

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District

## **Public Notice**

In Reply to Application Number CENAB-OPR-MN (MPA/HARBOR-WIDE DREDGING/ FAIRFIELD-MASONVILLE MARINE TERMINAL 2014-60674-M07

PN 17-44

Comment Period: September 29, 2017 to October 30, 2017

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33. U.S.C. 1344) as described below:

APPLICANT: Mr. Michael W. Bozman, P.E. Maryland Port Administration 401 East Pratt Street, Suite 1653 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The proposed project is located in the Patapsco River, Baltimore City, Maryland.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes:

1) To mechanically or hydraulically dredge approximately:

• 30 acres to a depth of -20 feet below mean low water adjacent to the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF)

A maximum of approximately 71,000 cubic yards of dredged material would be deposited at either the Masonville or Cox Creek DMCF. A ten year maintenance dredging clause is requested.

2) To conduct up to 150 off-shore soil borings

The purpose of the project is to maintain navigable access at MPA's Fairfield – Masonville Marine Terminal facility. All work will be completed in accordance with the enclosed plans dated June 21, 2016.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Maria N, Teresi, CENAB-OPR-M, 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201 *or* maria.teresi@usace.army.mil

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonable may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be

2

considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economic, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and consideration of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The evaluation of the impacts of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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 provided will become part of the public record for this action. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, [Attn: Ms. Maria N. Teresi, CENAB-OPR-M], 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201 or <u>maria.teresi@usace.army.mil</u> within the comment period specified above.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996

(Public Law 04-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project site lies in or adjacent to EFH as described under MSFCMA for windowpane flounder (*Scopthalmus* aquosos) juvenile and adult; blue fish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) juvenile and adult; summer flounder (*Paralicthys dentatus*) juvenile le and adult; and egg, larvae, juvenile and adult stages of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculates*), and cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), all managed species under the MSFCMA.

The project has the potential to adversely affect EFH or the species of concern by loss of spawning, nursery, forage and/or shelter habitat as described under the MSFCMA for the species and life stages identified above. The Baltimore District has made a preliminary determination that site-specific impacts would not be substantial and an abbreviated consultation will be conducted with NMFS. This determination may be modified if additional information indicates otherwise and would change the preliminary determination.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification inaccordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Maryland

certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Any written comments concerning the work described above which relate to water quality certification must be received by the Wetlands and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708 within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. The Section 401 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year from the date of this public notice to make its decision.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:** Where applicable, the applicant has certified in this application that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. By this public notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement. Public comments relating to consistency must be received by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MOE), Wetlands and Waterways Program, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708 within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. MOE has a statutory limit of 6 months to concur or object to the applicant's consistency determination.

The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits which may be required. A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect Federal listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the request permit.

Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, [Attn: Ms. Maria N. Teresi, CENAB-OPR-M], 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons know by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Joseph P. DaVia Chief, Maryland Section Northern











