



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Charleston District

21 March 2025

Project Fact Sheet
Cooper River, Charleston Harbor, SC
Berkeley and Charleston Counties, SC
P2#: 476967

Congressional District(s): Nancy Mace (SC-01), James Clyburn (SC-06)

Appropriation: Operations & Maintenance

Business Line: Navigation (NAV)

AUTHORITY

Section 101, River and Harbor Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-483), modified by Title I Energy and Water Development Act, 1992 (P.L. 102-104) and further modified by Section 353 (a), Water Resource Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-53)

LOCATION

The project is in Charleston and Berkeley Counties. All operations and maintenance are in Berkeley County (St. Stephen, SC) about 45 miles north of Charleston, SC.

DESCRIPTION

The Cooper River Rediversion Project includes operation and maintenance of the St. Stephen Power Plant in accordance with an agreement with the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper). The project diverts most of the Santee River waters above Pinopolis Dam back into the lower Santee River producing 160,000 MWh of electricity annually. The project includes operation and maintenance of a fish lift, which since its opening in 1987 has passed over 10 million herring, 7 million shad, and tens of thousands of other fish. The project was authorized to reduce sedimentation in Charleston Harbor, and successfully lowers sediment flow within the Cooper River from 10M cubic yards to 2M cubic yards annually. Prior to this rediversion, Charleston Harbor dredging costs threatened the continued viability of the port, but annual savings of about \$36 million recognized by this project have negated that concern.

STATUS

As of March 2025 – Funds are being used to operate the power plant, perform power plant maintenance, and perform maintenance of non-recreational buildings, grounds, utilities, and the fish lift. Routine operation and maintenance: \$4.805M in FY25 appropriations to maintain and operate the power plant and fish lift, to manage natural resources, to perform condition and operational studies/activities and to comply with water quality, State and Federal environmental and reliability regulations. FY25 Work Plan funding, if received, would be used to perform needed, non-routine maintenance. Impacts of not funding: Increased shoaling in Charleston Harbor which is downstream of the Project and impacts to effectively passing fish through the fish lift for the upcoming spawning season.

SPONSOR

N/A

PROJECT MANAGER

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