



US Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

September 22, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project

Preparation of Supplementary Environmental Assessment Offshore Shoals in Federal Waters as Sand Sources

All Interested Parties: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), is proposing to dredge offshore shoals in federal waters to obtain sand for the Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project in 2026. The project is in the Town of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland.

The USACE, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), has conducted a supplemental environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), with USACE serving as the lead agency. The supplemental Environmental Assessment (sEA), dated September 2025, for the Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project entitled Offshore Shoals in Federal Waters as Sand Sources for Ocean City, Maryland, supplements a 2008 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (2008 EIS) and a 2020 sEA. The Atlantic Coast Project, authorized through 2044, places sand on the beach of Ocean City, Maryland, to reduce risk of coastal storm damage.

The 2025 sEA evaluates impacts to Weaver Shoal to meet the immediate sand needs of the Atlantic Coast Project. Because five years have elapsed since issuance of the 2020 sEA, USACE and BOEM prepared this 2025 sEA to update findings of the 2020 sEA to determine whether modifications are warranted to the previous recommended plan, which identified Weaver Shoal as the recommended sand source for the next renourishment cycle (winter 2026/2027) and one more additional cycle thereafter. The updated recommended plan for the Atlantic Coast Project consists of:

- Placing sand on the beach of Ocean City every four years, with the next sand nourishment anticipated in winter 2026/2027.
- Dredging sand from Weaver Shoal for the next beach nourishment cycle in 2026 and one more additional cycle thereafter.
- Conducting dredging under environmental constraints to minimize long-term impacts to offshore shoal habitats.

The sEA does not analyze the effects of all resources analyzed in the 2020 sEA if no new information on those resources has been made available since 2020, or NEPA law or policy regarding how to analyze effects to those resources has not changed since the 2020.

The sEA only analyzes effects on bathymetry/physiography, air quality, natural seafloor habitats, benthic invertebrates, and cultural and tribal resources.

USACE and MD DNR are seeking input on offshore shoal concerns that may assist in the evaluation of Weaver Shoal. Study efforts are being coordinated with other federal and state agencies, local governments and the public. For federal and state agencies receiving a copy of this notice, we request that you provide information concerning interests within your organization's area of responsibility or expertise. All comments are requested within 30 calendar days of this notice to the address below.

If any questions arise regarding this assessment, please contact Chris Johnson by email at Christopher.a.johnson@usace.army.mil, or by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Information about the assessment is posted on the USACE Baltimore District website:

<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Atlantic-Coast-of-Maryland-Shoreline-Protection/>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Bierly", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division