

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

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

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

NOTE: THIS IS A CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CIVIL WORKS PROJECT

CESAC-PM-TE

March 21, 2003

Refer to: P/N # 2003-1R-071

Pawley's Island Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction
Georgetown County
South Carolina

The Charleston District, Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, proposes to perform the work described herein with due consideration and review given to the relevant provisions of the following laws:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et. seq.).
2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).
3. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470, et. seq.) and the Preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469, et. seq.).
4. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (42 U.S.C. 4321).

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of proposed sand placement on the southern end (South Reach) of Pawley's Island, Georgetown County, South Carolina to provide protection for existing structures. The project involves placing only beach compatible material from off shore borrow sites on the beach at Pawley's Island from the south end of the south parking lot to approximately 450 feet north of groin #12 (see Figure 1).

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 at this office until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2003

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Pawley's Island is a barrier island located on the Atlantic coast approximately 23 miles south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and about 70 miles north of Charleston, South Carolina.

The project area extends approximately 7,500 feet from the south end of the south parking lot to approximately 450 feet north of groin #12 (see Figure 2). The proposed plan involves placement of a 50-foot protective berm fronted by a 9-year advance nourishment template. The total volume of sand for this profile is approximately 565,000 cubic yards. There will be full nourishment for 6,800 feet between Groin #1 and Groin #12 with 350-foot tapers on each end of the full nourishment. The taper below Groin #1 will likely be supported by an additional new groin that will be tied into the south end of the existing parking lot. Sand will be pumped with a pipeline or hopper dredge. Sand will be discharged in a slurry form and shaped with land-based equipment to a berm design with elevation at 7 feet NGVD, backed by a protective dune at elevation 10 feet NGVD. Two offshore borrow sites are identified in Figure 3. The majority of the sand will be obtained from the larger site (832 acres). The smaller site (319 acres) will only be used if necessary. It is anticipated that the placement of sand will secondarily provide a suitable environment for sea turtle nesting and has the potential to provide a suitable substrate for re-colonization of the endangered sea-beach amaranth.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This document serves as a public notice on behalf of the SCDHEC for water quality certification. A certification is required from DHEC stating that the proposed construction will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the Charleston District requests DHEC to issue that certification. Persons wishing to comment on State Certification are invited to submit same in writing to SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

This project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. By this notice, the Charleston District requests concurrence from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) that the proposed activity is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Concurrence is conclusively presumed if no state action is received within 45 days of receipt of this notice.

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. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office will be conducted.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available threatened and endangered species information and has determined that the proposed project is likely to adversely affect the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). 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 proposed activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act or 1973 (as amended).

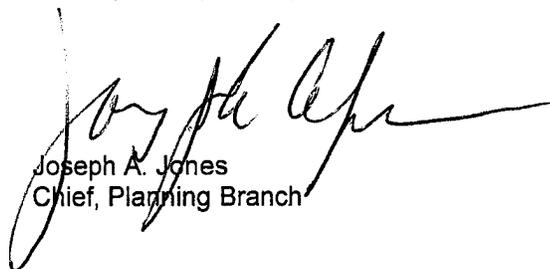
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact approximately 25 acres of inter-tidal beach and 40 acres of sub-tidal beach zone habitat utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and

snapper-grouper management complexes. These 65 acres of inter-tidal and sub-tidal area will be converted to the new beach profile. 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.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. These requests should be made to DHEC at the address listed above.

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 proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment 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 proposed activity.

Questions or comments concerning this notice should be directed to Mrs. Robin Collier-Socha of the District's Environmental Resources Team (PM-TE) at telephone number (843)329-8167.



Joseph A. Jones
Chief, Planning Branch

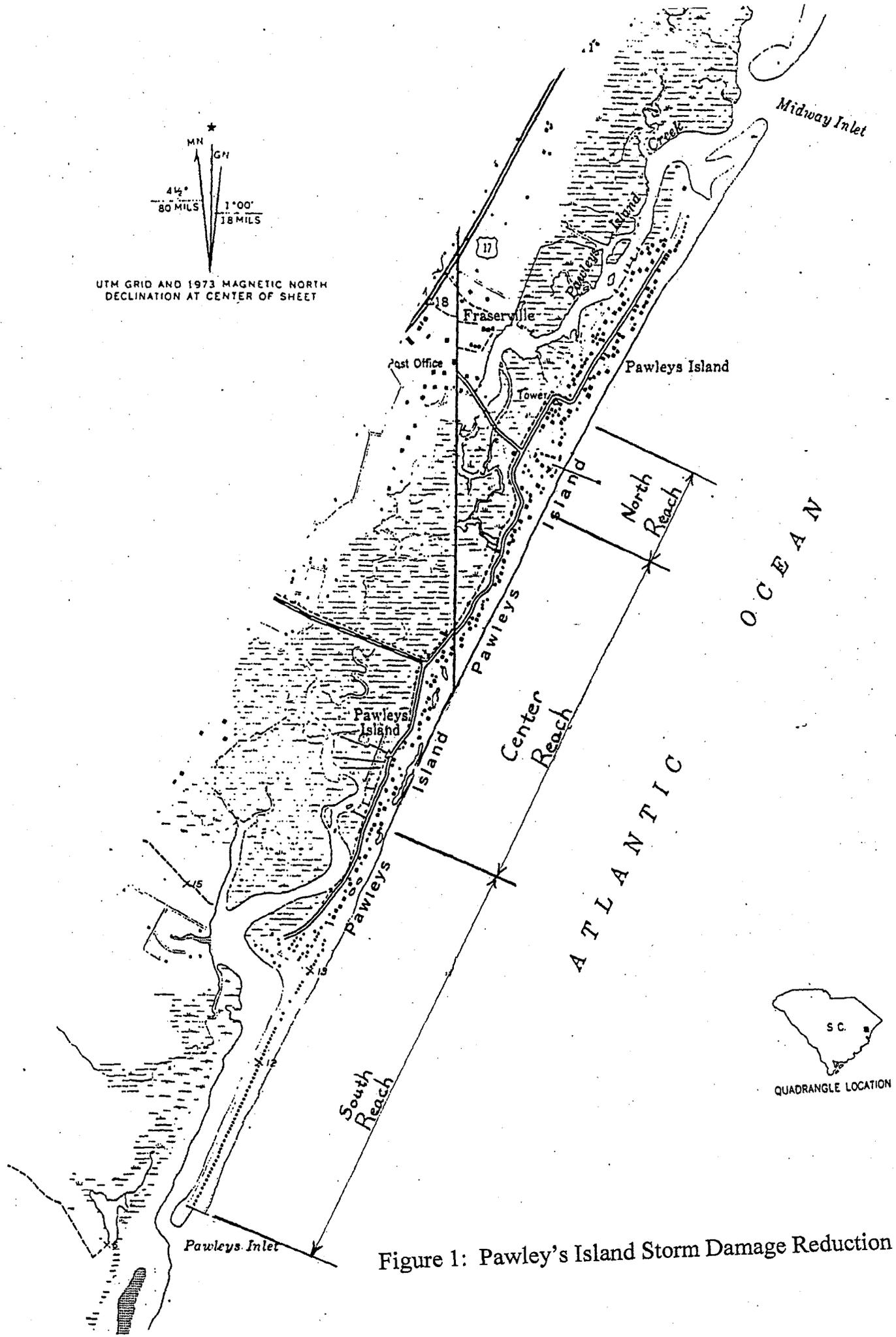


Figure 1: Pawley's Island Storm Damage Reduction Project

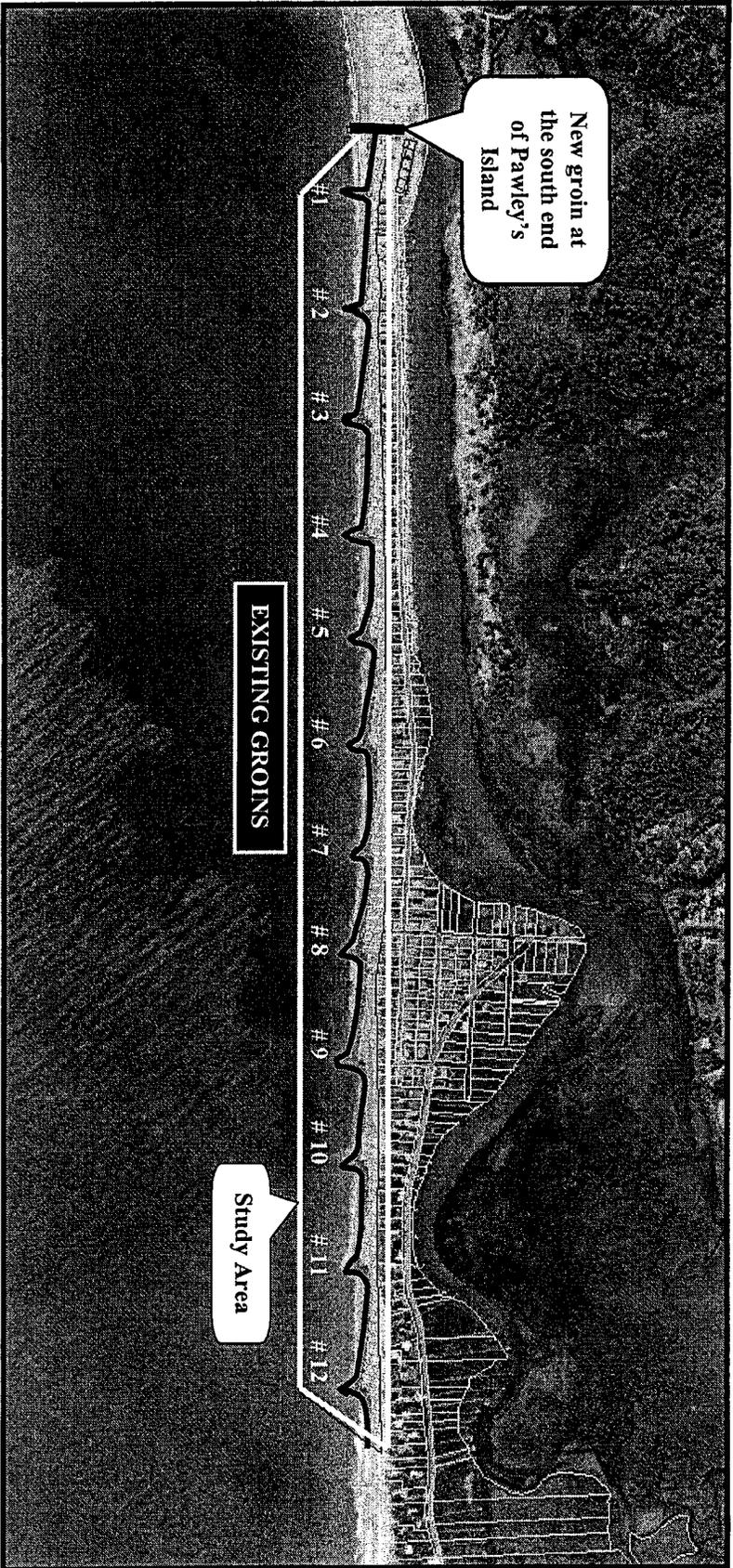


Figure 2: Existing and New Groins

PAWLEYS ISLAND BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT PROPOSED OFFSHORE BORROW SITES

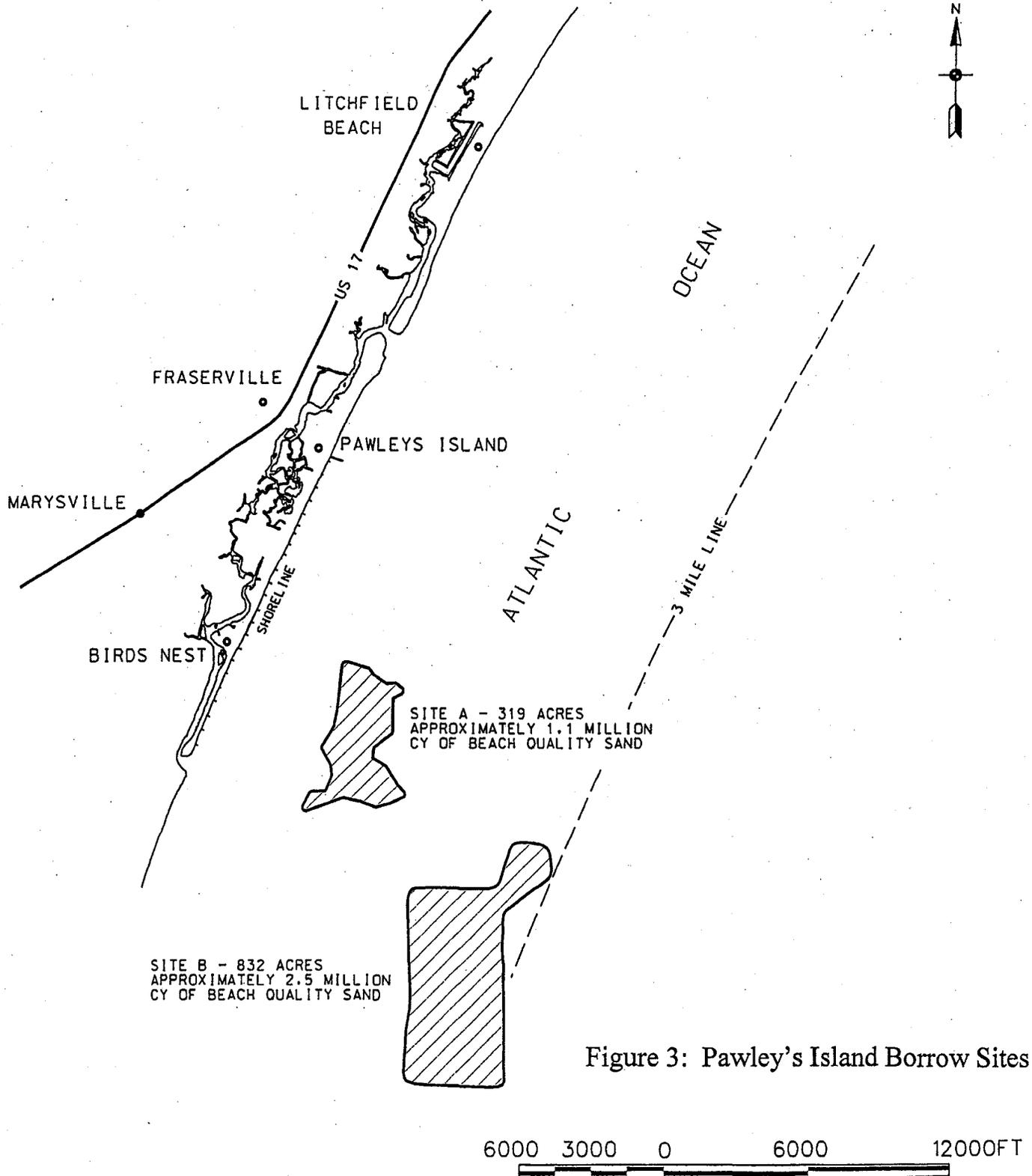


Figure 3: Pawley's Island Borrow Sites