



# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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RELEASE 06-43

## Public meeting to be held for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

**Baltimore** — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District and the non-Federal sponsor, the Maryland Port Administration, are conducting two public meetings on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The meetings are being held in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, following the preparation and release of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Restoration Project in Dorchester County.

Approximately 90 to 95 million cubic yards of clean dredged material, primarily from maintenance of the Chesapeake Bay approach channels to the Port of Baltimore, would be placed behind dikes at James Island. Material placed at Barren Island would come from maintenance dredging of Federal navigation channels in the Hoga River area. The material will be shaped and planted to provide 2,144 acres of island habitat at James (2,072 acres) and Barren (72 acres) Islands and would protect existing island ecosystem habitat, including critical submerged aquatic vegetation. James and Barren Islands have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other natural resource management agencies as a valuable nesting and nursery area for many species of fish and wildlife, including bald eagles, diamondback terrapins and horseshoe crabs.

The Corps and the MPA invite interested agencies, organizations, and individuals to attend a public meeting during which information will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the meeting and to provide spoken or written comments on the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS. Corps and MPA staff will be available to provide information and answer questions. The meeting dates are:

**Wednesday, October 11, 2006**

6 p.m. displays, 7 p.m. presentation  
Dorchester County Public Library  
303 Gay Street  
Cambridge, MD 21613

**Thursday, October 12, 2006**

6 p.m. displays, 7 p.m. presentation  
Taylors Island Volunteer Fire Hall  
510 Taylors Island Road  
Taylors Island, MD 21669

If you cannot attend the meeting and wish to comment, you may contact Ms. Stacey Blersch at P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore MD 21203, call (410) 962-5196 or 1-800-295-1610, or e-mail your comments to:

[Stacey.S.Blersch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stacey.S.Blersch@usace.army.mil).

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