



Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island, Talbot County, MD

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of July 31, 2015

AUTHORIZATION: Section 537 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996, P.L. 104-303, as amended by Section 318 of WRDA 2000, Section 3087 of WRDA 2007, P.L. 110-114, and Section 7003 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 2014.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Restoration/Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

CONTRIBUTION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY: Directly contributes to achieving protection and restoration goals established by the 2009 Executive Order 13508 and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program goals to recover habitat and sustain fish and wildlife.

PROJECT PHASE: Construction

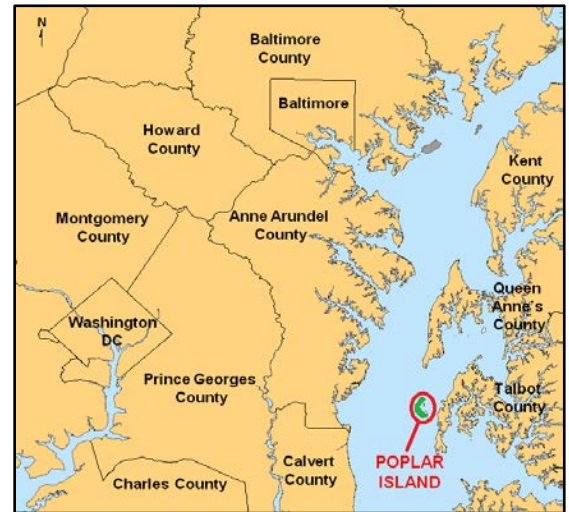
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators **Mikulski** and **Cardin** (MD) and Representative **Harris** (MD-1)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Maryland Department of Transportation (Maryland Port Administration, MPA)

BACKGROUND: The project is located in the upper-middle Chesapeake Bay approximately 34 nautical miles southeast of the Port of Baltimore and one mile northwest of Tilghman Island in Talbot County, Maryland.

The project is focused on restoring/expanding remote island habitat to provide hundreds of acres of wetland and terrestrial habitat for fish, shellfish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals through the beneficial use of approximately 68 million cubic yards (MCY) of dredged material from the approach channels of the Baltimore Harbor and Channels navigation project. The project represents a long-term strategy for providing viable placement alternatives that meet the dredging needs of the Port of Baltimore while maximizing the use of dredged materials as a beneficial resource. The dredged material will restore 1,715 acres of remote island habitat consisting of 840 acres of upland habitat; 737 acres of wetland habitat (including low and high marsh); and approximately 138 acres of open water embayment. This project provides the direct benefits of improved health, richness, and sustainability for aquatic and wildlife species. The project advances two supporting strategies of Executive Order 13508 by expanding citizen stewardship and strengthening science.

Restoration of island habitat is necessary and valuable to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. In the last 150 years, it has been estimated that 10,500 acres of this habitat type have been lost in the middle-



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eastern portion of Chesapeake Bay. Remote island habitat is valuable as resting and nesting sites for migratory and shore birds.

STATUS: Through 2014, 177 acres of tidal wetland have been created and 24.3 MCY of dredged material have been placed at the project. The authorized cost of the project was increased by WRRDA 2014.

BUDGET(\$):

	<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$1,439,252,000
Federal Cost Estimate	1,079,439,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	359,813,000
 <u>Federal Funds Data</u>	
Allocation thru FY 2014 ¹	242,377,000
Allocation for FY 2015	15,100,000
President Budget FY 2016 ²	26,500,000
Allocation for FY 2016 ³	TBD
Balance to Complete	795,462,000

NOTES:

¹ Of these total allocations, \$910,700 was provided under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

² The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a Program Budget Press Book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

³ The final FY 2016 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Completed Work: With the funding received contracts for the inflow of dredged material (\$14.6M), the opening of wetland cell 4D to tidal inflow (\$720K), and the planting of wetland cell 3A-C (\$1,060K) were awarded. Additionally, planning, engineering and design; annual surveys and monitoring; restoration management; and project coordination were completed.

FY 2015 Scheduled Work: Previous year carry in funds in the amount of \$2.7M and fiscal 2015 allocations will be used to award contracts for the inflow of dredged material and the repair of the island's electrical system; the design of the authorized 575 acre expansion; and the engineering and design of wetland cell 5A-5B, annual surveys and monitoring, restoration management and project coordination.

COMPLETION: With optimum funding construction of the project can be completed in 2047.

For more information regarding the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island, MD, contact Justin Callahan, CENAB-PP-C, (410) 962-6693, e-mail justin.callahan@usace.army.mil.

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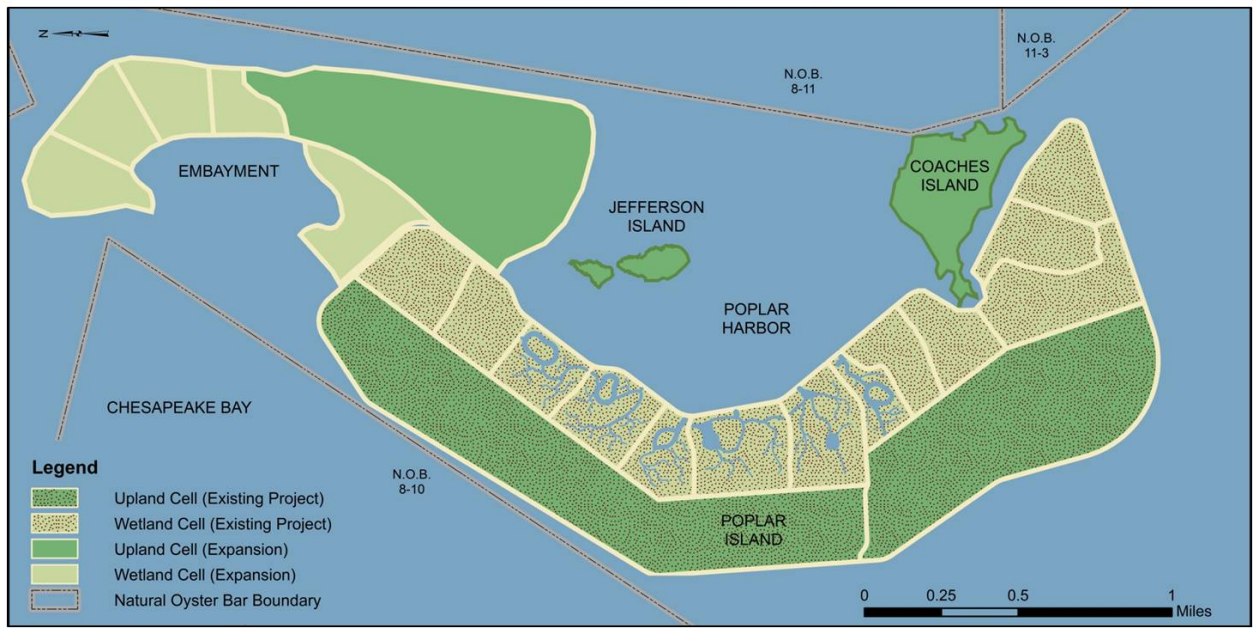
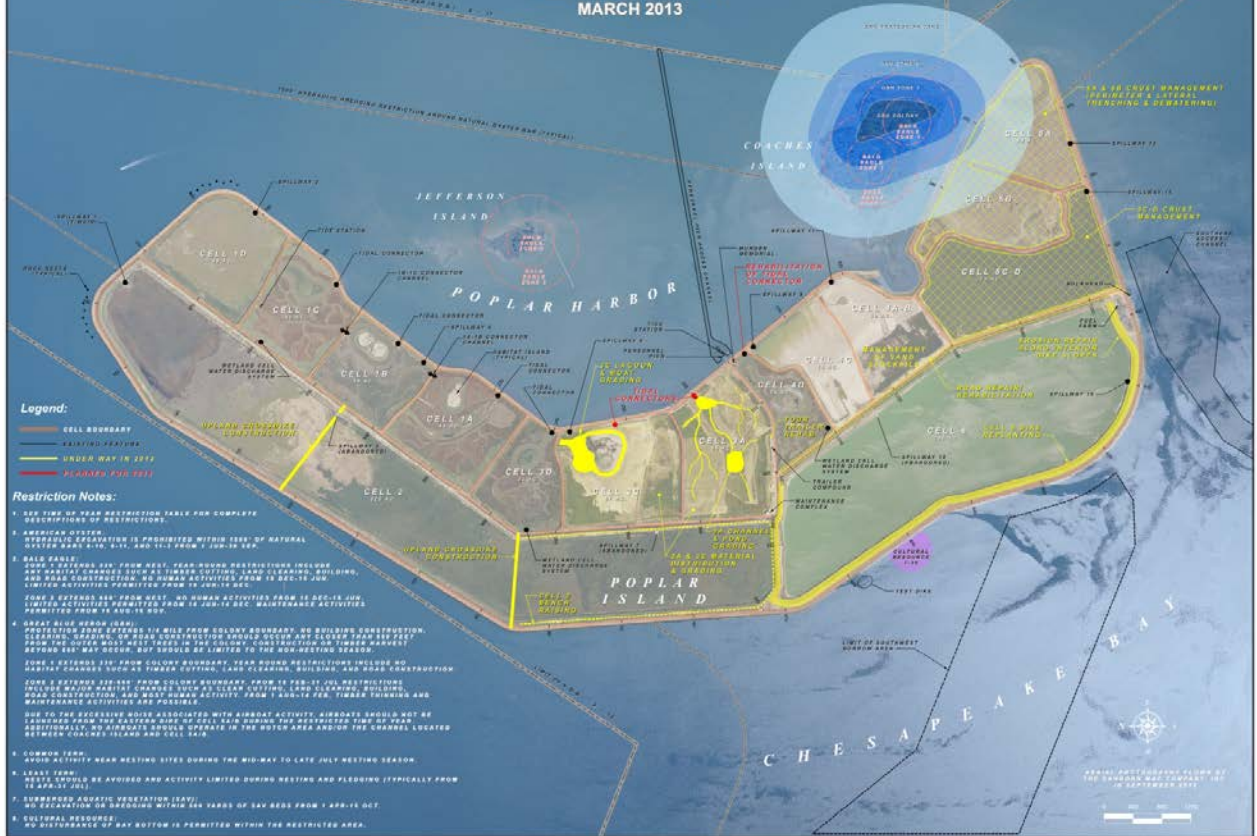
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 TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND



MASTER PLAN
 MARCH 2013



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