



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30002**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-1866**

CESAJ-PD-EE

February 10, 2020

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
and
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**DRAFT SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN
FOR THE
FERNANDINA BEACH OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have prepared a draft Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) to specifically address the disposal of dredged material at the Fernandina Beach Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). Copies of the SMMP are available from the Corps or the EPA at the addresses listed in this notice. Comments on the SMMP are requested from interested parties.

The Fernandina Beach ODMDS was designated by the EPA, pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, as suitable for the ocean disposal of dredged material. A SMMP was developed for the Fernandina Beach ODMDS in December 1998, subsequently amended in October 2001, and first revised in 2010. This plan serves as a revision to and supersedes previous SMMPs for the Fernandina Beach ODMDS.

The Fernandina Beach ODMDS has an area of approximately four square nautical miles. Depths within the ODMDS range from

approximately 44 to 66 feet mean lower low water. Disposal of dredged materials in the ODMDS has been and in the future is expected to be associated primarily with the maintenance of the U.S. Naval Station King's Bay.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ocean dredged material disposal sites to ensure that ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the development and periodic review and revision of a site management and monitoring plan (SMMP) for each ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

Section 228.3 of the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations and Criteria (40 CFR 220-229) states: "Management of a site consists of regulating times, rates, and methods of disposal and quantities and types of materials disposed of; developing and maintaining effective ambient monitoring programs for the site; conducting disposal site evaluation and designation studies; and recommending modifications in site use and/or designation." The MPRSA indicates that the SMMP shall include but not be limited to:

- ! a baseline assessment of conditions at the site;
- ! a program for monitoring the site;
- ! special management conditions or practices to be implemented at each site that are necessary for the protection of the environment;
- ! consideration of the anticipated use of the site over the long term;
- ! a schedule for review and revision of the plan.

The objective of the SMMP is to provide guidelines in making management decisions necessary to fulfill mandated responsibilities to protect the marine environment, as discussed previously. Risk-free decision making is an impossible goal, however, an appropriate SMMP can narrow the uncertainty.

Copies of the SMMP may be obtained from the USACE or the EPA and comments should be addressed to the USACE and the EPA at the addresses listed below. We request that you provide comments in writing and within 30 days of the date of this notice.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
(Attn.: Mr. J. Aaron Lassiter, CESAJ-PD-EC)
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-1866
telephone (904) 232-3642
email: james.a.lassiter@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
(Attn.: Gary W. Collins, Oceans and Estuarine Management
Section)
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
telephone (404) 562-9395
email: oceandumpingr4@epa.gov