PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N #2003-1D-059-P

MARCH 7, 2003

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SCDNR)
c/o ARTIFICIAL REEF COORDINATOR
P.O. BOX 12559
CHARLESTON, SC 29422

for the construction of an inshore artificial fishing reef in

CHARLESTON HARBOR

at a location between Ft. Johnson and Ft. Sumter in Charleston County, South Carolina.

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 both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2003

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 intertidal artificial fishing reef. Approximately 156 of 2' high concrete habitat modules will be placed in 3 areas within a 60 yard wide by 200 yard long area. Water depths will range from 3' to 8' at high tide. The outer 2 corners of the reef site will be marked with a timber pile with a SCDNR sign attached. While the applicant has no plans to add additional material to the reef after initial construction, approval of this permit will give Federal authorization to add materials to the reef site for a period of ten (10) years if they so choose. The applicant will be required to present plans for future expansion to the District Engineer for approval prior to accomplishing the work. All work is to be performed in accordance with Federal and State regulations governing such activities at the time the work is undertaken. The purpose of the reef program is to provide habitat for a number of marine finfish species and enhance fishing opportunities for the State's recreational fishermen.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest

by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management has determined that the proposed activity is exempt from their regulations as 30-5(A)(2) exempts any activity that is conservation related as well as related to research via the auspices of a State Agency.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project will impact approximately 1.5 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our 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). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

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.

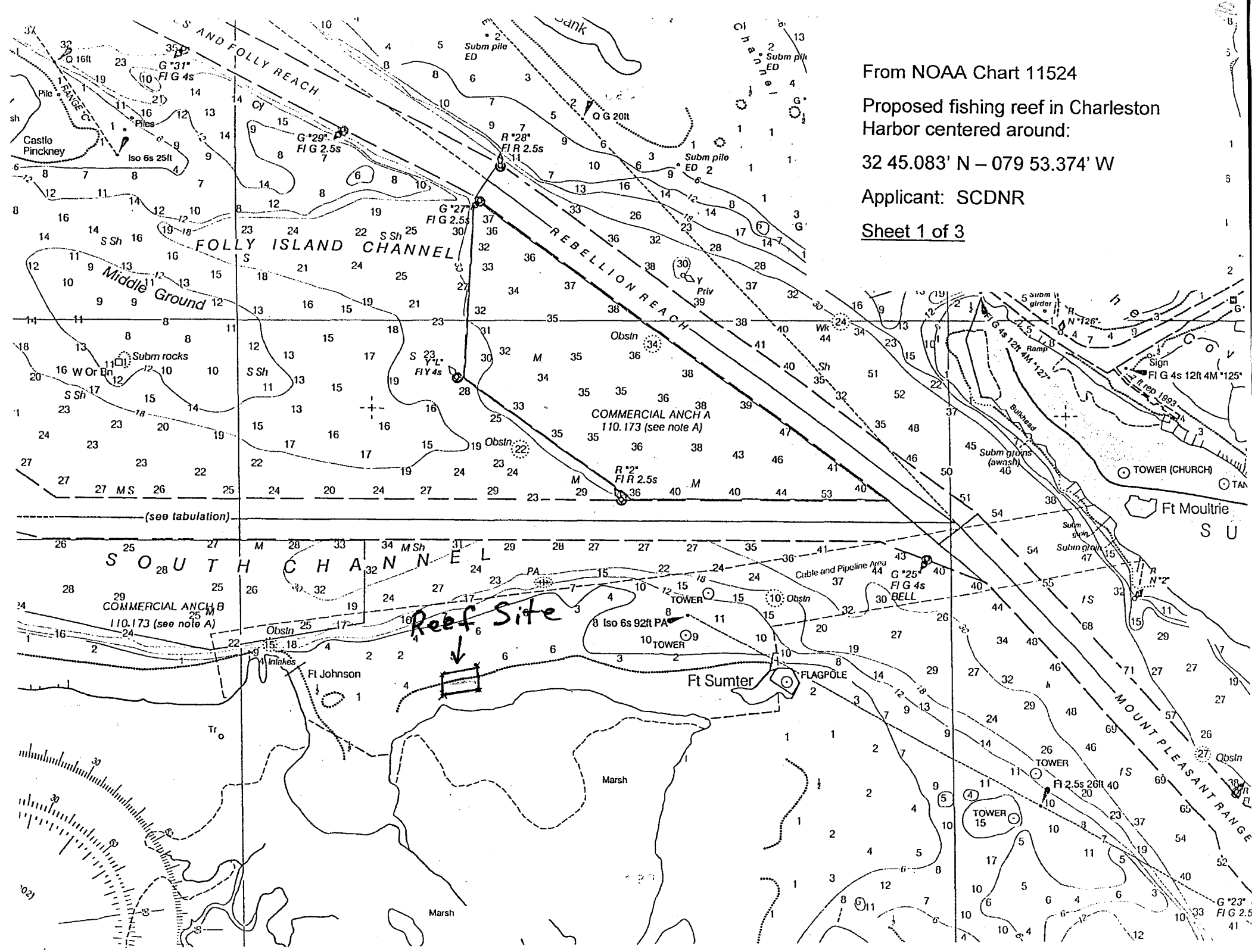
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. 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 of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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 me at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

S. Dean Herndon
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers


From NOAA Chart 11524
Proposed fishing reef in Charleston Harbor centered around:
32 45.083' N – 079 53.374' W
Applicant: SCDNR
Sheet 1 of 3
Reef Site
FOLLY ISLAND CHANNEL
SOUTH CHANNEL
REBELLION REACH
MOUNT PLEASANT RANGE
Middle Ground
Castle Pinckney
Ft Johnson
Ft Sumter
Ft Moultrie
COMMERCIAL ANCH A
110.173 (see note A)
COMMERCIAL ANCH B
110.173 (see note A)
(see tabulation)
Marsh
TOWER (CHURCH)

Top View

Proposed fishing reef in Charleston Harbor centered around:

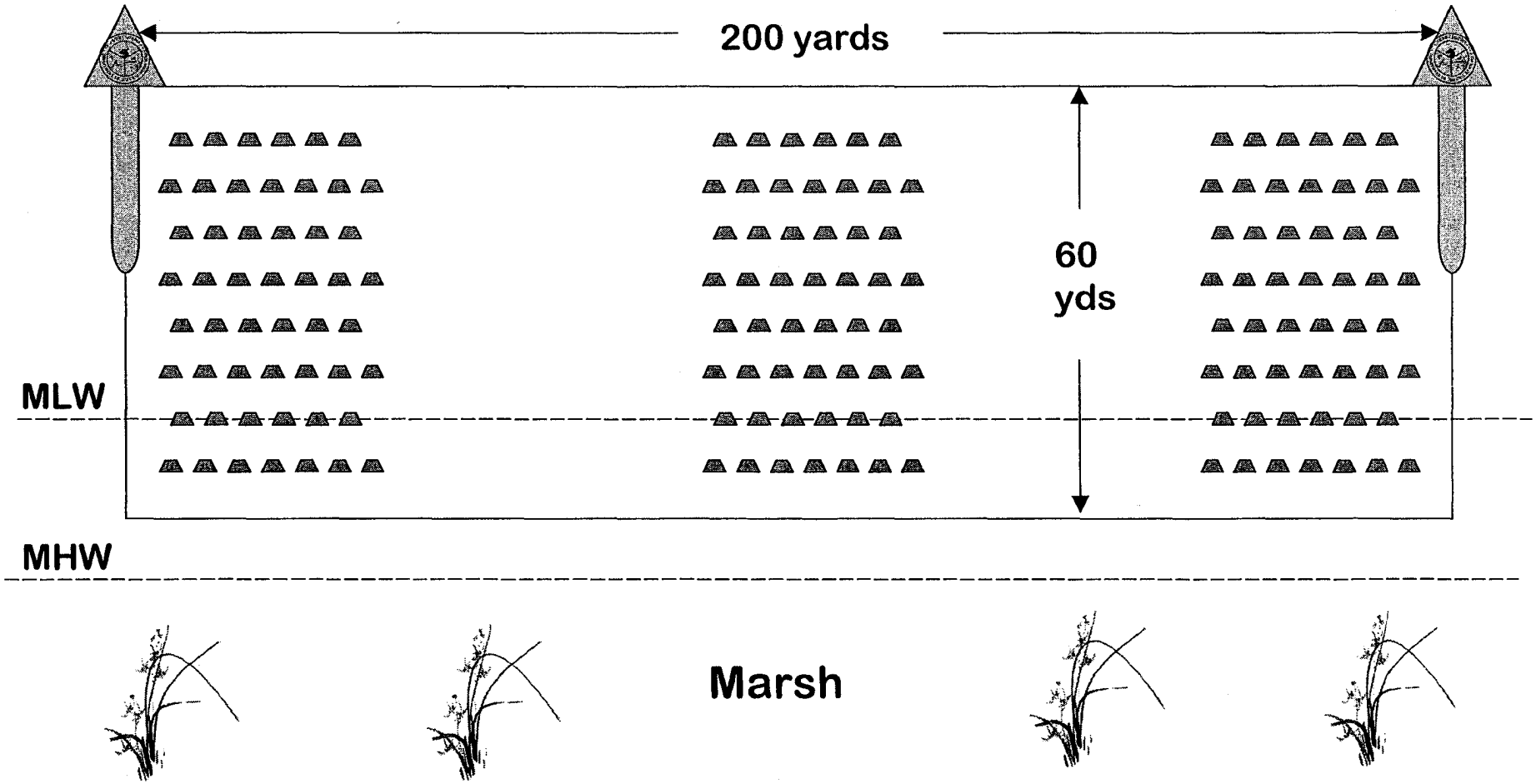
32 45.083' N – 079 53.374' W

Applicant: SCDNR

Sheet 2 of 3

N

156 concrete habitat modules



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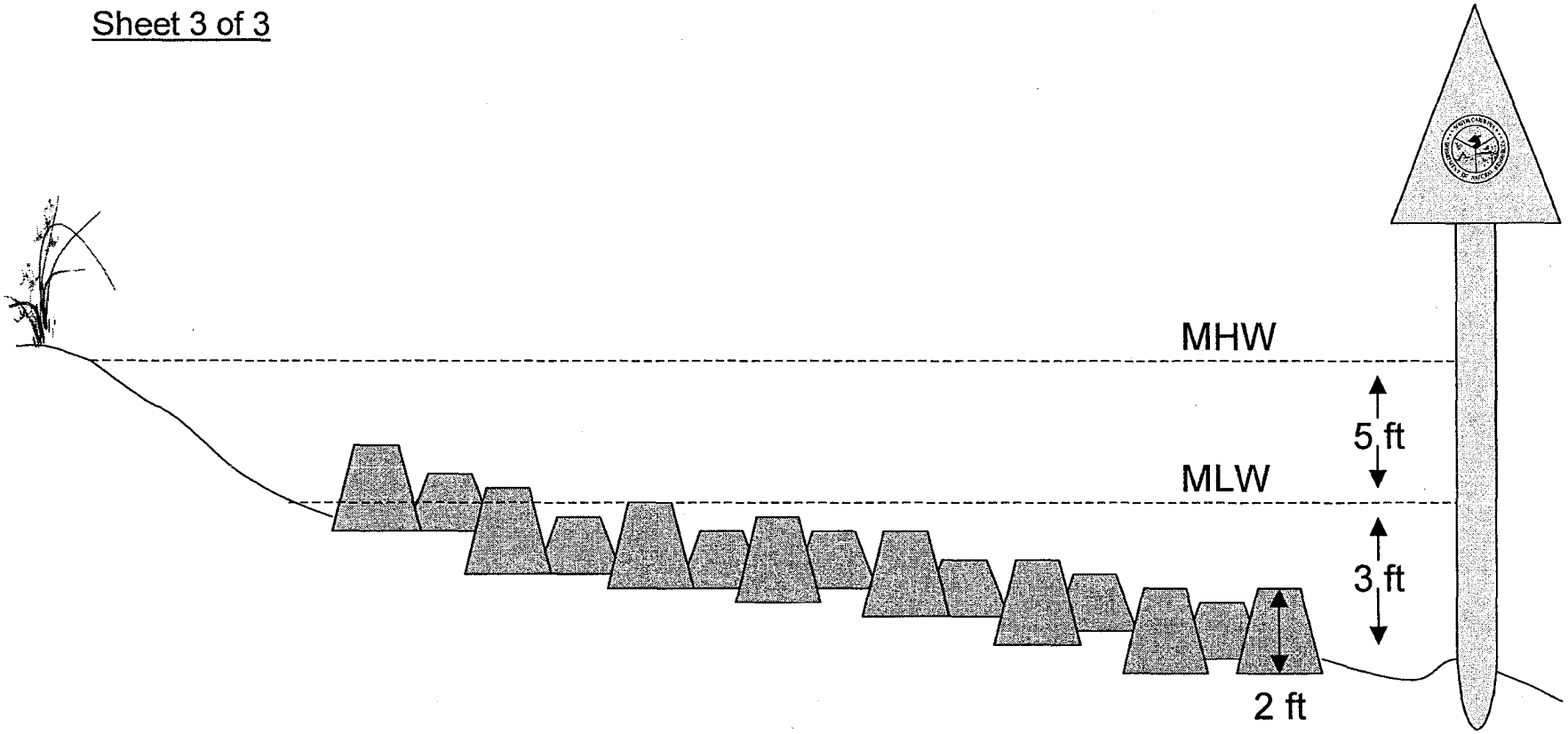
Sheet 3 of 3