



Learn More



To learn more about the USACE and the Mid-Bay Project, please visit: nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/



To learn more about the MPA and the Mid-Bay Project, including a short informational video, please visit: maryland-dmmp.com

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions, please contact Rachael Gilde at Rgilde@marylandports.com

Stay "In The Know"!

Sign up for project updates at the Maryland Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) website: maryland-dmmp.com/placement-sites/mid-bay-island/

Upcoming Events

Barren Island Public Hearing and Poster Session

November 29, 2023

**Madison Volunteer Fire Department
1154 Taylors Island Road
Madison, MD 21648**

- Informational Poster Session open from 5:30-6:30 PM
- Public Hearing to begin at 6:30 PM

Project Newsletter

Fall 2023



Safety Contact Information

Tug Capt. Dale and Push Boat Emelie B. will be monitoring VHF Channel 13 & 16.

The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project - commonly known as Mid-Bay - is located in Dorchester County near what remains of the separate James and Barren Islands. The project will use dredged material from the Chesapeake Bay's Maryland navigation channels to restore remote island and wetland habitat near James and Barren Islands, which will provide improved health and sustainability to aquatic and wildlife species. Additionally, the restoration project will benefit navigational safety and passive recreation, while providing additional shoreline protection. The project is being completed under a federal/state partnership between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District and Maryland Port Administration (MPA).



Barren Island Safety Update

Please continue to use extreme caution when accessing the water immediately west of Barren Island. Approximately 20 barges of various sizes will be moored and / or navigating these waters between set buoys to the west of the island and construction area. Large pieces of equipment and stone of varying size and elevations will be present in this area throughout the period of construction, please continue to avoid the construction safety zone, as depicted in yellow (**Figure 1**).

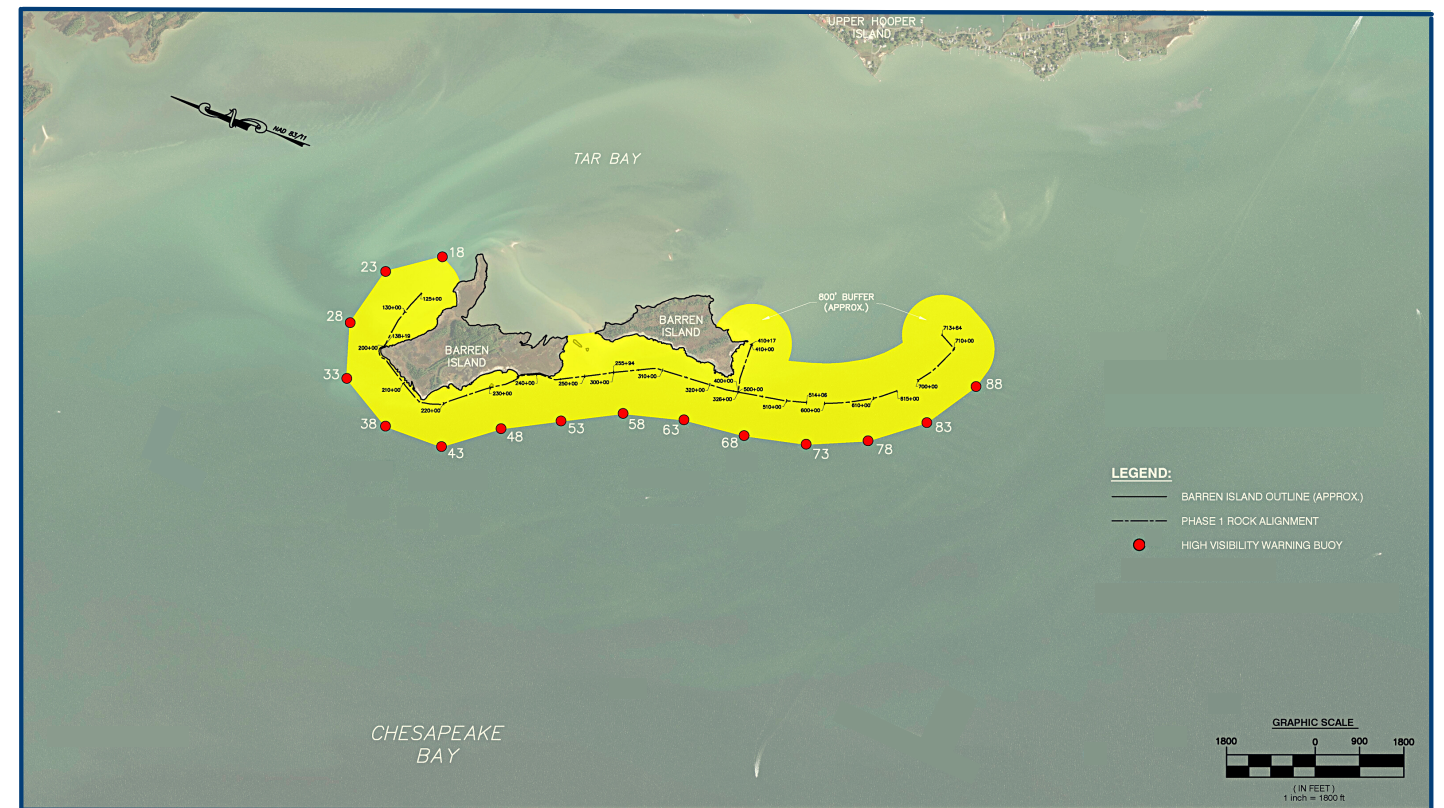
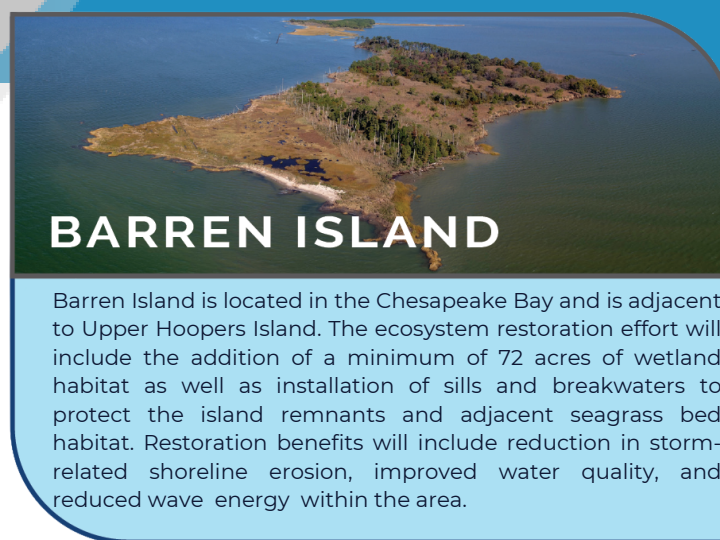


Figure 1. Barren Island Phase I Construction Safety Zone



Mid-Bay Environmental and Permitting Update

NEPA Environmental Documentation

The draft Barren Island Borrow Area Supplemental Environmental Assessment (sEA) has been completed and is available on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) website (<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/>). If you have any questions related to the sEA, please contact **Angie Sowers** at angela.sowers@usace.army.mil. The James Island Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (sEIS) will be available for review in Spring 2024.

Barren Island Public Hearing

The current Barren Island Tidal Wetlands License is being modified to include use of the sand borrow area located west of Barren Island. Sand will be dredged and used to replace unsuitable (soft) foundation material under the northeast sill, construct the bird islands, and construct the confining dikes around the internal wetland footprint. A public notice has been released by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Comments regarding the modification or requests to be included on MDE's interested persons list should be submitted to MDE by **November 27, 2023**, to Mary.Phipps-Dickerson@maryland.gov, **443-509-0797**, or the address below:

Maryland Department of the Environment - Tidal Wetlands
ATTN: Mary Phipps-Dickerson
201 Baptist Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

The public notice can be viewed at:
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/wetlandsandwaterways/aboutwetlands/pages/pubnotj01.aspx>

Additionally, you may provide comments on the Barren Island Tidal Wetlands License modification in person at the **Public Hearing**, held on **November 29, 2023**, at **6:30 PM** at **Madison Volunteer Fire Department 1154 Taylors Island Road, Madison, MD 21648**. Prior to the Public Hearing, an **Informational Poster Session** will be held at the same location from **5:30 to 6:30 PM** to provide the public an opportunity to review general project information, ask the project partners questions, and learn more about ongoing public outreach efforts and opportunities to be involved.

Barren Island Construction Update

Construction is continuing for the Barren Island portion of the project. Barren Island Phase I construction began in March 2023 and will likely be completed by October 2024. Approximately 30% has been completed (**Figure 2**). Phase I construction includes installation of a majority of the protective stone sills and breakwaters, which line the western side of the island (**Figure 3**).

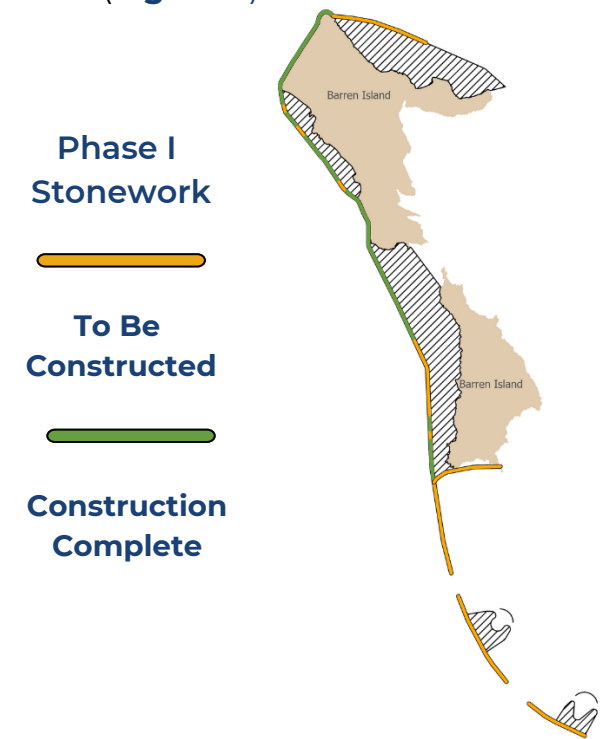


Figure 2. Barren Island Phase I Construction Progress



Figure 3. Examples of Equipment Used During Barren Island Phase I Construction

