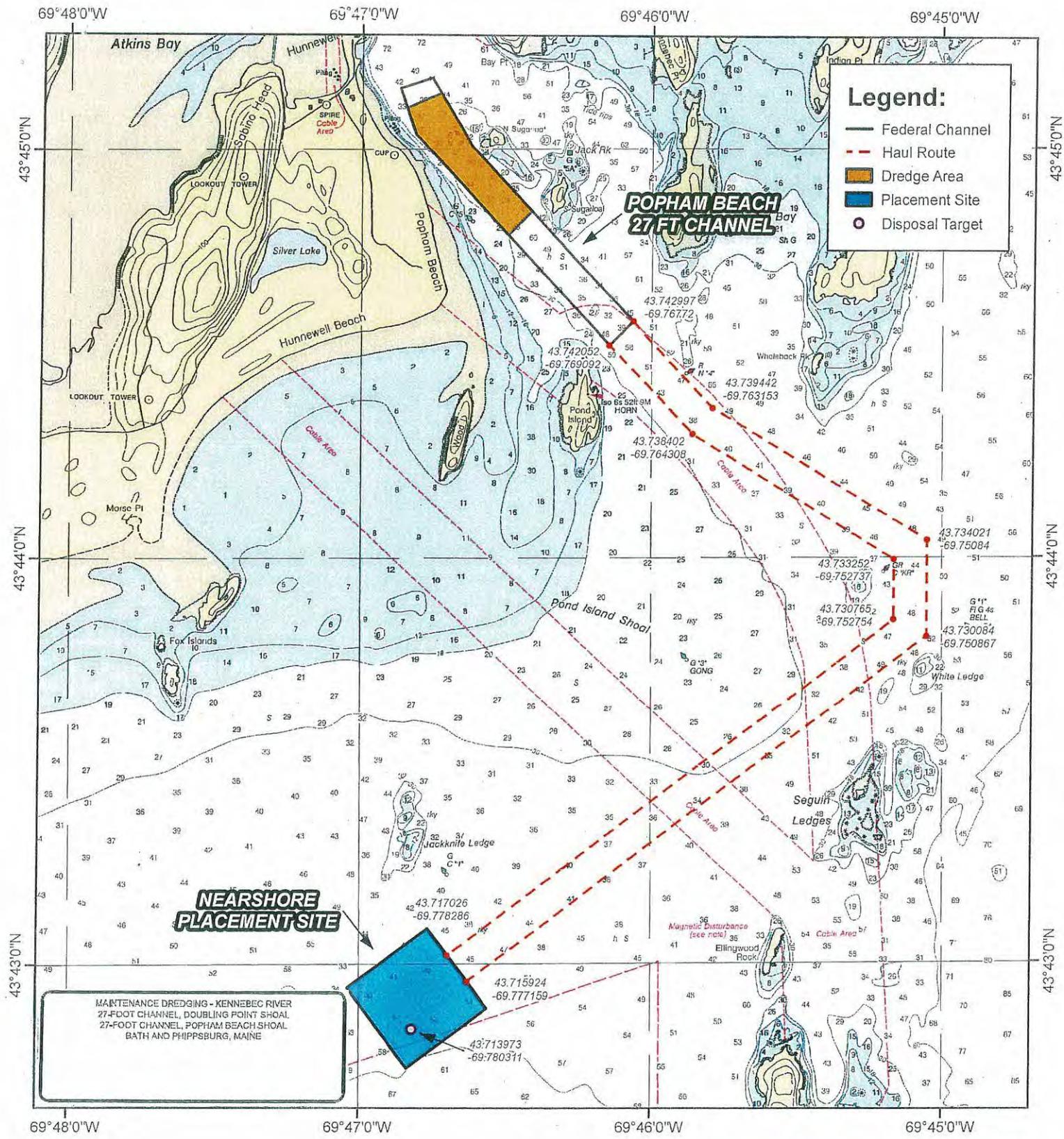
FIGURE 10:
KENNEBEC RIVER - POPHAM BEACH
SIDE SCAN SONAR INTERPRETATION



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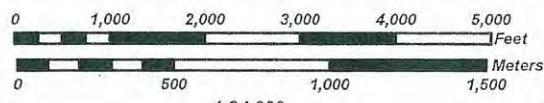
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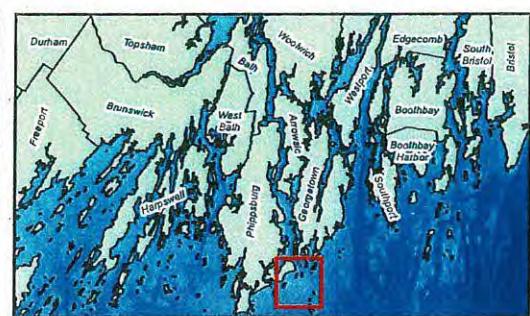
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KENNEBEC RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING POPHAM BEACH AND PLACEMENT SITE



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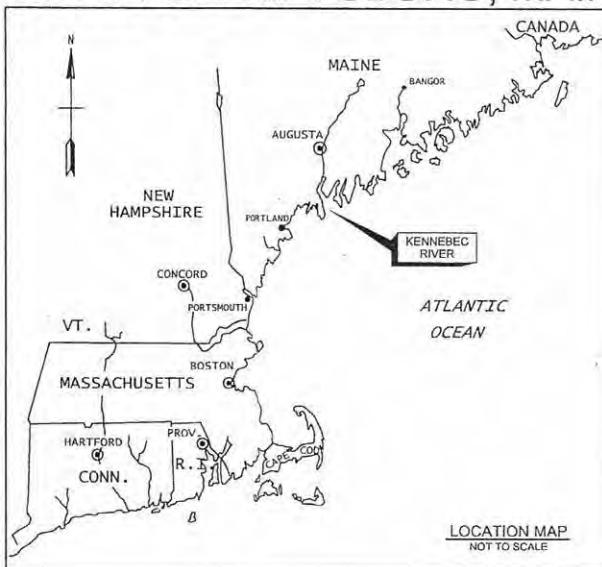
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MAINTENANCE DREDGING - KENNEBEC RIVER
27-FOOT CHANNEL, DOUBLING POINT SHOAL
27-FOOT CHANNEL, POPHAM BEACH SHOAL
BATH AND PHIPPSBURG, MAINE

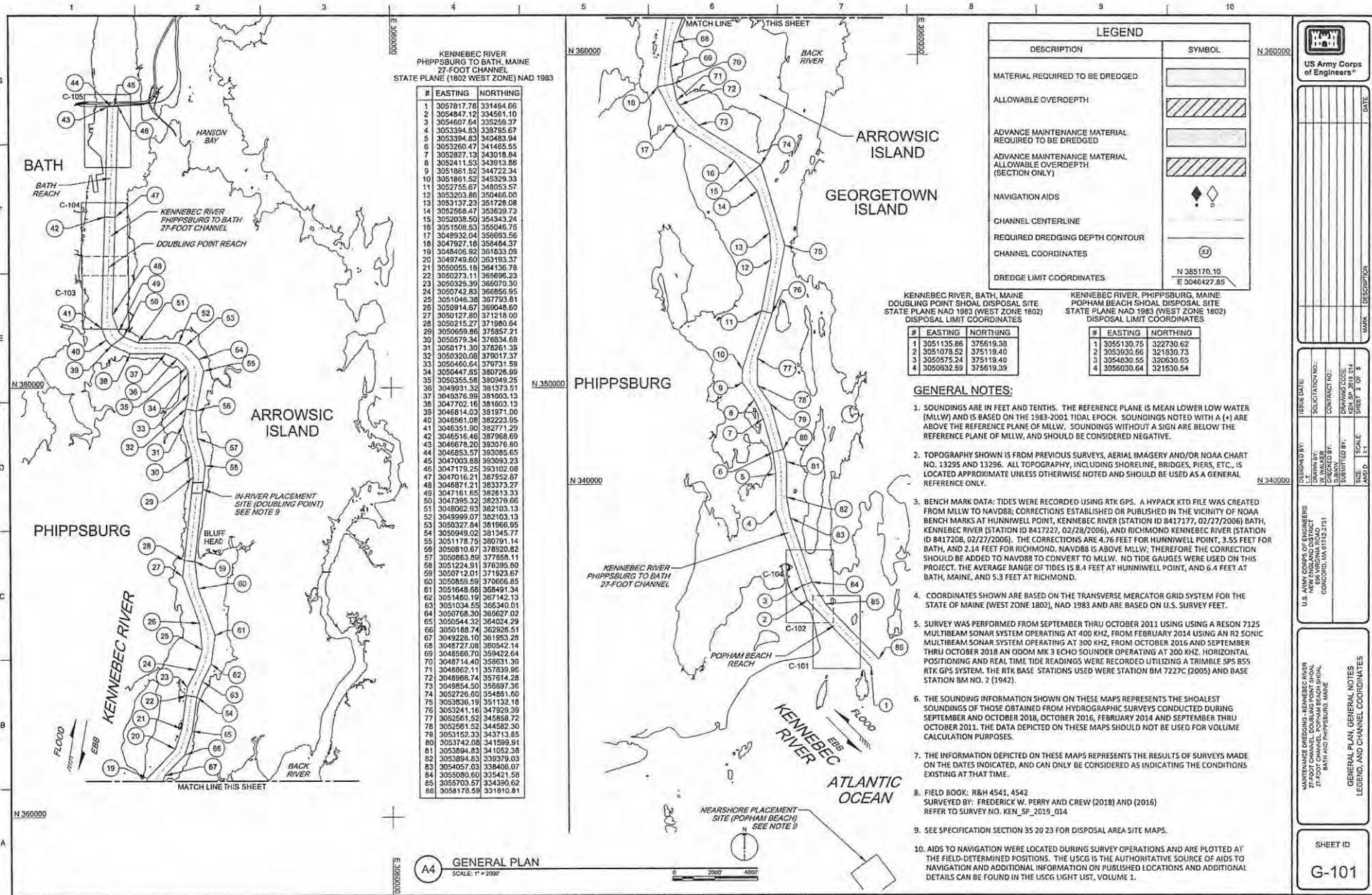


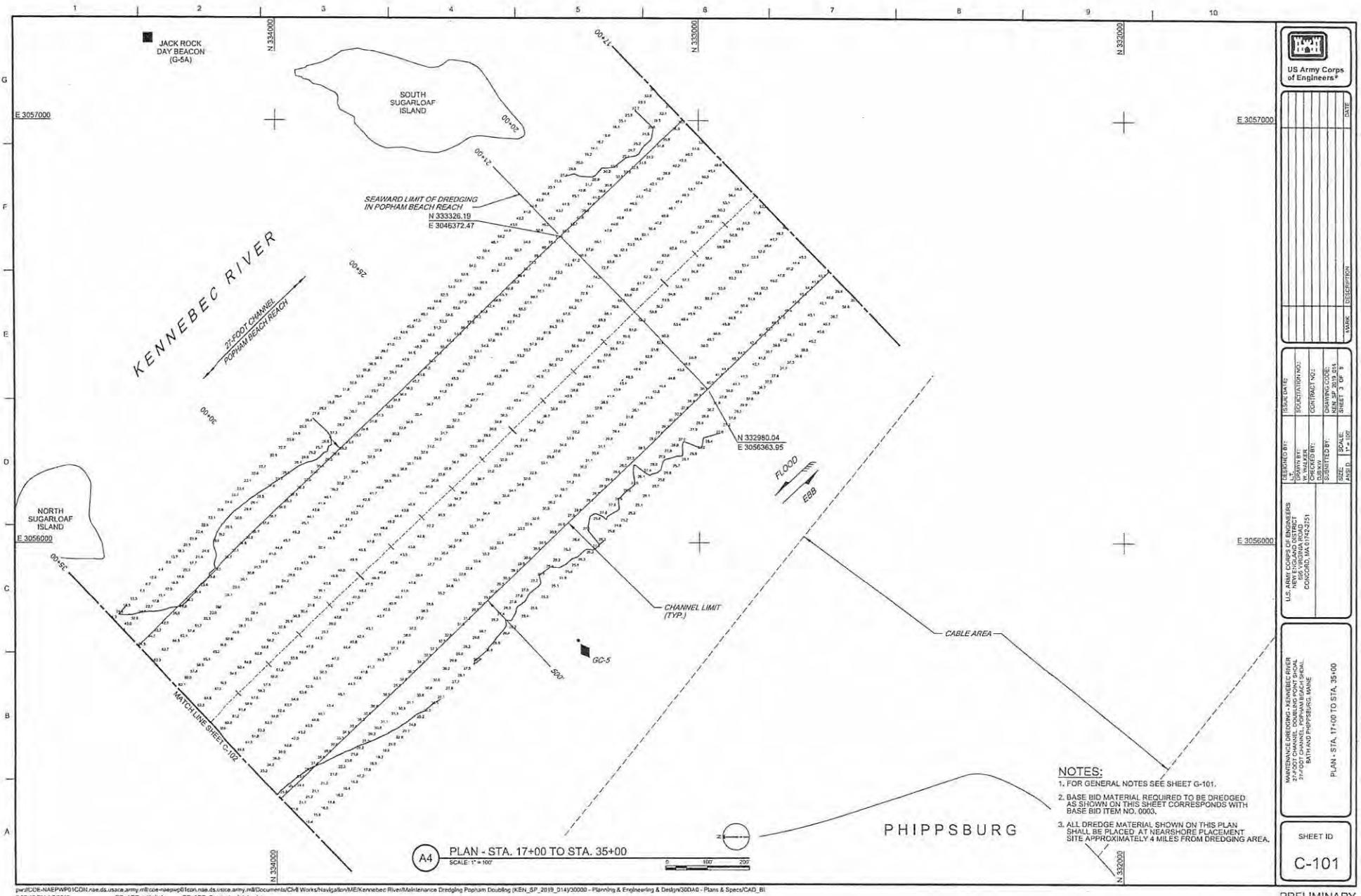
SOLICITATION NO.:
CONTRACT NO.:
ISSUE DATE:

DRAFT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

INDEX TO DRAWINGS		
SHEET NO.	DESIGN FILE	SHEET TITLE
1	KEN_SP_2019_014_G-001.DGN	COVER SHEET AND INDEX
2	KEN_SP_2019_014_G-101.DGN	GENERAL PLAN, GENERAL NOTES, LEGEND, AND CHANNEL COORDINATES
3	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-101.DGN	PLAN - STA. 17+00 TO STA. 35+00
4	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-102.DGN	PLAN - STA. 35+00 TO STA. 62+00
5	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-103.DGN	PLAN - STA. 594+00 TO STA. 620+00
6	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-104.DGN	PLAN - STA. 620+00 TO STA. 645+00
7	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-105.DGN	PLAN - STA. 670+00 TO STA. 693+31
8	KEN_SP_2019_014_C-301.DGN	SECTIONS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	
DESIGNED BY: L. L. GARNETT, ET AL. DRAWN BY: D. J. DAWKIN	DATE: 10/12/2015
SPECIFICATION NO.: 27-FOOT CHANNEL, POPHAM BEACH SHOAL, BATH AND PHIPPSBURG, MAINE	CONTRACT NO.: MA 01742-2151
APPROVED BY: CHIEF, SURVEY SECTION	DRAWING SCOPE: SHEET 1 OF 8
REVIEWED BY: CHIEF, GEOTECHNICAL/WATER RESOURCES BRANCH	MARK:
REVIEWED BY: CHIEF, GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING BRANCH	DATE:
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY: CHIEF, DESIGN BRANCH	DATE:
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY: CHIEF, TECHNICAL SUPPORT BRANCH/DEPUTY CHIEF ENG DIV	DATE:
APPROVED BY: CHIEF, ENGINEERING DIVISION	DATE:
MAINTENANCE DREDGING - KENNEBEC RIVER 27-FOOT CHANNEL, POPHAM BEACH SHOAL, BATH AND PHIPPSBURG, MAINE	
COVER SHEET LOCATION MAP AND INDEX TO DRAWINGS	
SHEET ID G-001	



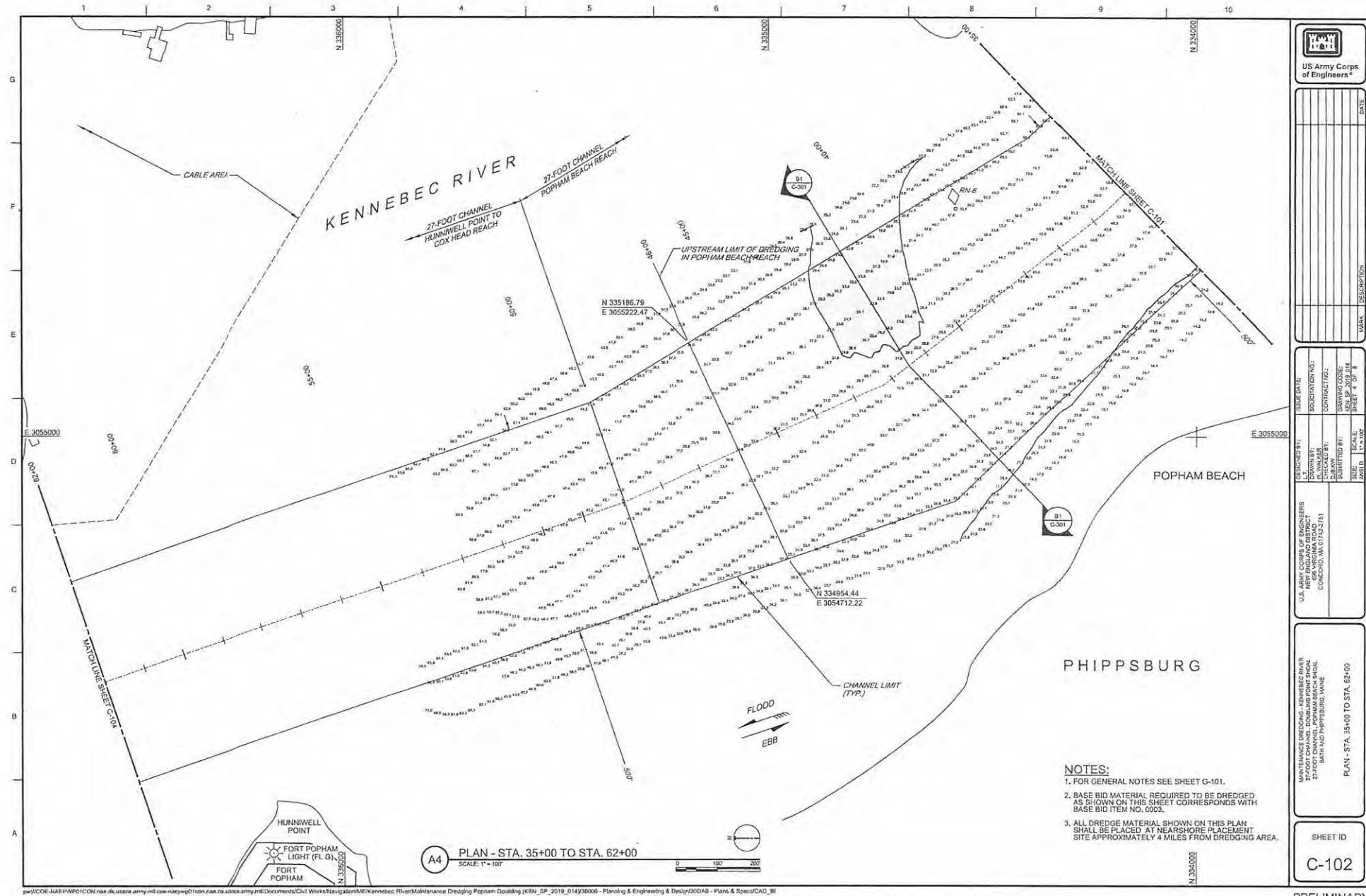


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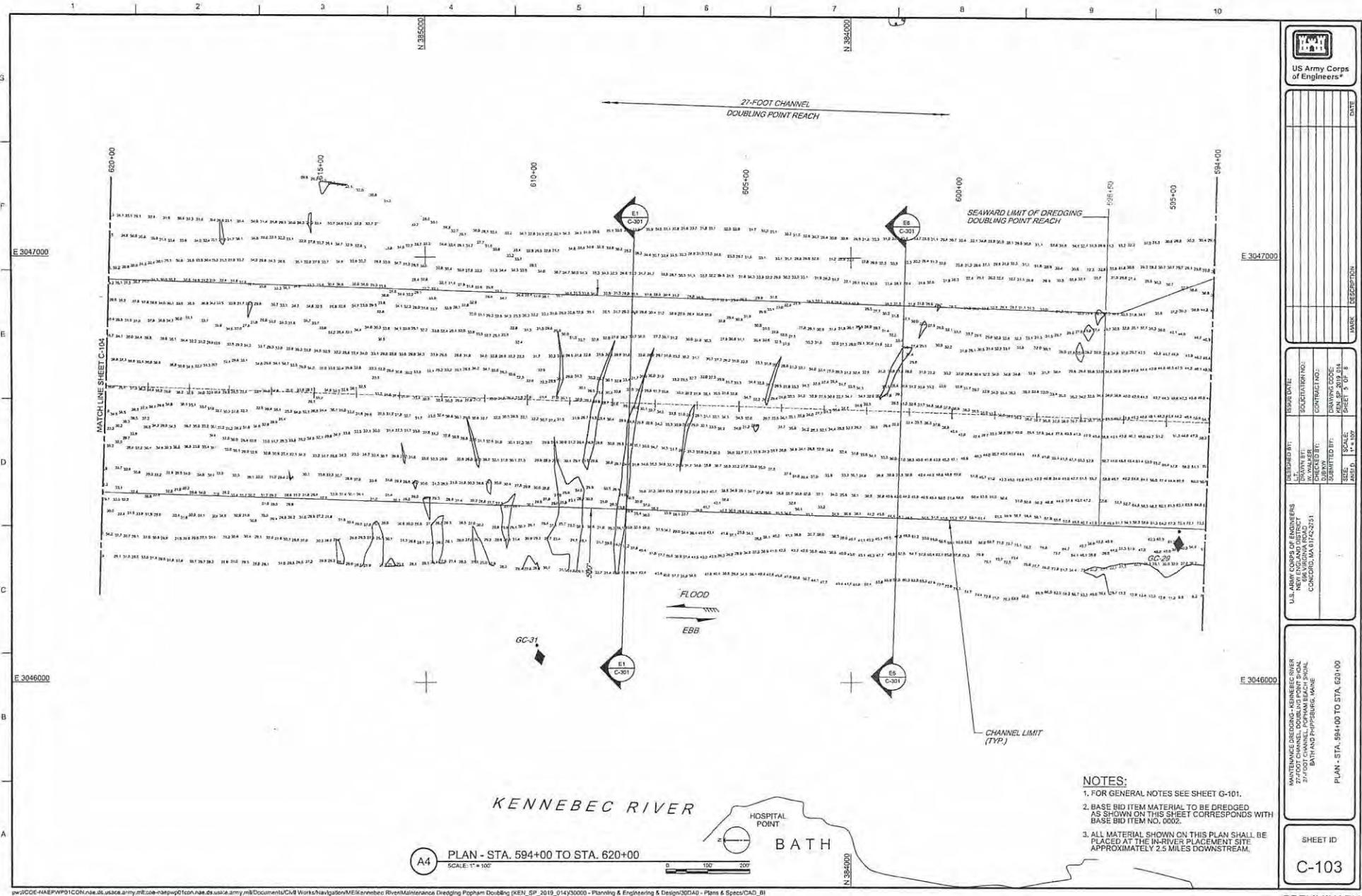
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PRELIMINARY



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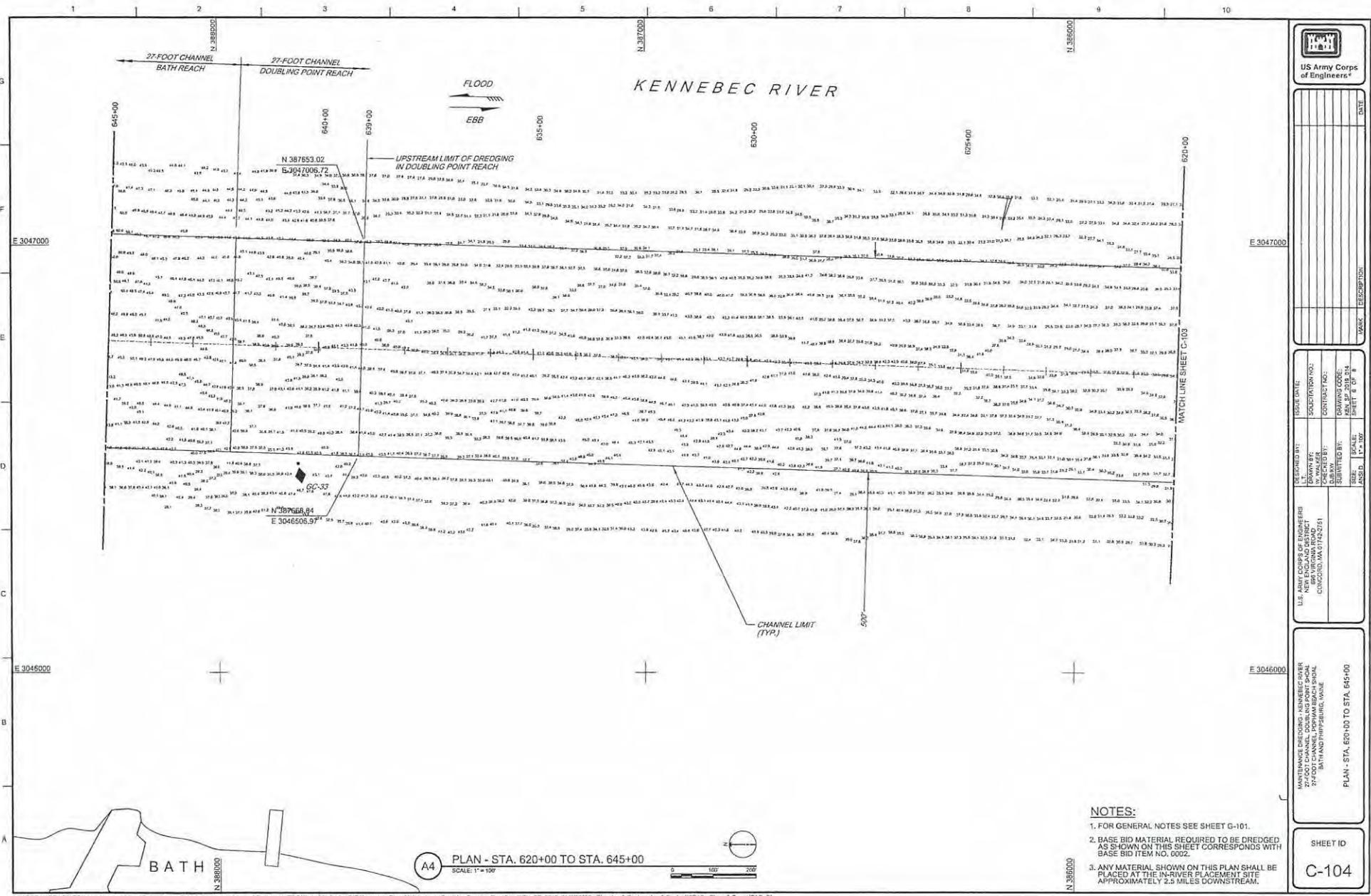
A4 PLAN - STA. 594+00 TO STA. 620+00

R4 SCALE: 1" = 100'

WMA/Infrastructure Dredging Pooleham Doubling (KEN_SP_2019_014)/30000 - Planning & Engineering

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PRELIMINARY



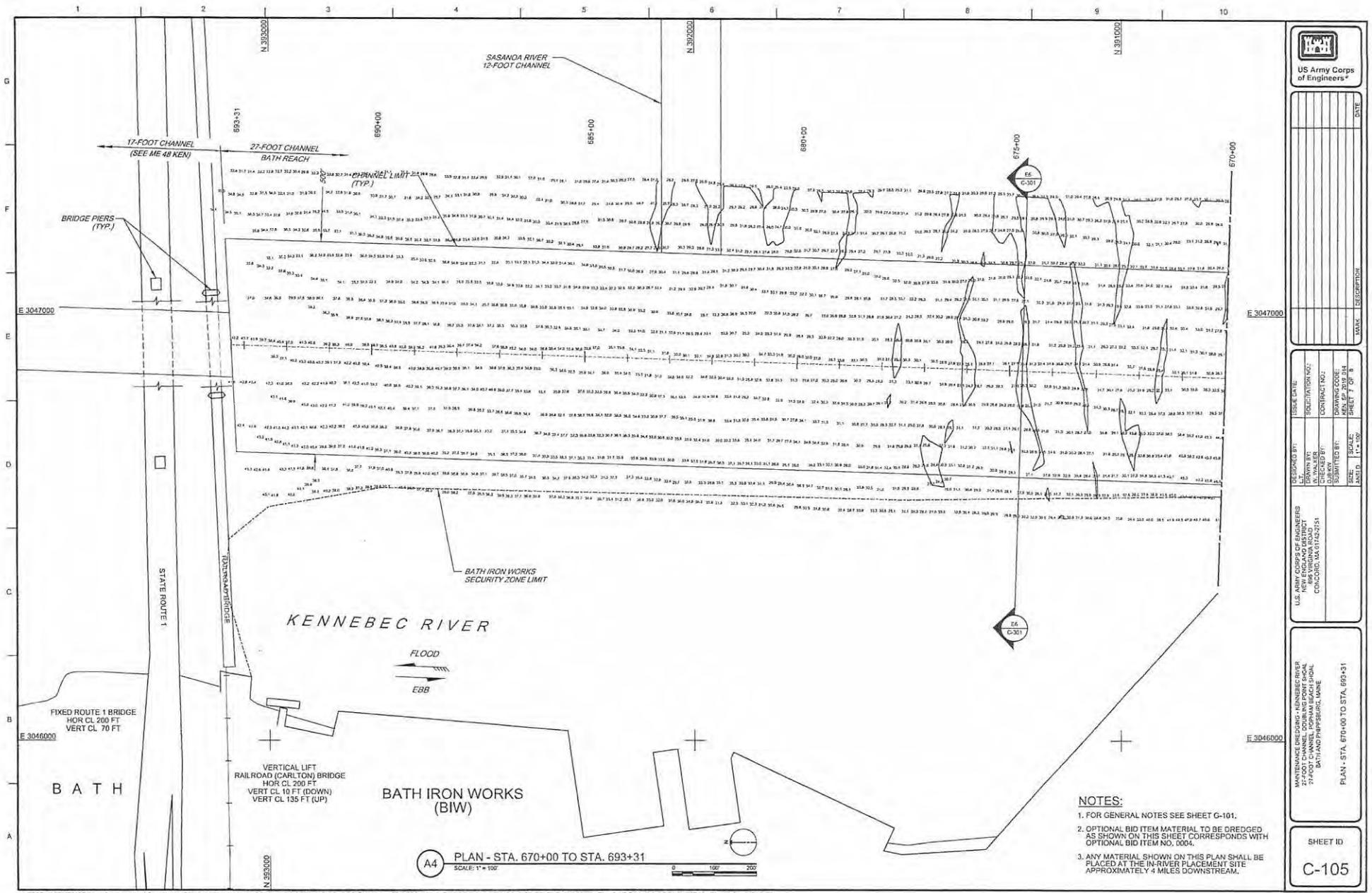
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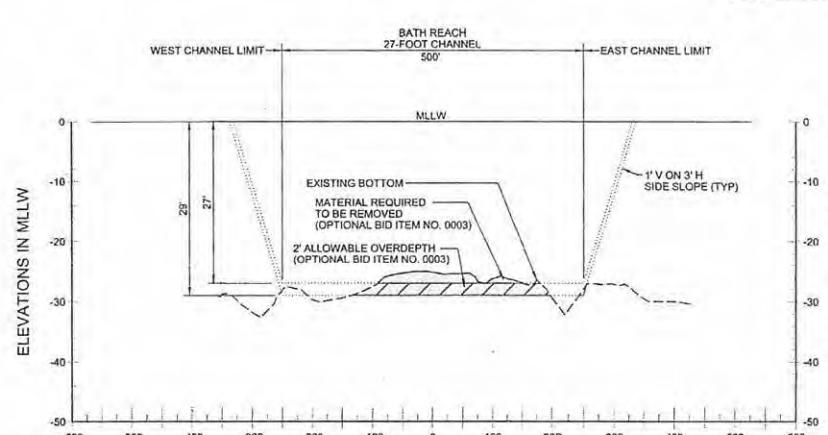
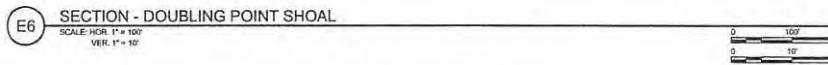
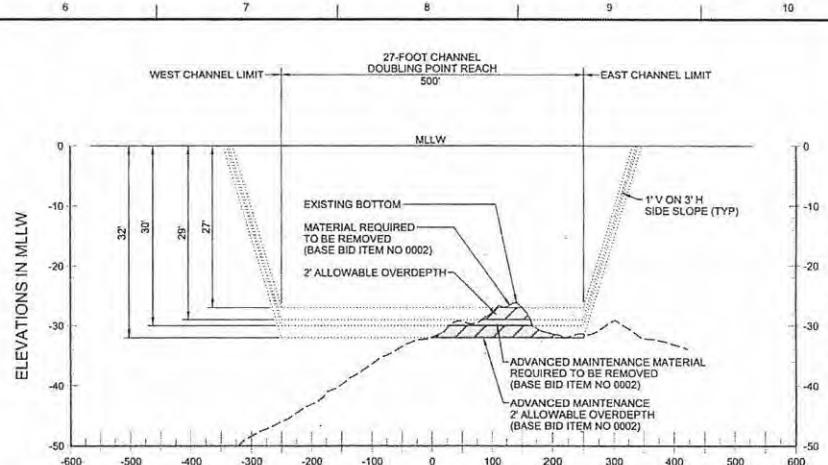
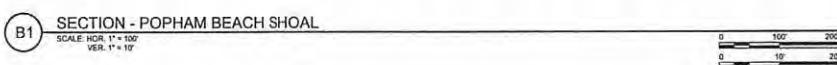
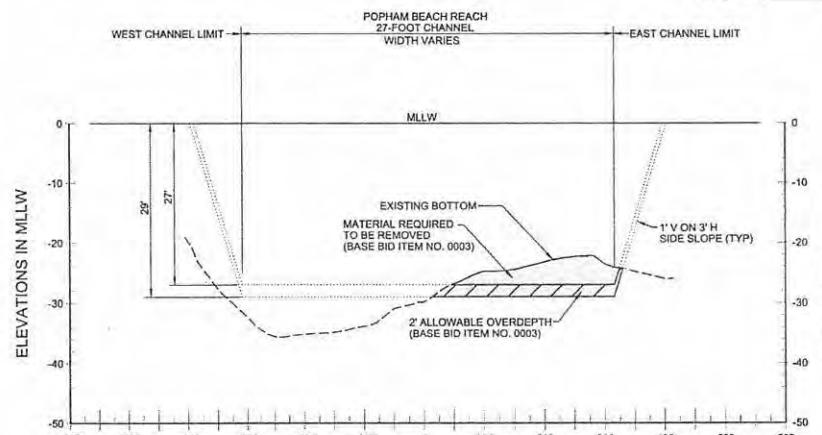
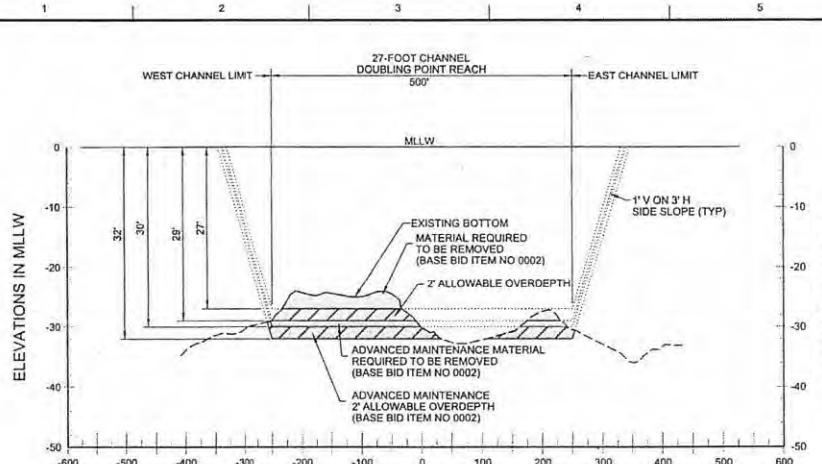
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