South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

and

Charleston District, Army Corps of Engineers
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

**March 19, 2015**
**Joint Permit Application Public Notice**

## *Town of Hilton Head Island*, 2015-00220-1W

The Department has received an application for a permit for the alteration of a critical area. The application was submitted pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (Act 123) of 1977 South Carolina General Assembly. The application in brief, is described as follows:

**LOCATION:** On and adjacent to Port Royal Sound at Mitchelville Beach Park, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina. TMS: n/a.

**WORK:** The work as proposed consists of re-nourishment. Specifically, the applicant seeks to place 60,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand along approximately 2000' lf of Port Royal Sound shoreline. The work as described is to restore the eroded area to re-establish the beach.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and agencies to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Department can be based. Comments concerning the proposed work must be submitted in writing, setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

Comments regarding this application must be received by the Department on or before **April 18, 2015**. For more information, please contact:
**Matt Slagel at 843-953-0250 or via email at slagelmp@dhec.sc.gov.**

**NOTE:** Plans depicting the proposed work are available and will be provided upon receipt of a written request or may be viewed on the Department website at **http://www.scdhec.gov/Apps/Environment/PublicNotices.**

# 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 26 FEBRUARY 2015
Refer to: P/N #2015-00220-1W

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

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**
**c/o OLSEN ASSOCIATES, INC.**
**2618 HERSCHEL STREET**
**JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32204**

for a permit to place fill material along the shoreline of and to perform hydraulic dredging to obtain the fill material or to obtain the fill material from an upland source

PORT ROYAL SOUND

Placement of material is at a location immediately north of Fish Haul Creek and Fish Haul Park and seaward of The Spa on Port Royal Sound and Mitchelville Beach Park on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.242913°, -80.685562°).

Hydraulic dredging is proposed at the Bay Point Shoals borrow area located off of the north end of Hilton Head Island (Latitude 32.249013°, Longitude -80.63082°) and upland sand sources include both the Deerfield Mine in Hardeeville, South Carolina and the Murray Sand Pit in Summerville, South Carolina.

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,**

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 60,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand along approximately 2,000 linear feet of the Port Royal Sound shoreline. This area is within the footprint of a previous project performed under Department of the Army permit 2005-1W-051. The purpose of the project is to restore the eroded area to reestablish a beach and according to the applicant, is part of an ongoing beach management program for the Town with an expected 8 to 10 year renourishment life.

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 6 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).* The project is not in an area that is likely to adversely affect designated critical habitat of the piping plover, *Charadrius melodus,* the red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) or the loggerhead sea turtle, (*Caretta caretta).* The proposed work is not likely to adversely affect the the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) provided standard manatee protection conditions are followed. 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 verification that critical habitat that is not present in the area which would be affected, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

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 Debra W. King at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

*ATTACHMENT A* - **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**2015/16 Fish Haul/Spa Beach Renourishment 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 60,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand along about 2,000 ft of Port Royal Sound shorefront. The project will be the first renourishment of a portion of a reach of shoreline immediately north of Fish Haul Creek that was originally restored by the Town of Hilton Head Island in 2006/07 (P/N 2005-1W-051-P). The project, which is a component of the Town's ongoing comprehensive beach management program, is an anticipated and scheduled renourishment event.

The Town plans for renourishment of restored and maintained areas of the island's sandy shoreline to occur about every 8 to 10 years depending upon weather conditions and beach performance during the nourishment life. The last comprehensive, island-wide event on the island was completed in February 2007 and included initial restoration of the "Fish Haul/Spa" shoreline. The proposed project will include sand placement along a discrete reach of the shorefront located north of Fish Haul Creek and north of the Fish Haul Park (public Town park). The project will be sited seaward of The Spa on Port Royal Sound (a private development), and Mitchelville Beach Park (public Town park).

The purpose of the Fish Haul/Spa beach renourishment project is to reestablish beach conditions, sufficient to sustain an 8 to 10 year renourishment life following project completion, on a schedule consistent with island-wide beach management goals. The proposed plan was adapted based on current trends in erosional processes and an evaluation of previous nourishment events. Based on the success of past projects, the proposed plan will only involve placement of sand in areas that have been previously filled. Sand placement will be limited to only those areas of need within the project footprint of past sand placement activities.

The sand will be shaped into a typical beach fill construction berm configuration with a maximum upper berm elevation generally equivalent to the adjacent ambient beach elevations. Berm widths will vary. The seaward slope of the construction berm along the northwestern half of the project area will have a consistent and uniform initial slope of 1V:20H. Along the southeastern half of the project area, where significant vegetated areas exist, the uniform initial slope will be 1V:10H.

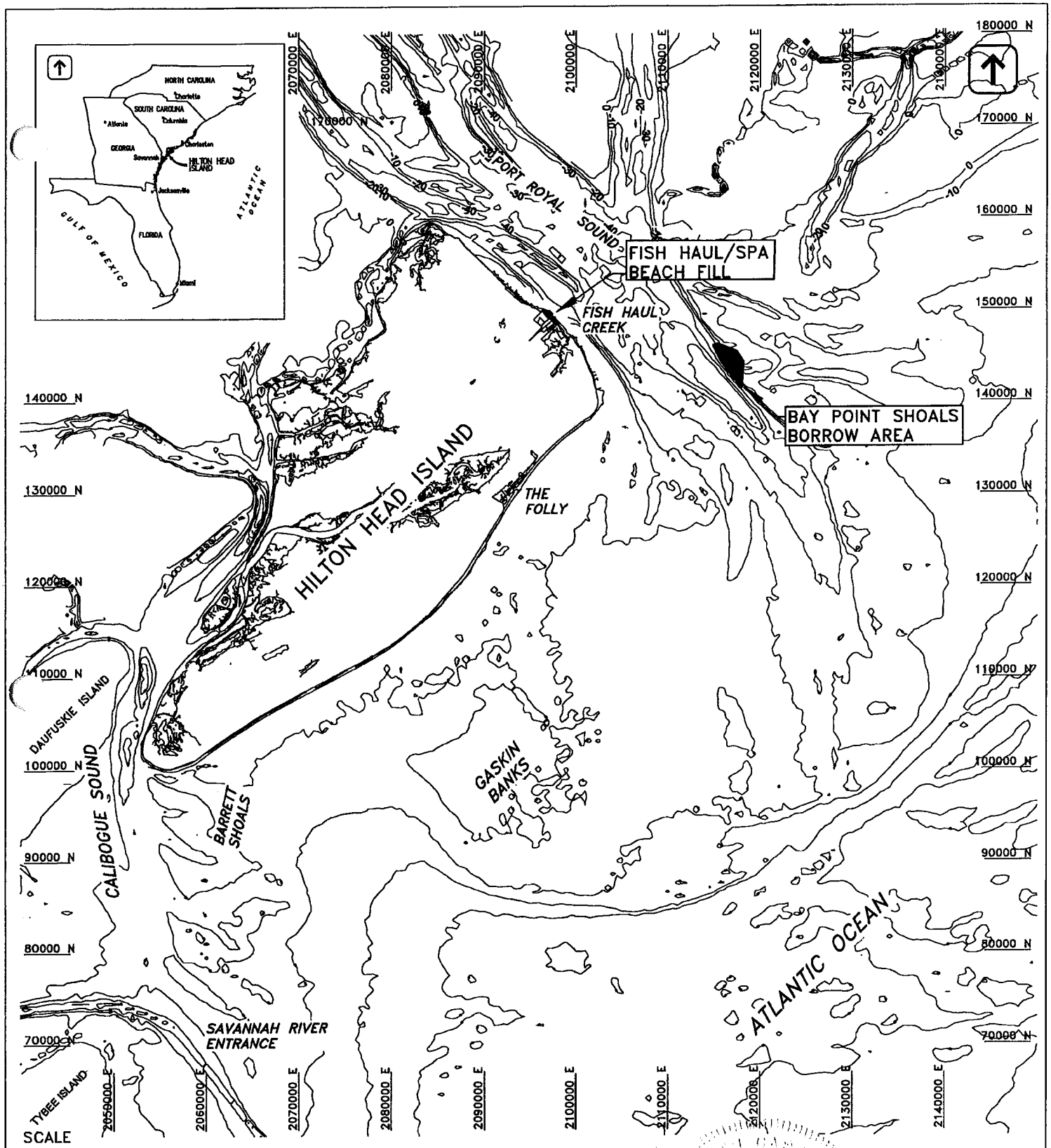
The <u>preferred sand source</u> for the project is the Bay Point Shoals borrow area identified for the pending 2015/16 island-wide beach renourishment project (pending P/N 2014-00680-1W). The Bay Point Shoals borrow area is located at the north end of the island within the limits of an area

that has been dredged for sand fill on Hilton Head Island. It was previously dredged for the last large-scale renourishment on the island in 2011/12 (P/N 2009-1056-1IW-P). There is a sufficient amount of sand available in the Bay Point Shoals borrow area (pending P/N 2014-00680-1W) to address the requirements of both the planned island-wide renourishment and the proposed Fish Haul/Spa renourishment project. Project construction using sand hydraulically dredged from the Bay Point borrow area will be completed in 20 days or less. Use of the Bay Point borrow area will need to occur during construction of the pending island-wide project (pending P/N 2014-00680-1W) while the dredge plant is mobilized to the island for the project.

Hydraulic fill placement will be limited to the northern half of the project to avoid impacts to marsh grasses adjacent to the southern area of the project. Sand for the southern area of the project will be placed hydraulically in a temporary stockpile along the northern half of the project and subsequently moved, placed, and shaped mechanically.

Upland Sand Source: In the event that the proposed project cannot be completed prior to dredge demobilization associated with the island-wide nourishment project, thereby making the use of offshore sand from the Bay Point Shoals borrow area unfeasible, the Fish Haul/Spa project would be constructed with beach-compatible sand from an upland mine in a manner similar to the Ocean Point Interim Beach Fill Project (P/N 2013-00695-1W). Sand would be trucked to the project site from the previously-permitted Deerfield Mine in Hardeeville, SC or the Murray Sand Pit near Summerville, SC, and an upland beach access point adjacent to the project site would be used for access to the shoreline. The anticipated duration for project construction using an upland sand source is much longer than if sand is used from the Bay Point borrow area; construction using an upland sand source would likely extend up to 90 days.

Schedule: In order to minimize potential disturbance of wintering piping plovers and red knots in the vicinity of the project area, the proposed construction window is between March 1 and October 31 in conjunction with the Port Royal and "The Heel" segments of the 2015/16 island-wide renourishment project.




SCALE

0 7k 14k FT

**SAC-2015-00220-1W**

CONTOUR DATUM – FT (NGVD29)
SURVEY – SEPT 2013

NOT FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTION

olsen associates, inc.
2618 Herschel Street
Jacksonville, FL. 32204
(904) 387-6114
COA No. C00530

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
2015/16 FISH HAUL/SPA
BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT

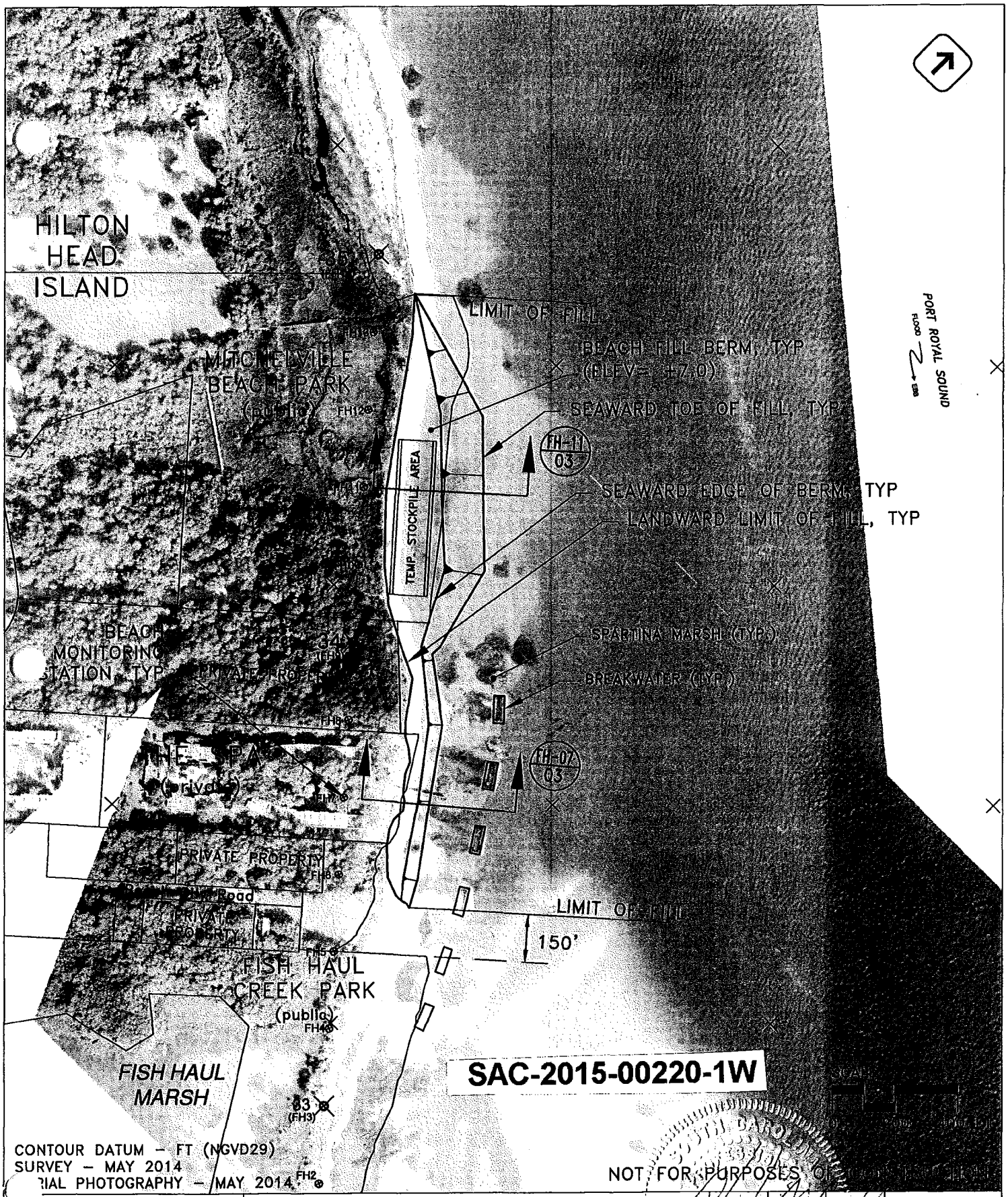
PROJECT LOCATION

2-10-2015

2/10/15

DRAWN BY: ML

SHEET 1 of 3

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TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
2015/16 FISH HAUL/SPA
BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT

PLAN

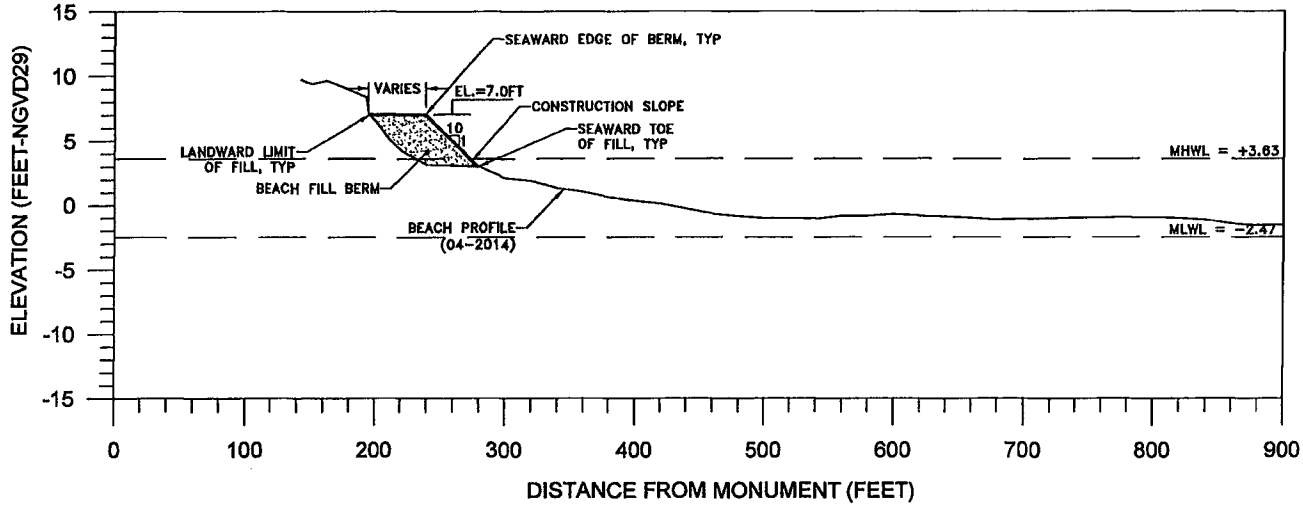
2-10-2015

2/10/15

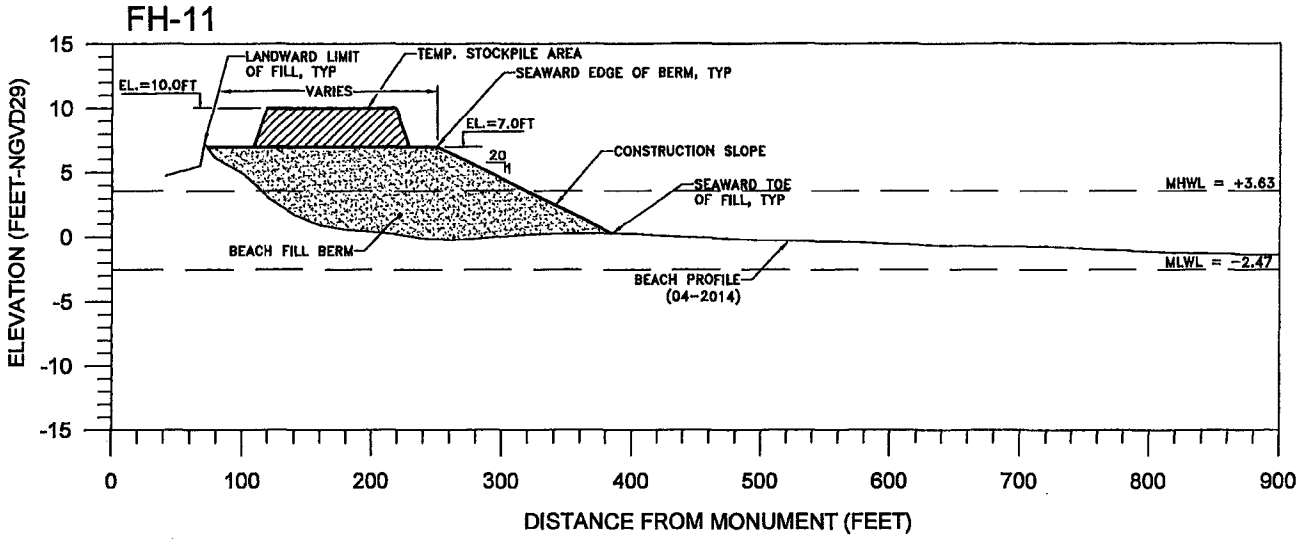
DRAWN BY: ML

SHEET 2 of 3

## FH-07




## FH-11




**SAC-2015-00220-1W**

RVEY – MAY 2014

NOT FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTION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TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
2015/16 FISH HAUL/SPA
BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT

TYPICAL SECTIONS

2/10/15

DRAWN BY: ML

SHEET 3 of 3