



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Draft Integrated Letter Report and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Water Chestnut Management in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia

March 23, 2026

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), is releasing a draft Integrated Letter Report and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the long-term, regional management of the invasive water chestnut. Federal participation in this action is through the USACE Aquatic Plant Control Program. The draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of managing two invasive aquatic plants, including the two-horned water chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa*) and the Eurasian water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

The draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. Under the proposed federal action, USACE would enter into a cost-shared agreement with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), the non-federal sponsor, to support ongoing management of these species. Management measures would include manual removal, mechanical harvesting, and targeted herbicide applications to reduce the spread of the invasive plants. Implementation of management activities is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2026.

Adverse impacts to local residents and recreational users at affected water bodies targeted for this work are anticipated to be minimal and temporary. In the long term, the work will have positive effects by reducing the spread of water chestnut, enhancing access for recreational activities, and improving water quality and aquatic habitat within affected water bodies. Based on the preliminary findings in the draft EA, USACE prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) located in the referenced draft document.

The draft Integrated Letter Report and Programmatic EA as well as the draft FONSI will be available for public review at the following website:

<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Two-Horned-Water-Chestnut/>.

Comments may be submitted using the fillable form available on the website, or by emailing the project manager, Jacqueline Seiple, at jacqueline.a.seiple@usace.army.mil. Public comments will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this notice.

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