

Crab Bank Question & Answers



US Army Corps
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Charleston District

Where did the plan to place material on Crab Bank originate?

Crab Bank was identified as a beneficial use alternative for dredged material in 2011 during the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project feasibility phase. In November 2016, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) requested that several beneficial use alternatives, including Crab Bank, be further evaluated under the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 204.

Why is Crab Bank a separate project from Post 45?

Federal navigation projects, such as Post 45, are only authorized to utilize the least-cost, environmentally acceptable placement location for dredged material. The lowest costs placement for dredged material from the deepening of the Charleston Lower Harbor is the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), therefore the increased costs for Crab Bank could not be funded as a part of the Post 45 project. However, the CAP Section 204 authorizes the Corps to cost share in projects to protect, restore, and create aquatic and ecologically related habitats in connection with dredging of authorized federal navigation channels.

What is the current placement plan for Crab Bank?

The CAP 204 report for Charleston Harbor was finalized in September 2017 and recommended a one-time placement of approximately 660,000 cubic yards of Post 45 dredged material within the historic footprint of the Crab Bank to increase the island by 50 acres for a total of approximately 80 acres, with approximately 28 acres available for nesting brown pelicans. To ensure that the dredged material is compatible with Crab Bank, it was tested and the results were coordinated with, and approved by, resource agencies.

When will material be placed on Crab Bank?

In July 2018, the Corps entered into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with SCDNR to restore Crab Bank. Crab Bank can be constructed with the upcoming deepening of the Lower Harbor if funding is available. However, prior to the start of construction, a numerical model is being completed to validate the placement plan at Crab Bank.

