

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N #SAC-2015-00975-3B

01 September 2015

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control by

ROBERT MARTORE
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 12559
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29422

for a permit to construct an artificial reef in the

ATLANTIC OCEAN

at a location approximately 6 miles offshore from the Surfside Beach pier, Horry County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.578626°N, Longitude: -78.847674°W).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of the construction of an artificial fishing reef. In detail, the applicant (SCDNR) proposes to place twenty (20) concrete boxes within the Atlantic Ocean. Each concrete box will measure 48 inches across and vary in height from 6-8 feet and weigh approximately 1,800 – 2000 pounds each. The concrete boxes will be placed around a central permanent marker buoy which will designate the site as a South Carolina Artificial Reef. According to SCDNR, measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the United States, include

utilizing clean, environmentally friendly materials. SCDNR also states that “No additives or leachates are used in the construction of concrete habitat modules. SCDNR has over 40 years of experience in creating and maintaining marine artificial reefs and all construction activities follow guidelines set forth in the South Carolina Artificial Reef Management Plan (1991). SCDNR does not propose any compensatory mitigation and states “Artificial reefs are designed to enhance aquatic resources with no negative impacts to the environment.” The purpose of the proposed project, as stated by the applicant, is to “enhance fishing opportunities for the State’s recreational anglers and to provide habitat for numerous marine finfish species.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps’ website at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> . For those unable to access the website, a copy of this notice and the associated plans will be provided, upon receipt of a written request. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided. Your request should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526**

The work shown on this application must be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 26 acres of tidal habitat utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer’s initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer’s final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(1)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

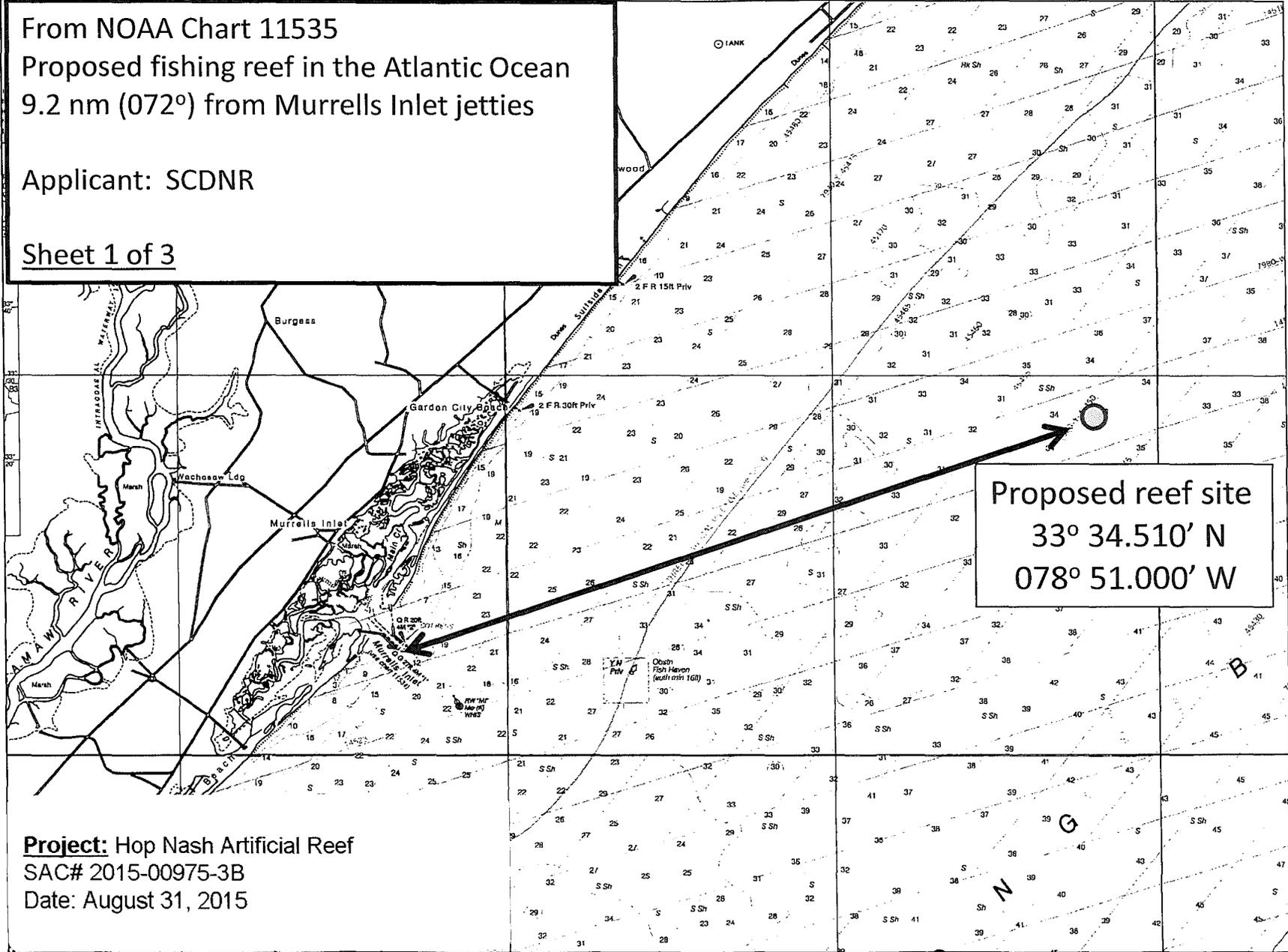
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Wiley Bracey at 843-365-1707.

South Carolina Artificial Reefs Hop Nash Reef 07-31-2015 Map:

From NOAA Chart 11535
Proposed fishing reef in the Atlantic Ocean
9.2 nm (072°) from Murrells Inlet jetties
Applicant: SCDNR
Sheet 1 of 3



Proposed reef site
33° 34.510' N
078° 51.000' W

Project: Hop Nash Artificial Reef
SAC# 2015-00975-3B
Date: August 31, 2015

Artificial fishing reef in the Atlantic Ocean, 9 nm,
072° , NE of Murrells Inlet jetties

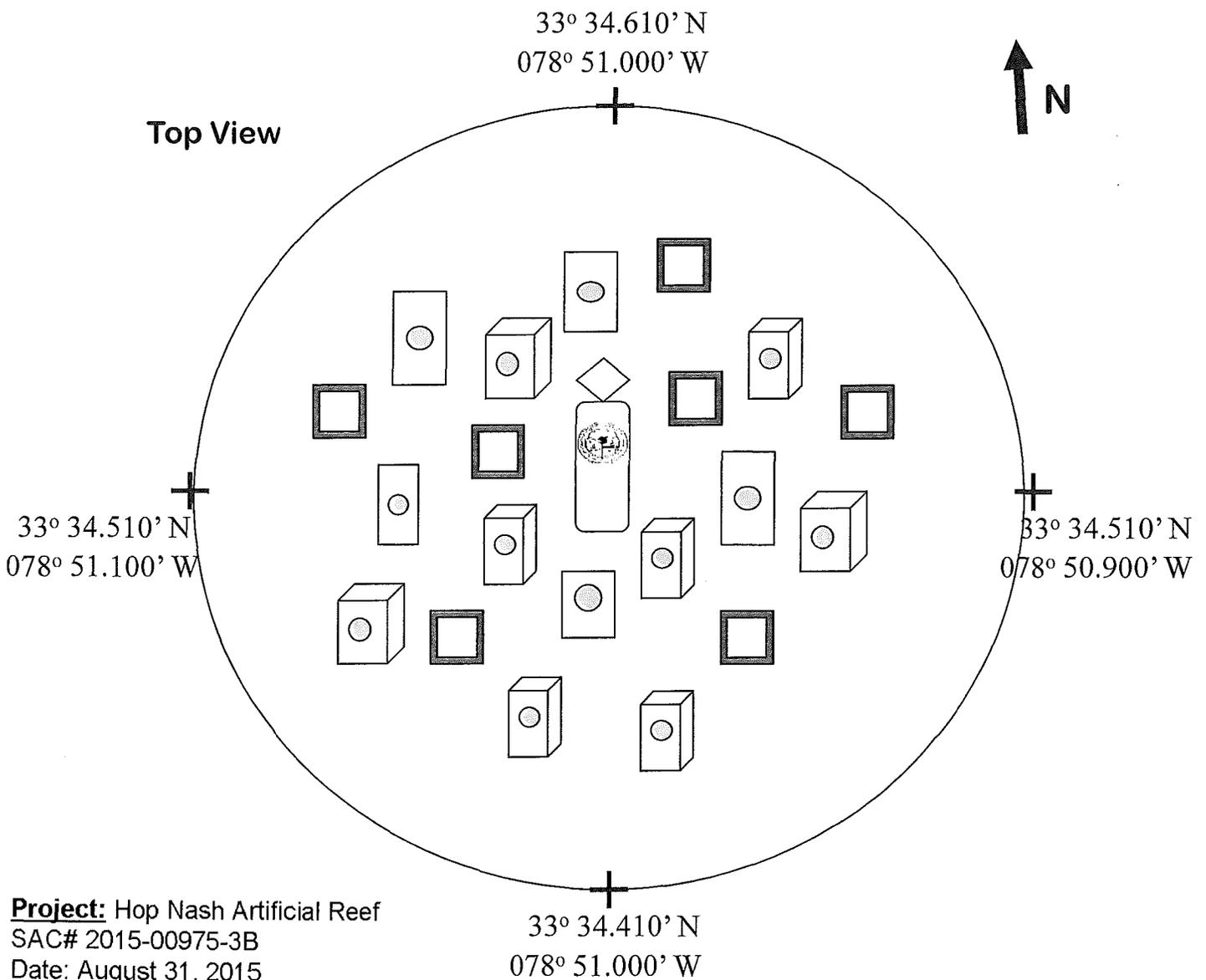
Centered around 33° 34.510'N – 078° 51.000'W

Applicant: SCDNR

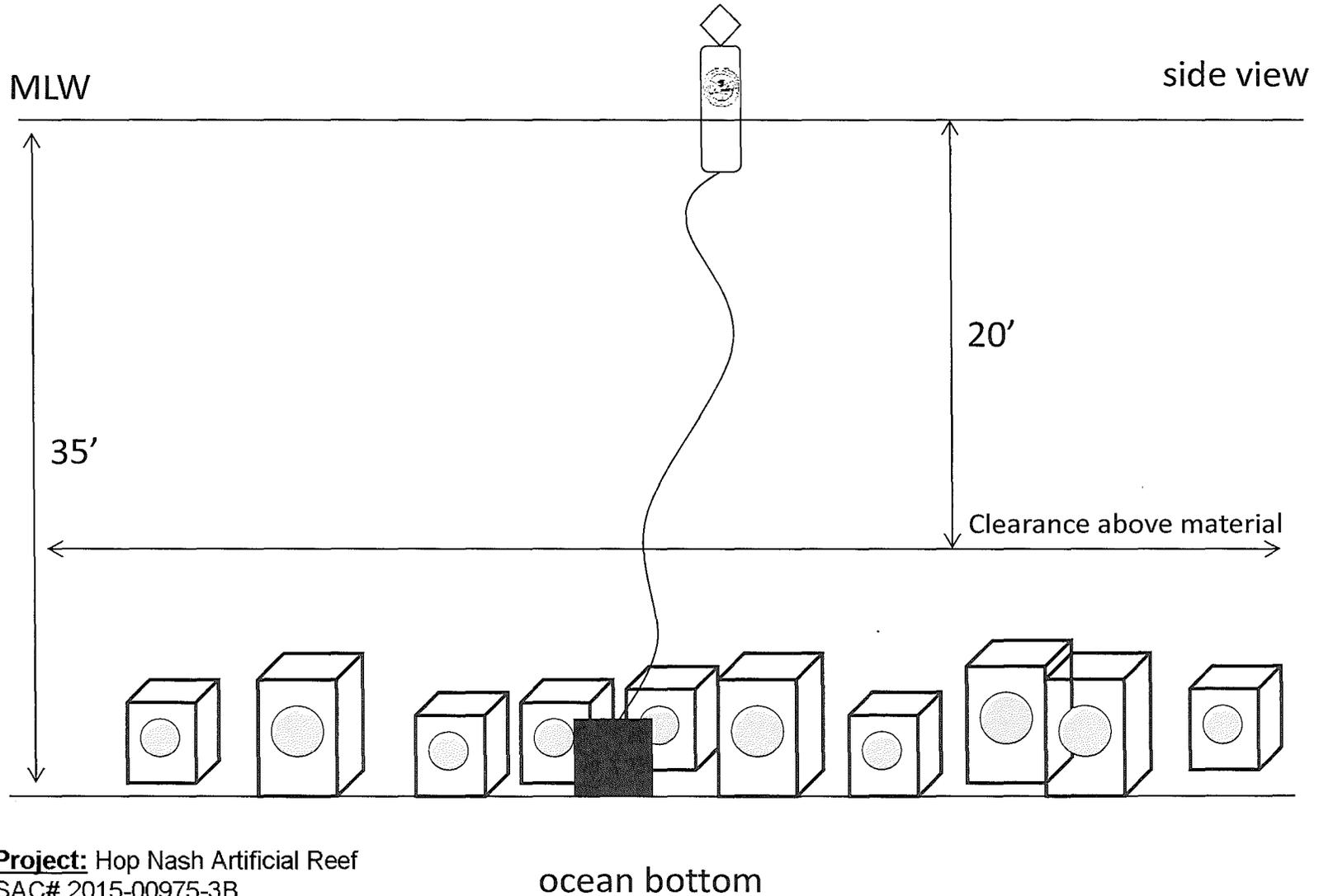
Sheet 2 of 3

Initial construction will consist of 20 concrete boxes, 4 feet
across and 6-8 feet tall, weighing 1800-2000 pounds each.
Due to the weight of the structures no additional anchoring
will be necessary.

Permitted area will be a 400 yard diameter circle or 26 acres



Requested clearance is 20 feet from deployed material to the surface at MLW.
Concrete boxes currently range from 6 to 8 feet in height from the ocean bottom.



Project: Hop Nash Artificial Reef
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ocean bottom