

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 OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N #SAC-2013-00695-1W

10 JUNE 2013

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), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
c/o OLSEN ASSOCIATES, INC.
ATTN.: MR. CHRISTOPHER CREED, P. E. (SC 23064)
2618 HERSCHEL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32204

for a permit to place fill material along the shoreline of

PORT ROYAL SOUND

at a location along 2,000 linear feet of shoreline in an area of Port Royal Plantation known as Ocean Point on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.22604°, Longitude -80.67096°)

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 the **Corps** until

15 days from the date of this notice

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 days from the date of this notice

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

The proposed work consists of the placement of up to 35,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand obtained from an upland sand source, the Deerfield Mine in Hardeeville, SC, and placing it on 2,000 linear feet of eroding shoreline at Ocean Point in Port Royal Plantation. Once the material is trucked in, it will be moved into place and shaped using mechanical means.

According to the applicant, this project will be performed in an area of localized erosion to provide protection for approximately two years and will take 2-3 weeks to accomplish.

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.**

This Public Notice, including plans, is available for review on the Charleston District Web Site www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices. The subject notice can be obtained by clicking the file with the subject project number.

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 work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

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 4.5 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 is likely to adversely affect the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and is not likely to adversely affect the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and designated critical habitat (USFWS SC Unit-15) for wintering piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service to initiate formal consultation on these species and/or critical habitat that may be present in the area which would be affected, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). A biological assessment (or other similar document) detailing our analysis of the effects of the action will be provided.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

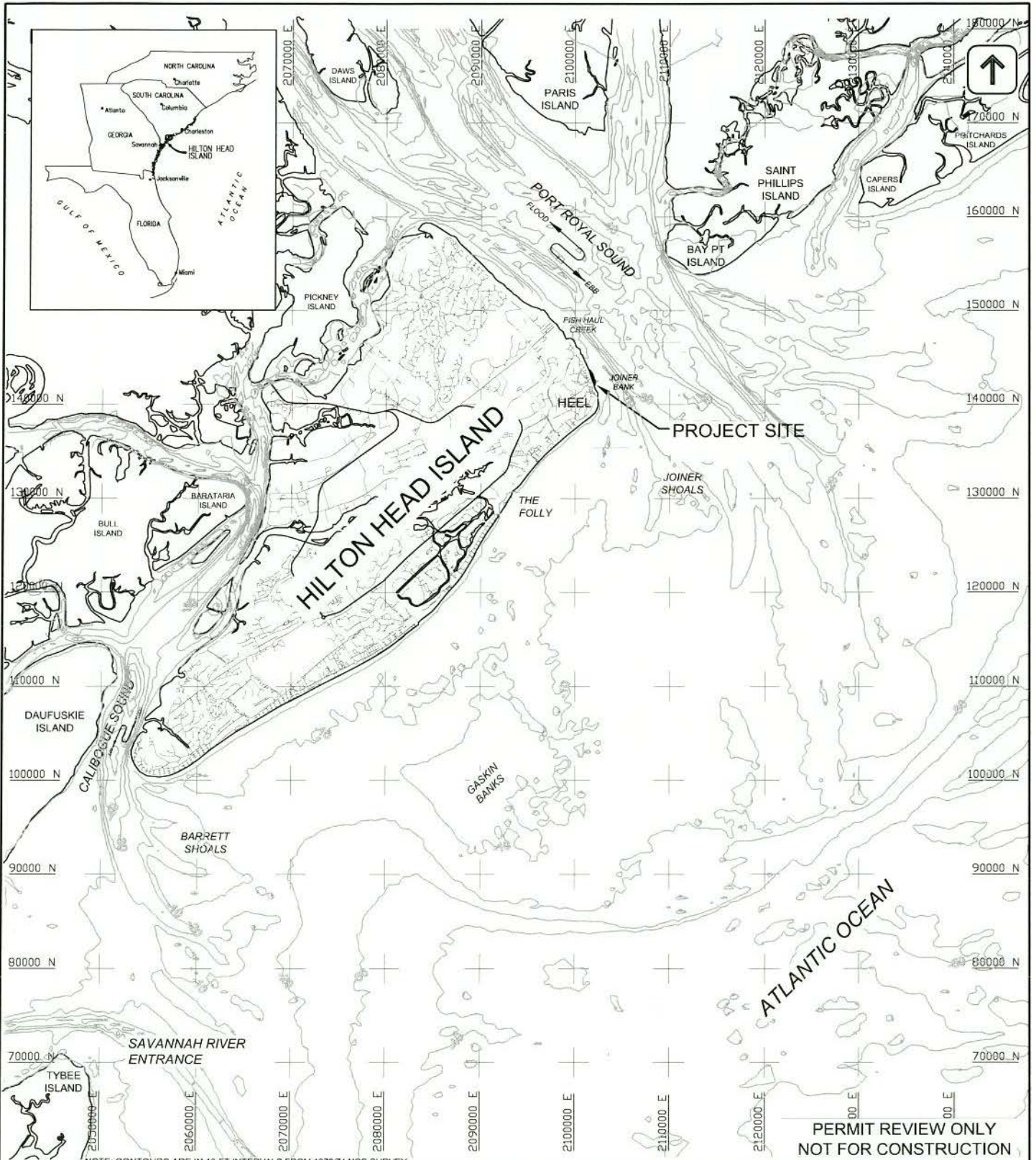
In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

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.

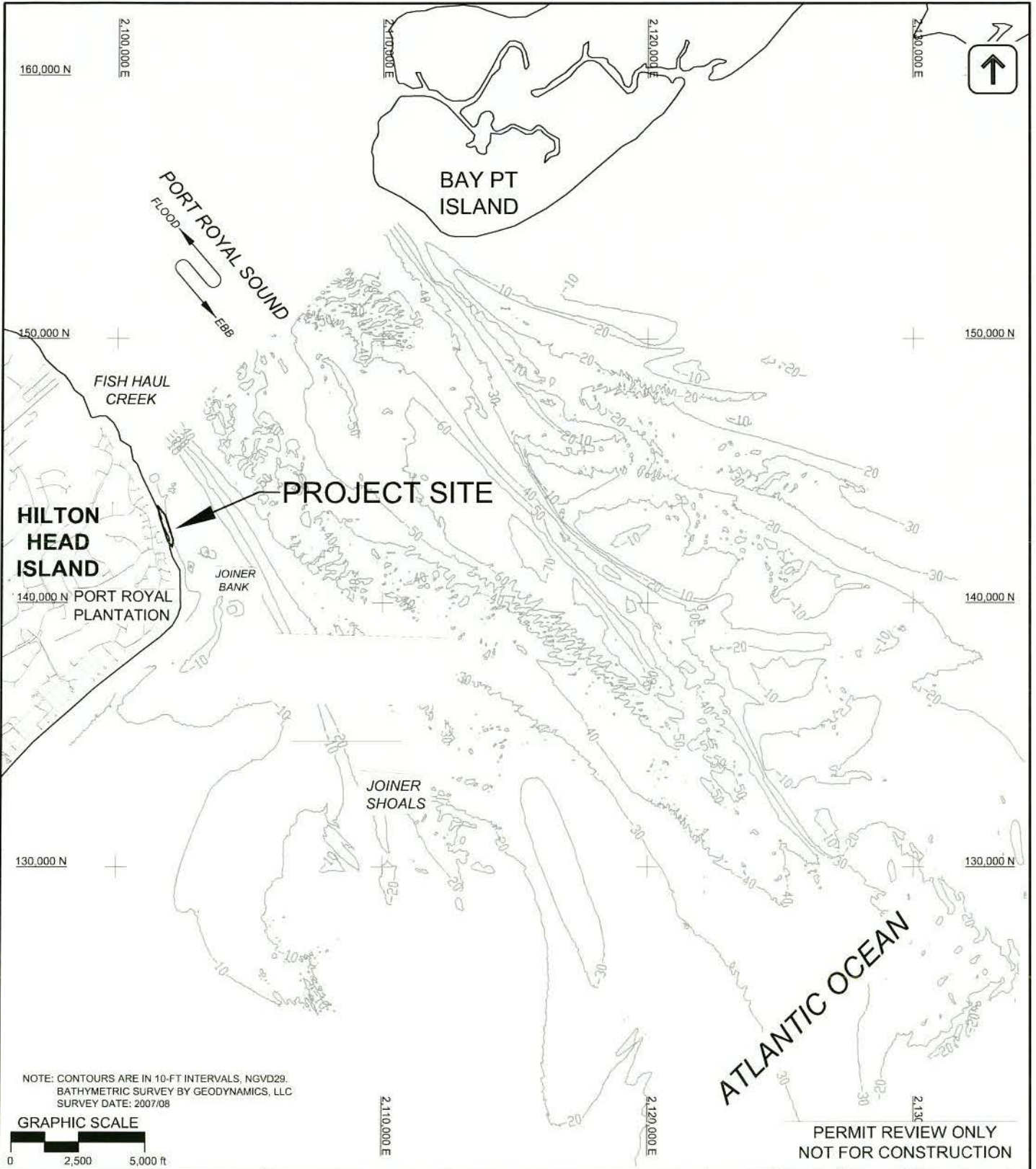
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Debbie King at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



NOTE: CONTOURS ARE IN 10-FT INTERVALS FROM 1973/74 NOS SURVEY

PERMIT REVIEW ONLY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

APPLICANT: TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC SAC 2013-00695-1W	TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND OCEAN POINT INTERIM BEACH FILL PROJECT PROJECT VICINITY	DATE:	APPROVED	REVISION	DATE:
					05/15/13
					DRAWN BY: PJS
				SHEET 1 OF 5	



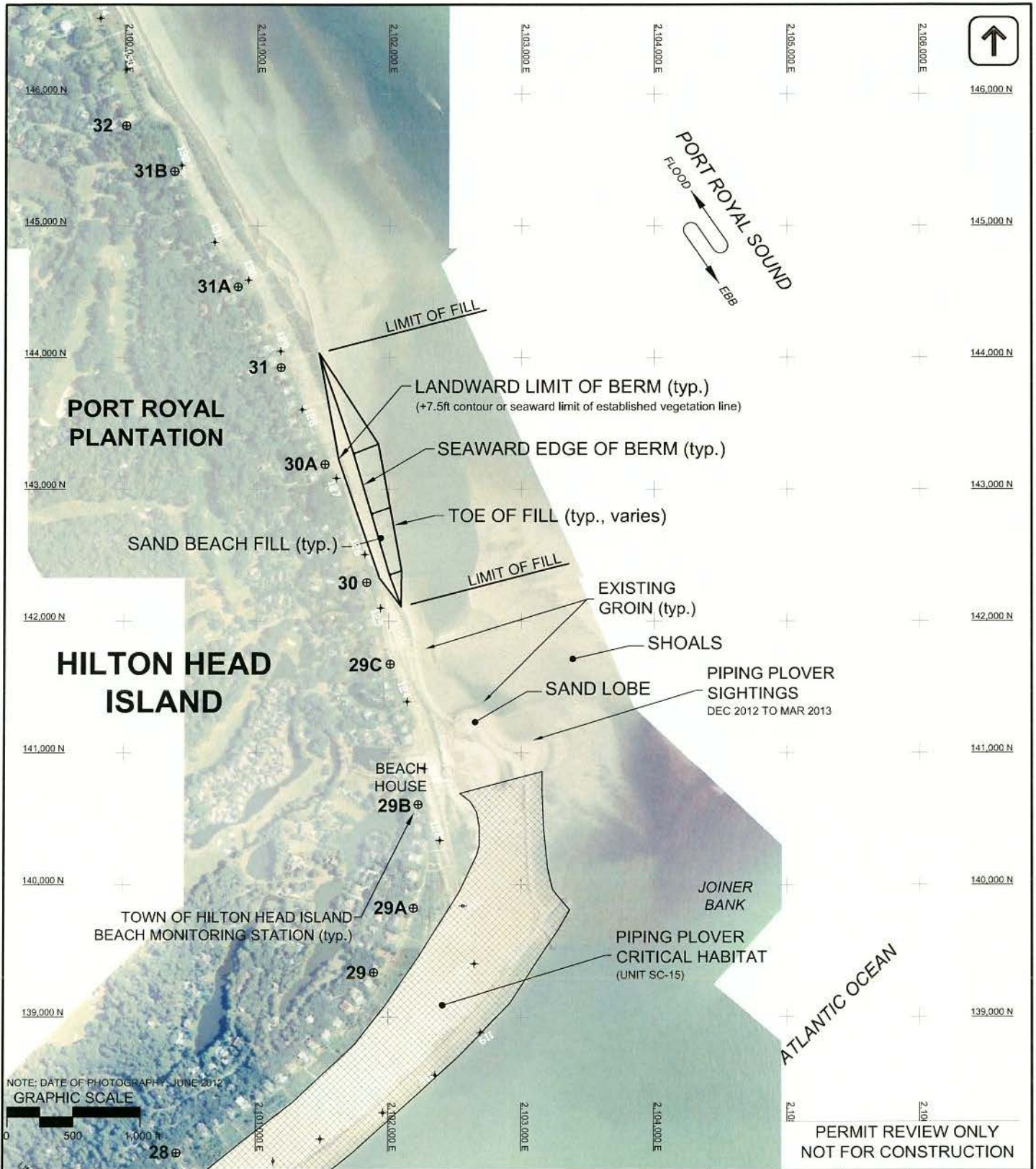
APPLICANT:
 TOWN OF
 HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
SAC 2013-00695-1W

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
 OCEAN POINT INTERIM
 BEACH FILL PROJECT

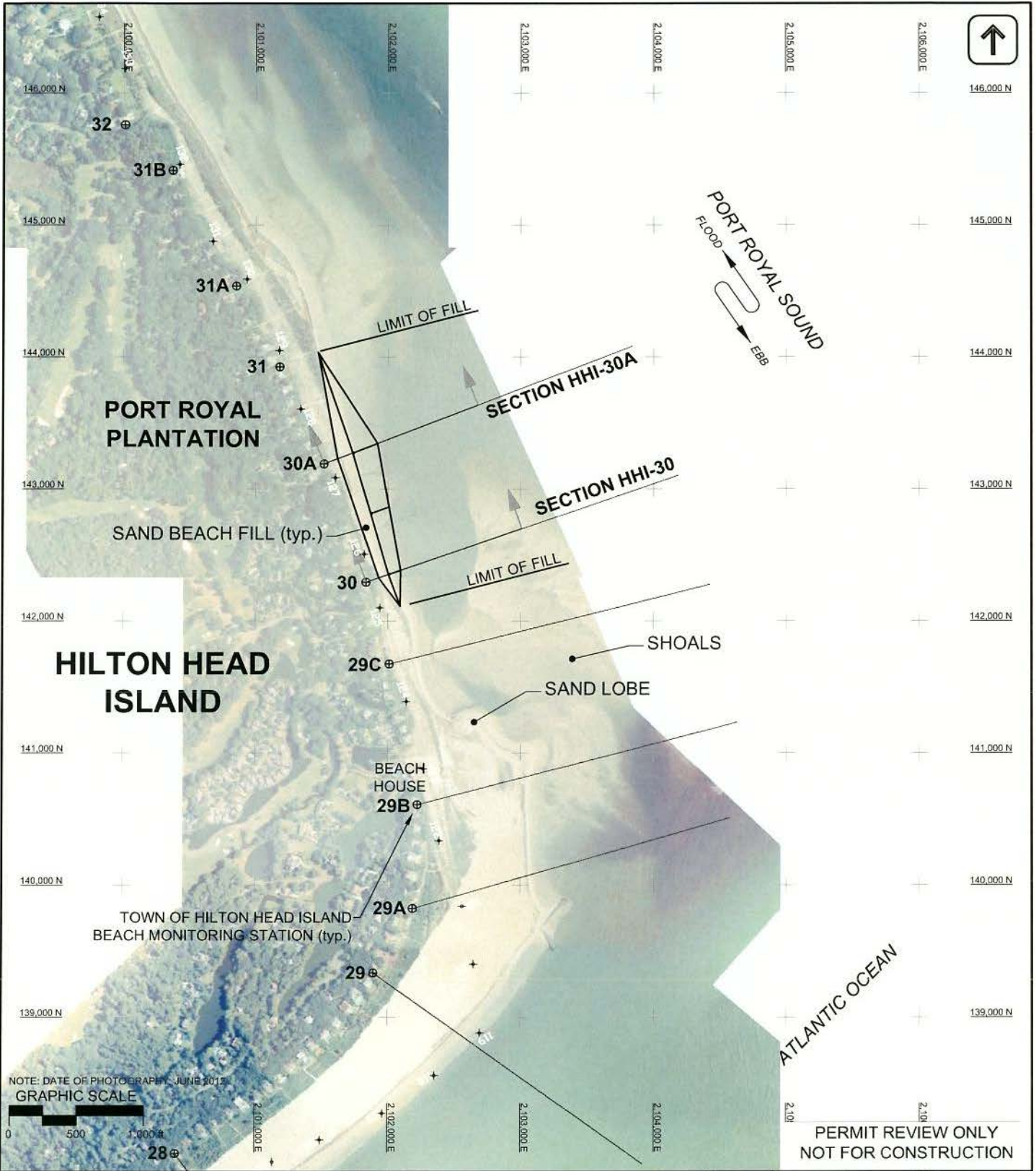
 PROJECT LOCATION

DATE:	APPROVED	REVISION

DATE:
05/15/13
 DRAWN BY:
PJS
 SHEET
2 OF 5



APPLICANT: TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC SAC 2013-00695-1W	TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND OCEAN POINT INTERIM BEACH FILL PROJECT PLAN	DATE: 	APPROVED 	REVISION 	DATE: 05/15/13 DRAWN BY: PJS SHEET 3 OF 5
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APPLICANT:
 TOWN OF
 HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
SAC 2013-00695-1W

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
 OCEAN POINT INTERIM
 BEACH FILL PROJECT
CROSS-SECTION LOCATIONS

DATE:	APPROVED	REVISION

DATE:
 05/15/13
 DRAWN BY:
 PJS
 SHEET
 4 OF 5

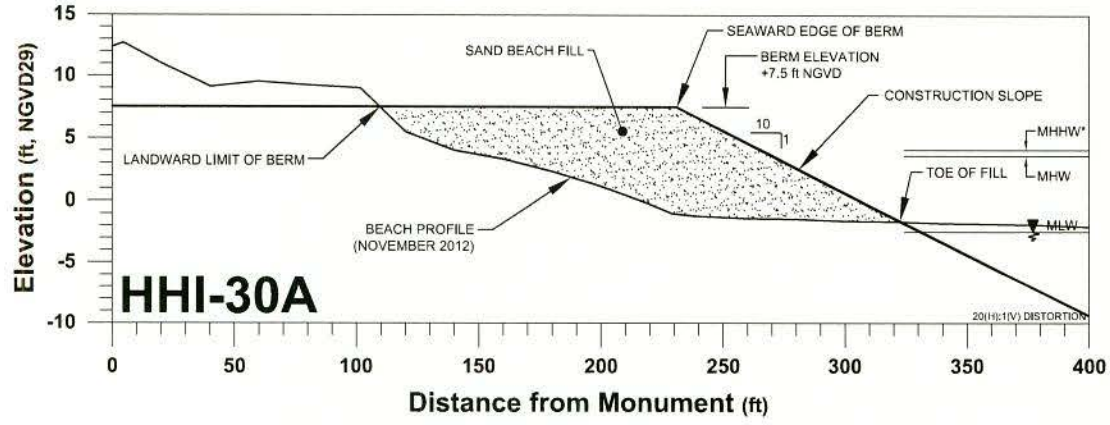
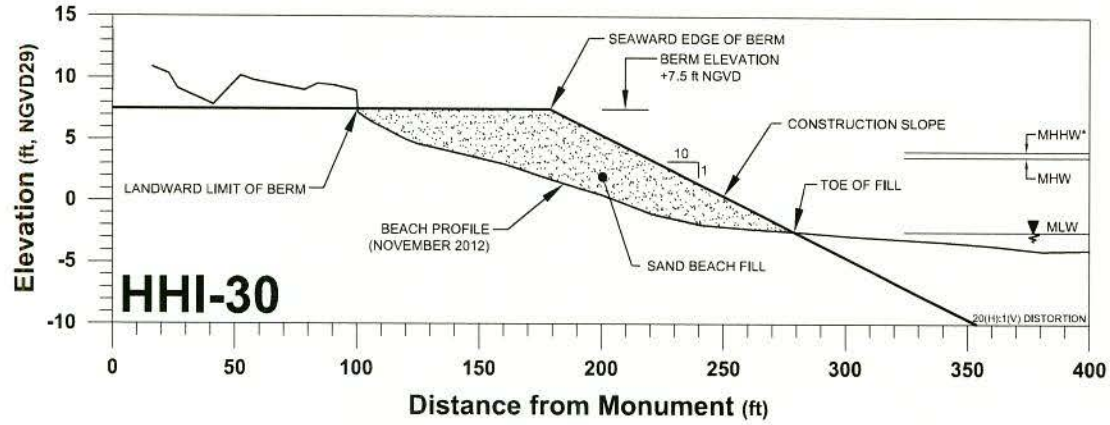
APPLICANT:
 TOWN OF
 HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
 SAC 2013-00695-1W

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
 OCEAN POINT INTERIM
 BEACH FILL PROJECT
 CROSS-SECTIONS (typ.)

DATE:	APPROVED:	REVISION:

DATE:	DRAWN BY:
05/15/13	PJS

SHEET
 5 OF 5



NOTE: HORIZONTAL(H) TO VERTICAL(V)
 DISTORTION IS 20(H):1(V)
 BATHYMETRIC SURVEY BY ARC SURVEYING & MAPPING, INC.
 SURVEY DATE: NOVEMBER 2012

*MHHW also refers to spring high tide line.
 PERMIT REVIEW ONLY
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

ATTACHMENT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ocean Point Interim Beach Fill Project
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Applicant: Town of Hilton Head Island
Agent: Olsen Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida

The proposed project will include the placement of up to 35,000 cy of sand along about 2,000 feet of Port Royal Sound shoreline in Port Royal Plantation on Hilton Head Island, SC. The project area is located along a portion of the island's shoreline known as Ocean Point. Sand for the project will be obtained from a beach-compatible upland sand source, trucked to the project site, and placed and shaped mechanically. The most probable sand source will be the Deerfield Mine in Hardeeville, SC, a source that has been used as beach fill on Hilton Head Island in the past (P/N 2004-13583-11W, amended). Sediment conditions at the Deerfield mine area are very clean and uniform, and the sediments are highly compatible with naturally occurring beach sediments on Hilton Head Island.

The purpose of the project is to address a highly-localized beach erosion problem that is causing extreme narrowing of beach widths between the shorefront upland development and the average water line. Recent beach monitoring results indicate that the project area shoreline is losing about 15,000 cubic yards of sand per year. As such, the proposed project will provide the equivalent of as much as two years of protection to the subject shoreline. This project is intended to provide temporary relief from the localized high rate of erosion until the Town's next island-wide comprehensive beach nourishment project planned for the fall/winter of 2015. If the proposed interim project is not constructed, recent shoreline change data suggest that the erosion could cause the upland bluff to retreat to the shorefront development line within the next 12 to 18 months.

The project shoreline is located within the limits of the portion of the 2006/07 beach renourishment project that was constructed along the Port Royal Plantation Port Royal Sound shoreline (P/N 2004-1W-319-P (revised)). It is also located about 2,800 feet north of the low-crested terminal groin and 1,700 feet north of the northern limit of beach fill completed in May 2012 (P/N 2009-1056-11W-P). The project shoreline has been consistently erosional since completion of the 2006/07 island-wide beach restoration project due to movement of adjacent sand shoals and migration of a small intertidal channel seaward of this area.

It is proposed that sand placement on the beach will occur between April 1 and April 30, 2014. Given the planned fill volume and anticipated sand placement rate, it is expected that construction would occur over a 14 to 21 day period. Access to the beach will be from the upland through Port Royal Plantation and shore-side common areas.

The sand will be placed in a typical beach fill construction berm configuration with an upper elevation generally equivalent to the adjacent ambient beach elevations and have an initial seaward slope of 1V:10H.

ATTACHMENT B

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION STATEMENT

**Ocean Point Interim Beach Fill Project
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina**

Applicant: Town of Hilton Head Island
Agent: Olsen Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida

The proposed project will include the placement of up to 35,000 cy of sand along about 2,000 feet of Port Royal Sound shoreline in Port Royal Plantation on Hilton Head Island, SC. The no-action alternative is not acceptable due to the localized high rate of erosion and potential threat to upland development prior to construction of a larger renourishment project along this reach of shoreline. The location of the proposed fill placement cannot be avoided due to the localized nature of the significant erosion problem.

The fill quantity has been minimized to provide the minimum volume necessary to offset the anticipated erosion rate for a two-year period. It is expected a larger renourishment of this reach of shoreline will be permitted within two years as part of the Town's island-wide comprehensive nourishment project.

During project development, the preferred alternative was identified as scraping the massive sand lobe that is situated along the shoreline to the immediate south of the project. The sand lobe is the product of sand losses from shorelines farther to the south and sand placed as part of the 2012 Port Royal Sound Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Project. It is more than 900 feet wide (relative to the upland development line), occupies more than 10 acres, and may contain more than 50,000 cy of sand in just the upper three feet of the shoal. This shoal is located between 900 and 3,500 feet from the proposed fill limits, and due to its proximity and highly compatible sand, it is the most cost effective sand source for the project. However, a portion of the sand shoal is located within Designated Critical Habitat Unit SC-15 for wintering piping plovers, and the ongoing foraging habitat study for the 2012 Port Royal Project has documented a relatively high level of foraging activity in this area during the past two wintering seasons. Therefore, based on our environmental impact review during the alternatives analysis, the sand lobe was eliminated from consideration. It is noted that the proposed fill site is not located in Designated Critical Habitat Unit SC-15.

Based on elimination of the sand lobe alternative due to environmental concerns, the project will be constructed with a beach-compatible, although significantly more expensive, sand from an upland source to avoid potential impacts to preferred wintering piping plover foraging habitat and minimize impacts to the overall effect of the project to the shoreline. The material will be delivered to the project site from an upland beach access point adjacent to the project site. It is anticipated that work on the beach can be completed in 10 to 15 days.

Due the existing high rate of erosion and proximity of upland development to the existing shoreline, the project needs to be constructed as soon as possible. To avoid sea turtle nesting season, however, it is proposed that sand placement commence after November 1, 2013 with project completion prior to April 30, 2014. The floating site for the piping plover foraging habitat study during the 2012 and 2013 wintering seasons was located within the project area shoreline. The ideal window for project construction to avoid impacts to the ongoing foraging habitat study during the 2013/2014 wintering season and potential impacts to nesting sea turtles is between March 15 and April 30, 2014. The Town of Hilton Head will make every effort to construct the project during this window as an avoidance and minimization measure. However, if the erosion rate accelerates during the second half of 2013, and the risk of damage to upland development and public safety increases, the project may need to be constructed as early as November 2013. If the project is not constructed during the optimal avoidance/minimization window of March 15 to April 30, 2014, the Town of Hilton Head Island will coordinate with USFWS for potential revisions to the monitoring protocol for the 2013/2014 wintering piping plover surveys.



Legend

- Proposed Project Area
- Ocean Point Adjacent Parcels
- Parcels (No Unit Info)



TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
ONE TOWN CENTER COURT
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. 29928
PHONE 843 391-8000

Town of Hilton Head Island
Ocean Point Adjacent Property Owners
February 2011 Aerial Photography



This information has been compiled from a variety of unrelated general sources
at various times and as such is intended to be used only as a guide. The Town of
Hilton Head Island assumes no liability for the accuracy or timeliness of this information.