



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Charleston District

19 March 2024

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 and associated structures and facilities in accordance with our 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. Annually, the hydro generating units produce an average of 160,000 MWh of electricity from the diverted Santee River waters. Also included in the project authorization was the design and construction of a fish lift. Since opening in 1987, the fish lift has passed approximately 10 million herring, 7 million shad, and tens of thousands of other types of fish. The Project was authorized, constructed, and is operated to reduce siltation in the Charleston Harbor. Prior to this rediversion, operation and maintenance costs to dredge Charleston Harbor were threatening the continued viability of the port. The Project has reduced sedimentation in Charleston Harbor from 10 million cubic yards to 2 million cubic yards annually, resulting in a \$36 million annual reduction of dredging costs.

STATUS

As of March 2024 – 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: \$4.505M in FY24 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. FY24 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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