

## Update to January 2021 Supplemental Information Report

### Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina

#### Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

#### *US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District*

*December 2023*

The purpose of this document is to update the January 2021 Supplemental Information Report (SIR) for the Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (see Appendix) with additional environmental compliance information. This SIR update is to determine whether supplementation of the prior Environmental Assessment (EA), *Interim Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction General Investigation Study* (USACE 2014) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (USACE 2016), is merited under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and agency regulations. This SIR update was prepared with reference to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Procedures for Implementing NEPA, 30 CFR Part 230 (see Sections 230.10 and 230.13(b) & (d)) and Engineer Regulation 200-2-2 (see sections 10 and 13.b. & d.); and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 (see Section 1502.9(d)). In this regard, this SIR update specifically documents updated environmental compliance efforts for purposes of NEPA, regarding the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). The results of these compliance efforts reaffirm the determination in the 2021 SIR that the proposed nourishment work does not present any new circumstances that would have a material bearing on the need for the proposed action, the range of appropriate alternatives, the environmental impacts of the proposed action, or particular substantive areas of concern identified by parties commenting on the prior EA or FONSI. Therefore, the findings from these past NEPA documents (Table 1) are still considered to be valid for purposes of the proposed nourishment work and further supplementation of the prior EA is not warranted.

*Table 1 Record of documents produced in accordance with NEPA on Edisto Beach CSRM Project*

Document Title	Date	Citation
<i>Finding of No Significant Impact, Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction General Investigation Study, Edisto Beach, South Carolina</i>	January 2016	USACE 2016
<i>Interim Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction General Investigation Study, Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina</i>	March 2014	USACE 2014
<i>Supplemental Information Report, Edisto Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Colleton County, South Carolina</i>	January 2021	USACE 2021
<i>Edisto Beach, South Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Validation Report</i>	July 2022	USACE 2022

#### *Essential Fish Habitat*

Pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the MSA, an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment was included in an August 2013 draft of the 2014 Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA). Upon review, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued the following two conservation recommendations in a letter dated October 28, 2013:

- “The Charleston District shall limit dredge depths within the borrow area to depths shown by modeling or empirical studies to fill with beach compatible material.”
- “The borrow area monitoring plan shall be provided to NMFS for review and approval prior to commencement of the project. The plan components should be similar to the 2005 Folly Beach borrow area study.”

Both conservation recommendations were accepted and incorporated into a revised EFH assessment that was included in the final IFR/EA dated March 2014.

On May 17, 2023, in preparation for implementation of the currently proposed actions, USACE began coordination with NMFS to ensure that compliance with Section 305(b)(2) was still met with previous consultation. On September 20, 2023, USACE and NMFS established agreement that existing and recent survey data were sufficient to disregard the need for a borrow area monitoring plan (Conservation Recommendation #2) and agreed with the project moving forward as proposed. USACE will continue to work with the Contractor to optimize the size and depth of each nourishment project borrow area to balance environmental and economic considerations.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires Federal agencies reinitiate consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) “if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action” (50 CFR 402.16(a)(4)). Since ESA compliance was last reviewed by USACE (2021), USFWS published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (86 FR 37410) for designation of critical habitat for *rufa* red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), in which Unit SC-18 is identified for designation and may overlap with the project area. Although the proposed action is not expected to result in the destruction or adverse modification of *rufa* red knot proposed critical habitat, USACE anticipates future adoption of a conference opinion as the biological opinion (50 CFR 402.10(d)). In consideration of this possibility, USACE reinitiated formal consultation with USFWS on April 26, 2023.

When considering the effects of implementing the proposed actions, USACE made a determination of *may affect, not likely to adversely affect* in regard to *rufa* red knot critical habitat. On June 1, 2023, USFWS provided a letter of concurrence on this determination, concluding the proposed actions are not likely to destroy or adversely modify *rufa* red knot critical habitat and completing the conference consultation.

### **SUMMARY OF DECISION**

The proposed nourishment work will be based on the scope and analysis in the 2014 EA and associated FONSI as well as the updated environmental compliance efforts described above. The proposed nourishment work does not present any new circumstances that would have a material bearing on the need for the proposed action, the range of appropriate alternatives, the environmental impacts of the proposed action, or particular substantive areas of concern identified by parties commenting on the prior EA or FONSI. Therefore, the findings from these past NEPA documents are still considered to be valid for purposes of the proposed nourishment work and further supplementation of the prior EA is not warranted.

DATE: 03 JAN 2024

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## References

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]. 2014. *Interim Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, Coastal Storm Damage Reduction General Investigation Study, Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]. 2016. *Finding of No Significant Impact, Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction General Investigation Study, Edisto Beach, South Carolina*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]. 2021. *Supplemental Information Report, Edisto Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Colleton County, South Carolina*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]. 2022. *Edisto Beach, South Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Validation Report*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.



## Appendix

# **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT**

## **Edisto Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project**

### **Colleton County, South Carolina**

#### ***US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District***

#### ***January 2021***

This Supplemental Information Report (SIR) was prepared in accordance with Section 13(d) of Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, *Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA)* and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), as amended. The SIR accompanies the Edisto Island Hurricane and Storm Damage Protection Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FFR/EA) completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) and approved by the Chief of Engineers in 2014, and the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No significant Impacts (EA/FONSI) and environmental clearances associated with the Section 10/404 permit (SAC-2015-00528) issued to the Town of Edisto (Town) on September 28, 2016, which are incorporated by reference. Because of the common geographic scope and impacts (the 10/404 permit authorizes the placement of up to 1.1 million cubic yards (CY) of beach-quality sand along approximately 3.6 miles of ocean-facing shoreline, which includes the area of the 3.1 mile long Federal project), the Federal NEPA and environmental clearances for the Town's project are applicable to the Federal project. This applicability was further confirmed by communications with each of the Federal and State resource agencies providing required input on the Federal project. This SIR will further describe federal and state consistency updates that occurred since congressional authorization. The project was authorized to be carried out under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN Act, 2016). The conditions, project description, and environmental effects described in the final FFR/EA and the 10/404 permit documents are still valid, and this SIR is designed to provide supplemental information to document compliance with NEPA and CEQ regulations. Supplementation of the FFR/EA is not required per 40 CFR 1502.9(d) because changes to the proposed action do not have significant bearing on the findings of the final FFR/EA.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Edisto Island FFR/EA was conducted in response to a Congressional Resolution adopted on 22 April 1988 by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate. The study purpose was to investigate and make recommendations to reduce damages to coastal development along Edisto Island caused by wind-generated and tide-generated waves and currents. The FONSI was signed in 2014 and the study phase ended on 5 September 2014 with the issuance of the final Chief's Report. The project was authorized for construction by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN Act, 2016). However, construction was not appropriated for funding until the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123, Title IV).

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### AUTHORIZED PROJECT

Edisto Island is a barrier island located at the mouth of the South Edisto River in Colleton County, South Carolina, approximately 45 miles southwest of Charleston, South Carolina and approximately 20 miles east-northeast of Beaufort, South Carolina (Figure 1). The authorized project that resulted from the 2014 feasibility study consists of the construction of a 15-foot high, 15-foot wide dune beginning at the northern end of the project (the southern end of the State Park) and extending southward along the beach for 16,530 feet. The dune would be fronted by a 7-foot high (elevation) berm. The first 7,740 feet of berm length would have a width of 75 feet. The width would taper to a 50-foot width over the remaining length of the berm. The width of each end of the berm would taper to match the existing beach profile. Beginning at the southern end, the dune would transition to an elevation of 14-feet NAVD 88 and a top width of 15-feet that extends around the end of the island for 5,290 feet. No berm would be constructed in front of this dune because the existing beach profile provides an adequate berm. Total groin lengthening would equal 1,130 feet across 23 existing groins. Average lengthening would be 50 feet ranging between 20-feet and 100-feet per groin. Periodic nourishment of the beach sand would occur in 16-year intervals.

The authorized project (Figure 2) would require about 924,000 cubic yards of borrow material for initial construction and about 476,000 cubic yards during each periodic nourishment cycle (based on 16 year intervals). During the projected 50 year project life, this would equate to initial construction and 3 periodic nourishment events. A total of about 2.4 million cubic yards of beach-compatible sand would be needed to construct and maintain the project



Figure 1. Location of Edisto Beach

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**Figure 2. 2014 Authorized Federal Project**

### **DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION TO FEDERAL PROJECT**

Construction modifications to the authorized project include the removal of two reaches in the inlet portion of the island, sponsor-led placement of 850,000 CY of sand within the Federal project footprint, and repair and lengthening of 26 groins, meeting or exceeding the authorized project. In 2017, under their 2016 permit (SAC 2015-00528), the Town placed approximately 850,000 CY of sand along the shoreline and extended 26 existing groins within the Federal project footprint. Since the groin extensions were constructed to meet or exceed the USACE authorized project and the groin lengthening is vital to the success of the overall project, USACE will include the non-federally constructed groins into the Federal project. The Town, as the non-federal sponsor, also requested removal of the inlet reaches from the Federal project. This reduces the footprint of the Federal project by 4,244 linear feet of shoreline. (Figure 3).

The modified project (Figure 3) includes a 15-foot high (elevation), 15-foot wide dune beginning at the northern end of the project (the southern end of Edisto Beach State Park) and extending southward along the beach for 16,530 feet. This dune would be fronted by a 7-foot high (elevation) berm. The first 7,740 feet of berm length would have a design width of 75 feet. The width would taper to a 50-foot design width over the remaining length of the berm. The initial construction berm would extend seaward of the design berm by a variable distance (approximately 100-150 ft.) to cover anticipated sand movement during and immediately after construction. As originally planned in the authorized project, the width of each end of the berm



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would taper to match the existing beach profile. Beginning at groin 29 near White Cap Street, the dune would transition to a 14-foot high, 15-foot wide dune that extends approximately 1046 linear feet around the end of the island to groin 31. Groin 31 acts as a physical boundary to the southern-most end of the project. No berm would be constructed in front of the dune between groin 29 and groin 31 because the existing beach profile provides an adequate berm.



**Figure 3. 2020 Modified Federal Project Footprint**

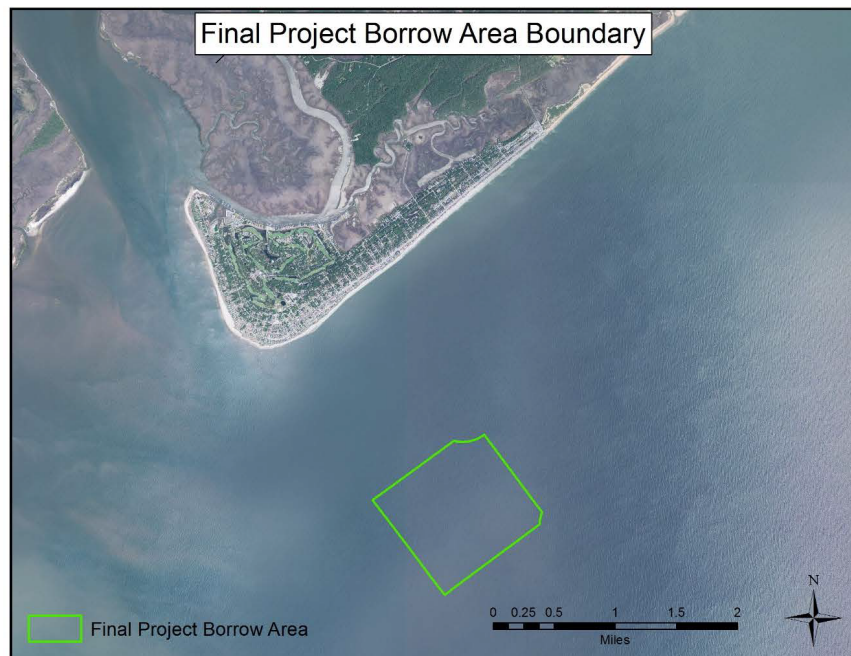
The beach nourishment template for the modified federal project includes the placement of up to 929,000 CY of beach quality sand along approximately 16,530 lf of shoreline. This represents an increase of 5,000 CY of sand over the initial sand placement proposed in the 2014 FFR/EA. Despite the reduction in the length of the project and the sand placement by the Town under their 2016 permit, the amount of sand required to meet the Federal template increased from the 2014 estimate. The 2020 sand estimate is based on a comparison of the construction template to a beach profile prepared in October 2018. The difference in the sand estimates is likely due to erosion associated with large storm events that occurred between completion of the Town's construction in 2017 and completion of the 2018 beach profile.

The modified project includes an estimated 476,000 CY of sand placement during each renourishment cycle (based on 16 year intervals). During the projected 50 year project life, this would equate to an initial construction and 3 renourishment events. A total of approximately 2.4 million CY of beach-compatible sand would be needed to construct and maintain the project.

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### COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

#### BORROW AREA



**Figure 4. Approximate Location of Borrow Area**

The FFR/EA identified one borrow area for the nourishment of Edisto Island. The sand borrow area for the project is an approximately one square mile portion of the ebb tide delta located about 2 miles offshore of the west side of the island (Figure 4). It contains approximately 7.2 million CY of beach quality sand material. The curves depicted in Figure 4 in the northern and eastern corners of the borrow area are due to cultural resource avoidance areas associated with two potential sites of prehistoric interest. Both areas will be avoided using a buffer with a radius of 1,500 feet placed around the center points. No hardbottom habitat was found in the borrow area or within a quarter mile buffer surrounding the area. The proposed borrow area was narrowed down from a larger area containing about 30 million CY of material. The reduction in size was based on the evaluation of 77 sediment cores taken at approximately 1,000 foot spacing throughout the borrow site. The average sediment composition of the borrow area, as compared to the composition of the native beach, is shown in Table 1. No other potential borrow areas were considered because the selected borrow area contains an adequate quantity of beach quality material to nourish Edisto Beach over a 50 year period.

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**Table 1: Average sediment composition of native beach material and borrow area.**

	MEAN (phi)	STD DEV (phi)	% PASSING #5	%PASSING #10	% PASSING #200*	% PASSING #230	% VISUAL SHELL
<b>Edisto Native Beach</b>	1.31	1.33	97.8	93.5	0.1	0.0	26.9
<b>Borrow Area</b>	1.73	1.31	94.7	90.0	0.4	0.2	18.8

\*The % passing the #200 sieve is considered the % silt and clay.

### **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (42 U.S.C. §4321 *et seq.*)**

USACE has previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects of the Edisto Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (CSRMP) in the 2014 FFR/EA. The EA determined that the impacts from the proposed project would not result in impacts significant enough to warrant an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and led to a FONSI finalized in 2014. NEPA for the Federal project was also addressed under the Town's 10/404 permit. The findings of the 2014 EA/ FONSI and the EA/FONSI associated with the 10/404 permit are still valid as applied to the current Federal project.

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 *et seq.*)**

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consistent with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was completed for the FFR/EA. The January 9, 2014 Biological Assessment (BA) considered the effects of the proposed project on threatened and endangered species either known to be present or suspected to be present in the vicinity of the project. Based on conservation measures proposed in the BA, the USFWS concurred with the USACE determination that the proposed project was likely to adversely affect (LAA) the loggerhead sea turtle and not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the leatherback sea turtle, piping plover, rufa red knot, and West Indian manatee. USFWS issued a 2014 Biological Opinion (BO) for the loggerhead sea turtle, the leatherback sea turtle, piping plover, and West Indian manatee, and a 2014 Conference Opinion (CO) for the rufa red knot (candidate species).

Since the rufa red knot became a Federally listed species in 2015, USACE requested to re-initiate ESA consultation in March 2020. By letter dated April 7, 2020, USFWS advised that the current Federal project could be covered under a January 21, 2016, USFWS Biological Opinion (2016 BO) issued for the Town of Edisto Island Beach Nourishment Project (TEIBNP) since the Federal project footprint falls within the confines of the TEIBNP. The 2016 BO addresses effects on the green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, Northwest Atlantic population of the loggerhead sea turtle and its critical habitat, piping plover and its critical habitat, rufa red knot, and the West Indian manatee. USFWS determined that the Town's project was not likely to adversely affect the green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, piping plover, rufa red knot, and West Indian manatee. The project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the loggerhead turtle, or adversely modify or destroy designated critical habitat, provided work is performed in accordance with the terms and conditions (including reasonable and prudent measures, and conservation recommendations) contained in the 2016 BO. Incidental take of listed species that is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the 2016 BO is exempt from the prohibitions against take under the ESA. These terms and conditions will be incorporated into this and all future federal nourishment efforts.

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Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service with regard to marine species protected under the ESA is not required due to the applicability of a Regional Biological Opinion (RBO) for the South Atlantic Region and the District's past and present commitment to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of the RBO.

### **FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT OF 1958 (16 U.S.C. §661 *et seq.*)**

Coordination with USFWS under this law was conducted through ongoing coordination and submission of Planning Aid letters as the project progressed. By letter dated January 25, 2012, the USFWS concurred that continued coordination and submission of necessary documentation or assessments would satisfy Section 2a of the FWCA and ensure that potential resource concerns would be adequately addressed. Since the project scope provided in the FFR/EA has been reduced, the storm damage reduction measures associated with the Federal project should not result in long-term adverse effects to the subtidal benthic infaunal community. Therefore, the findings are still valid.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966 (16 U.S.C. §1531 *et seq.*)**

Federal undertakings must comply with the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (16 USC 469-469c), the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (PL 100-298; 43 USC 2101-2106), The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (54 USC 306108) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 (protection of Historic Properties). Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with a reasonable opportunity to comment on any Federal undertaking. The placement of sand on beaches and the use of sand from underwater borrow sites are typically subjected to cultural resources investigations in order to locate potentially significant resources, including historic properties, for purposes of NHPA Section 106 review. There are no historical or archaeological resources within the beach nourishment zone which would be affected by the placement and movement of sand. A comprehensive cultural resources review was conducted in February 2013 for the proposed offshore borrow area, including a quarter mile buffer around the area. Two potential sites of prehistoric interest were identified within the survey area. The survey report was reviewed by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). By letter dated April 12, 2013, SCIAA concurred with the recommendation to place a 1,500 ft. buffer zone around arbitrary points for the two sites as potential paleolandscape features and advised that no additional surveys would be required. By e-mail dated April 29, 2020, SHPO concurred that no additional surveys would be required and USACE had met their responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4.

### **CLEAN WATER ACT OF 1972 (33 U.S.C. §1341 *et. seq.* and 33 U.S.C. §1344(b) *et seq.*)**

The proposed project would occur within the open ocean and on an adjacent beach. These waters are classified as Class SA waters by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Class SA waters are tidal saltwaters suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, crabbing, and fishing, except harvesting of clams, mussels, or oysters for market purposes or human consumption. They are also suitable for the survival and propagation of a balanced indigenous aquatic community of marine fauna and flora. A 401 Water Quality Certification is not required for this project. SCDHEC determined that beach nourishment

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activities have very few water quality impacts and waived certifications for beach nourishment activities.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act governs the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Although USACE does not process and issue permits for its own activities, USACE authorizes its own discharges of dredged or fill material by applying all applicable substantive legal requirements, including public notice, opportunity for public hearing, NEPA, and application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation was completed for the 2014 FFR/EA and more recently for the 10/404 permit issued to the Town. The findings of these evaluations are still valid as applied to the current Federal project.

### **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1972 (16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.)**

USACE determined that the project was consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and the Office of Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) concurred with the USACE determination by letter dated December 23, 2013. By e-mail dated January 14, 2020, OCRM confirmed that the 2013 Coastal Zone Consistency determination would remain valid and nothing further would be required.

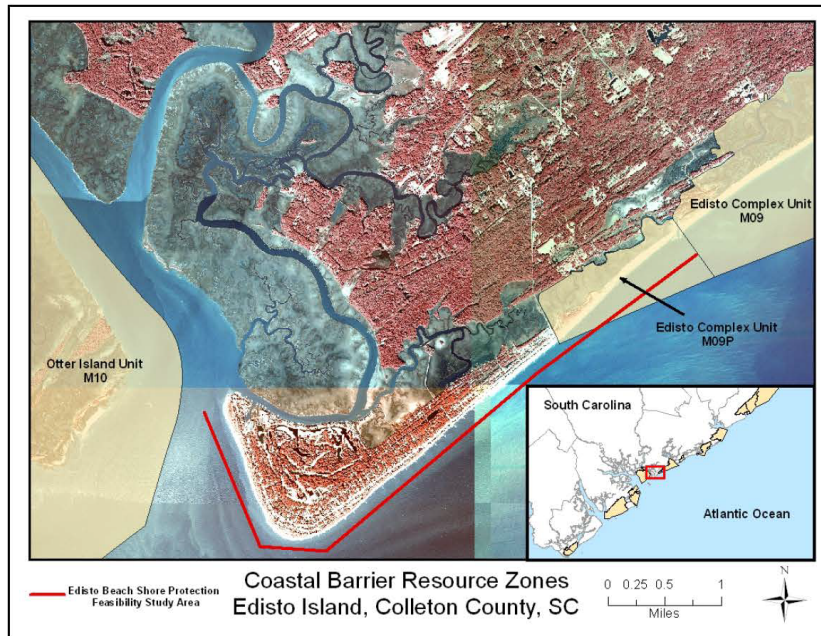
### **COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES ACT OF 1982 (16 U.S.C. §3501 et seq.) AND COASTAL BARRIER IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1990 (16 U.S.C. §3501 et seq.)**

Coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. This habitat is essential for spawning, nursery, nesting, and feeding for a variety of commercially and recreationally important species of finfish and shellfish. Recognizing this and the fact that barrier islands contain recreational and cultural resources and serve as natural protective buffers from storms, Congress passed the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982. In this Act, Congress declared that the purpose of the act is to minimize the loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and the damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources by restricting future Federal expenditures and financial assistance that could potentially encourage development of barrier islands (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

The Town of Edisto Beach lies between two Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS) units, the Edisto Complex Unit (M09 and M09P) and the Otter Island Unit (M10) (Figure 5). Unit M09P is an “Otherwise Protected Area” (OPA) and is not a part of the CBRS. The Edisto Unit is composed of three small marsh islands, Botany Bay Island, Edingsville Beach, part of Jeremy Inlet, and Deveaux Bank. The Otter Island Unit includes the southwestern half of the South Edisto River, Pine Island, Otter Island, and the southeastern tips of Fenwick Island and Hutchinson Island. By letter dated January 27, 2010, the USFWS confirmed that the proposed borrow area is not located in the CBRS.



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**Figure 5. Location of Coastal Barrier Resource Zones in the vicinity of the project area.**

### **ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT (16 U.S.C. §1801 *et seq.*)**

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (16 U.S.C. 1802(10).” The definition for EFH may include habitat for an individual species or an assemblage of species, whichever is appropriate within each Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). Estuarine and inshore EFH within the vicinity of the project consists of estuarine emergent wetlands, oyster reefs/shell banks, intertidal flats, aquatic beds, the estuarine water column, and the marine water column. An EFH Assessment was prepared for the 2014 FFR/EA and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurred with the USACE determination that the proposed action would not have substantial individual or cumulative adverse impacts on EFH. An EFH assessment and consultation was also conducted for the 10/404 permit for the Town’s project in 2016, and that project has a larger geographic scope and similar ecological setting. Re-initiation of EFH consultation is not required at this time since the 2014 EFH consultation anticipated construction well into the future and the project modification would not result in adverse effects to EFH resources.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1972 (42 U.S.C. §7401 *et seq.*)**

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish health and science-based standards for air pollutants that have the highest levels of potential harm to human health or the environment. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are

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in place for six air pollutants, also referred to as criteria pollutants. The six criteria pollutants are Ozone, Sulfur Dioxide, Particulate Matter, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, and Carbon monoxide. Of the six current criteria pollutants, particle pollution and ozone have the most widespread health threats, but they all have the potential to cause damage to human health and the environment. Areas of the country which persistently exceed the NAAQS are designated as “nonattainment” areas and those which meet or exceed the standards are designated “attainment” areas. Colleton County is designated as an attainment area.

With regards to noise pollution, ambient noise levels along Edisto Beach are low to moderate and are typical of recreational environments and are not considered an issue or nuisance. The major noise producers include the breaking surf, residential areas, and traffic (vehicular and to a lesser extent, boat). Noise in the outside environment associated with beach construction activities would be expected to minimally exceed normal ambient noise in the project area. However, construction noise would be attenuated by background sounds from wind and surf. In-water noise would be expected in association with the dredging activities.

### **E.O. 11988, FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

Executive Order 11988 requires Federal agencies avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. The proposed project is in the base flood plain. Relocation of the project outside the floodplain would not be responsive to the problems and needs of the study areas, and was not considered further during project planning. Potential floodplain development would be restricted as a result of local ordinances and State law. The project would not induce development in the flood plain and the project will not impact the natural or beneficial flood plain values. This aspect was previously addressed in the FFR/EA and in the 10/404 permit issued to the Town.

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### SUMMARY OF DECISION

USACE previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects associated with the Edisto Island CSRM in the FFR/EA and determined the project would not result in impacts significant enough to warrant an EIS. USACE also evaluated the environmental effects of the Federal project in an EA/FONSI for the 10/404 permit issued to the Town which authorized groin extension and beach nourishment activities along 3.6 miles of shoreline, including the footprint of the Federal project. The Town completed the beach nourishment activities authorized under the 10/404 permit in 2017. The timing and scope of the Town's Federally-permitted project and the removal of 4,410 lf of shoreline along the inlet reaches altered the scope for the Federal civil works project. The revised Federal project will involve placement of approximately 929,000 CY of beach quality sand to construct a 15-foot high, 15-foot wide dune and 7 foot high berm along 16,530 lf of shoreline and a 14-foot high, 15-foot wide dune that extends around the end of the island for 1,046 lf. The modifications to the Federal project have been reviewed by the USACE for environmental compliance, and are not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts as described by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. As noted previously, the findings and conclusions of the 2014 Federal project EA/FONSI have been updated by the NEPA and environmental clearances for the Federally-permitted project, as confirmed with Federal and State resource agencies. All NEPA documentation incorporated by reference or mentioned in this SIR can be downloaded from the internet (in PDF format) at [http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil Works/NEPA-Documents/](http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil%20Works/NEPA-Documents/) or copies can be obtained by contacting Andrea Hughes at [andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil](mailto:andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil) or (843) 329-8145.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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