

Appendix 6

**Scoping Letters and
Resource Agency and Public Comment**



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

February 25, 2016

Dr. Jeffrey Reidenauer
Chief, Marine Minerals Branch
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Rd., VAM-LD
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Dr. Reidenauer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand area (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90). (20) MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3). The total project reach is 25.3 miles. Periodic nourishment is required approximately every 10 years at Reach 1 and every 8 years with one 10 year effort at Reaches 2 and 3. In addition to being separable reaches, each reach also has different sponsors. Reach 1 Sponsor is the City of North Myrtle Beach; Reach 2 Sponsor is the City of Myrtle Beach; and Reach 3 Sponsor is Horry County.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25% of the design template. USACE is planning to renourish all or parts of the project, depending upon funding availability and intends to be ready to award a contract by the end of September 2016. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Little River borrow site will be placed along North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1); about 900,000 cubic yards of sand from the Cane South borrow site will be placed along Myrtle Beach (Reach 2); and about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach (Reach 3). Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. Currently, only funding for Reach 3 (Garden City/Surfside) is anticipated. To that regard, USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area this fiscal year.

USACE has previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in the original 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment that was prepared in support of the previous renourishment project. USACE and BOEM have informally discussed the preparation of a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies.

This letter serves as a formal request to initiate coordination for the purpose of entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the use of outer continental shelf resources, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8(k)(2)(D) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(2)(D), as amended by P.L. 103-4261. An Informal discussion with Jennifer Culbertson, BOEM Environmental Analysis Branch, has identified the following rough schedule for critical milestones which would enable us to award a contract this FY.

- June 15: Draft EA
- August 1: Final EA
- September 30: BOEM final lease agreement

We would also like to invite you and your team to participate in bi-weekly team meetings on the project to ensure that the environmental coordination is completed on time. Please let us know if you're interested in participating. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Shirey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Alan D. Shirey

Acting Chief

Planning & Environmental Branch



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

Ms. Diane Perkins
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

MAR 30 2016

Dear Ms. Perkins:

Thank you for your March 14, 2016, email requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) become a cooperating agency during preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Reach 3 segment (Garden City/Surfside) of the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in Horry County, SC. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Charleston District (Corps) may require use of sand resources located approximately 3 miles offshore within the Surfside Borrow Area on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Section 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) grants BOEM the authority to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for shore protection, beach or wetlands restoration, or for use in construction projects funded in whole or part or authorized by the federal government.

BOEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency since BOEM has sole jurisdiction over mineral leasing on the OCS. As a cooperating agency, BOEM expects to: participate and provide input in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of the Corps, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which BOEM has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the Corps; provide comment on draft versions of the EA when requested; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities. Several NEPA documents have been previously prepared by the Corps and/or BOEM considering the potential environmental effects of dredging offshore sand resources within the vicinity of the project area. BOEM expects to collaborate with the Corps to identify the existing NEPA analyses that can be used to ensure the most efficient and effective treatment of potential effects, while also considering and incorporating new information and science when appropriate.

BOEM recognizes the importance of initiating and agrees to participate in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act Section (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. The lead agency in ESA Section 7 consultation for potential impacts on protected species will be designated by jurisdiction and in accordance with 50 CFR §402.07. BOEM anticipates the existing South Atlantic Regional

Biological Opinion (SARBO) will serve as the consultation mechanism for the in-water dredging and placement activities of both agencies. The Corps would be the lead agency and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in addressing effects from placement activities to listed species under FWS purview. Additionally, the Corps will notify FWS of BOEM's interconnected action and cooperating role. BOEM and the Corps will consult jointly with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division on essential fish habitat. BOEM anticipates that the Corps will be the lead federal agency for ensuring NHPA Section 106 compliance. BOEM expects to act in a consulting role, especially when coordinating with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the use of OCS sand resources and all related cultural resource survey activities. BOEM requests that the Corps involve BOEM in all deliberations with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers so that BOEM's involvement in the undertaking is understood. The Corps will be following Subpart C procedures to obtain a consistency concurrence from the Florida Department of Environmental protection through the Joint Coastal Permit process in compliance with Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

BOEM looks forward to working with the Corps during this process. We would greatly appreciate it if the Corps would include us on all public notices and correspondence to other federal and state agencies concerning this project. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Jennifer Culbertson at (703) 787-1742 or by e-mail at jennifer.culbertson@boem.gov.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Wikel
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment

cc: Jeffrey Reidenauer, Leasing Division
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

March 23, 2016

Ms. Diane Perkins
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
Department of the Army, Charleston District Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

Dear Ms. Perkins:

We received a letter from Acting Chief Alan Shirey, dated February 25, 2016, requesting to enter into a non-competitive negotiated agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to utilize Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand. The request states that the project comprises three distinct reaches, with three separate sponsors, which will require three separate leases. We understand that funding is only currently available for one of the three reaches, Reach 3, which will be sponsored by Horry County. Reach 3 includes Garden City/Surfside Beach and may require up to 1.7 million cubic yards (mcy) of sand to be dredged from the Surfside borrow site, which extends partially onto the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These plans are on-going and we understand that this is the only agreement currently being requested. The two other lease proposals will be for Reach 1 (North Myrtle Beach) and Reach 2 (Myrtle Beach). Reach 1 is projected to require 1.7 mcy of sand from the Little River borrow site, and Reach 2 is projected to require 900,000 cy of sand from the Cane South borrow site.

After reviewing the information provided in the request letter, we have determined that the aforementioned nourishment of the Reach 3 shoreline qualifies under the OCS Lands Act for a negotiated non-competitive agreement to use OCS sand resources for the proposed projects. This determination is based on the following criteria: 1) they are shore protection/beach restoration projects for publicly accessible beaches; and 2) they are being undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of local governments. We have determined that the best instrument for the proposed sand lease is a three-party Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the USACE, the local sponsor (Horry County), and BOEM. The MOA will contain all of the terms and conditions that will be required to extract and place sand.

Several requirements must be completed and information evaluated prior to the issuance of a negotiated agreement to fulfill applicable statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation (Section 305), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process. We understand

That prior discussions between BOEM and USACE have resulted in a tentative schedule towards a FY2016 lease agreement including:

June 15: Draft EA

August 1: Final EA

September 30: BOEM final lease agreement for the Reach 3 Project only

Jennifer Culbertson, Ph.D., with the Division of Environmental Assessment is the lead for BOEM on the Environmental Assessment and consultations. Dr. Culbertson can be reached at (703) 787-1742, or by email at jennifer.culbertson@boem.gov. The Leasing Division, Marine Minerals Program coordinator for this project is Leighann Brandt, who can be reached at (703) 787-1570, or by email at leighann.brandt@boem.gov.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 787-1851 or via email at jeffrey.reidenauer@boem.gov. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Reidenauer, Ph.D.
Chief, Marine Minerals Branch



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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

April 1, 2016

Mr. Tom McCoy
Field Supervisor
Fish and Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

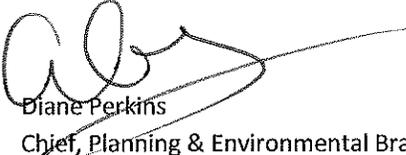
Dear Mr. McCoy,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90). "(20) MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3). The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25%. Currently, funding is only available for Reach 3, Garden City/Surfside. The proposed project is a periodic nourishment of a previously approved USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The project provides for renourishment of approximately 7.7 miles of shoreline from Myrtle Beach State Park to a point approximately 2 miles north of Murrells Inlet. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach. Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area and BOEM is a cooperating agency on this project.

USACE and BOEM have prepared a Biological Assessment for the Garden City/Surfside project. The BA finds that the project is likely to adversely affect loggerhead and green sea turtles. By way of this letter, USACE and BOEM wish to initiate formal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,


Diane Perkins
Chief, Planning & Environmental Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Mr. Chuck Hightower, Manager
Water Quality Cert. and Wetlands Section
SC Dept. of Health and Env. Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Hightower,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25% of the design berm. Currently, funding is only available for Reach 3, Garden City/Surfside. The proposed project is a periodic nourishment of a previously approved USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The project provides for renourishment of approximately 7.7 miles of shoreline from Myrtle Beach State Park to a point approximately 2 miles north of Murrells Inlet. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach. Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area and BOEM is a cooperating agency on this project.

USACE and BOEM previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project. USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information



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and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to be released in June 2016.

Your office issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the 2007 renourishment project. Since that time, SCDHEC issued a notice on Section 401 Water Quality Certifications that stated that groin construction and beach nourishment have very few water quality impacts and have waived the requirement for Section 401 certifications for these projects. No new Water Quality Certification will be requested for this project.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) governs the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Although the USACE does not process and issue permits for its own activities, the 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 404(b)(1) evaluation was completed for this project in 1997, and the findings of this evaluation are still considered valid.

Regardless, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Mr. Bob Perry
Director of Environmental Programs
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 167
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. Perry,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25% of the design berm. Currently, funding is only available for Reach 3, Garden City/Surfside. The proposed project is a periodic nourishment of a previously approved USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The project provides for renourishment of approximately 7.7 miles of shoreline from Myrtle Beach State Park to a point approximately 2 miles north of Murrells Inlet. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach. Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area and BOEM is a cooperating agency on this project.

USACE and BOEM previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project. USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is



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anticipated to be released in May 2016. We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch

Cc. Denise Sanger



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Dr. Denise Sanger
Director, Marine Resources Research Institute
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, South Carolina 29422-2559

Dear Dr. Sanger,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

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USACE and BOEM previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project. USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental



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information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to

be released in May 2016. We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch

Cc. Robert Perry



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Dr. Pace Wilbur
Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
219 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412-9110

Dear Dr. Wilbur,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

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USACE and BOEM, previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project. USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to be released in June 2016. An EFH Assessment was prepared for the 2007 project.



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Your office provided 4 conservation recommendations pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. USACE responded to these conservation recommendations prior to construction and committed to the agreed to conservation recommendations. We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Mr. David M. Bernhart
Asst RA for Protected Resources
Protected Resources Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Bernhart,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

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information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to be released in June 2016. Formal consultation with your office with regard to marine species protected under the ESA was not performed in 2007 and is not currently anticipated due to the existence of the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO) for the South Atlantic Region and the District's past and present commitment to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of the SARBO.

Regardless, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane Perkins", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Mr. Curtis Joyner
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue - Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Dear Mr. Joyner,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25% of the design berm. Currently, funding is only available for Reach 3, Garden City/Surfside. The proposed project is a periodic nourishment of a previously approved USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The project provides for renourishment of approximately 7.7 miles of shoreline from Myrtle Beach State Park to a point approximately 2 miles north of Murrells Inlet. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach. Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area and BOEM is a cooperating agency on this project.

USACE and BOEM previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project. USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to be released in June 2016.



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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

The 2007 Grand Strand Storm Damage Reduction Project was consistent with the enforceable policies of the South Carolina Coastal Management Program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. USACE does not anticipate any issues that would change that determination. USACE will supply information to SCDHEC Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) to support the continued CZC consistency determination.

We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated per your policies and procedures. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane Perkins", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

James Spirek
Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater
and Associate Director for Maritime Research
South Carolina Institute of Anthropology
and Archaeology
1321 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Spirek,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

Recent surveys have indicated that the project has met its trigger point for renourishment, which is reached when 25% of the project length has storm berm width less than 25% of the design berm. Currently, funding is only available for Reach 3, Garden City/Surfside. The proposed project is a periodic nourishment of a previously approved USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The project provides for renourishment of approximately 7.7 miles of shoreline from Myrtle Beach State Park to a point approximately 2 miles north of Murrells Inlet. Preliminary investigations of the quantity of sand required to rebuild the construction template reveal that about about 1.7 million cubic yards of sand from the Surfside borrow site will be placed along Garden City and Surfside Beach. Investigations are underway to determine if the previously dredged areas have recharged with sufficient quantity of beach quality material. It is likely that a portion of the project will use sand from the outer continental shelf (OCS) and a portion will come from inside the OCS boundary. USACE intends to request a noncompetitive lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for OCS sand from the Surfside borrow area and BOEM is a cooperating agency on this project.

USACE and BOEM previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects with the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project in its 1993 Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of the renourishment project.



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USACE and BOEM intend to prepare a supplemental EA to communicate new environmental information and update the coordination between USACE and resource agencies. The draft EA is anticipated to be released in May 2016. The undertaking is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Previous investigations revealed that there are no historical or archaeological resources within the beach nourishment zone which would be affected by the placement and movement of sand. In 2006, an archaeological survey was completed for three borrow areas. One potentially significant feature was identified at the Surfside borrow area. The anomaly will be avoided with a minimum buffer of 200 feet, which was coordinated with your office in 2007.

We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 11, 2016

Elizabeth Johnson, Deputy SHPO
South Carolina Department of Archives
and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Dear Ms. Johnson,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District is currently involved in the planning phase of a beach re-nourishment effort in the Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach) of Horry County, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach Project was authorized for construction by Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Public Law 101-640, dated November 28, 1990 (WRDA 90), "MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. The authorized project requires the construction of separate protective beach in three separate reaches, North Myrtle Beach (Reach 1), Myrtle Beach (Reach 2), and Garden City/Surfside Beach (Reach 3)." The total project reach is 25.3 miles.

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We would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposed renourishment and to provide any data that you think should be considered and incorporated. If you have any questions or require additional information at this time, please contact Mark Messersmith at (843) 329-8162 or by email at mark.j.messersmith@usace.army.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Perkins".

Diane Perkins, AICP
Chief, Planning & Environmental
Branch



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

April 28, 2016

Lt. Colonel Matthew W. Luzzatto
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Attn: Mark Messersmith

Re: Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project, Reach 3
Georgetown and Horry Counties, South Carolina
FWS Log No. 2016-CPA-0081/2016-F-0409

Dear Colonel Luzzatto:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) April 1, 2016, receipt of your biological assessment. We received all of the information necessary to initiate formal consultation for this project as outlined in the regulations governing interagency consultations (50 CFR 402.14). We will address the potential impacts this project may have on all federally threatened and endangered species present within the project area in our Biological Opinion (BO). We have assigned FWS Log Number 04ES1000-2016-F-0409 to this consultation. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 allows us up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation with your agency and an additional 45 days to prepare our BO (unless we mutually agree to an extension). Therefore, we expect to provide you with our BO on or before September 9, 2016.

If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation or the consultation process, please feel free to contact Ms. Melissa Bimbi of my staff at (843) 727-4707 ext. 217. In future correspondence concerning the project, please reference FWS Log No. 2016-F-0409.

Sincerely,

FOR Thomas D. McCoy
Field Supervisor

TDM/MKB

