



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

May 14, 2026

Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Cameron Luck  
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Coastal Management  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Dear Mr. Luck:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE), is preparing to solicit the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) Maintenance Dredging contract. This contract would also include an option to conduct maintenance dredging and rehabilitation of an upland confined dredged material placement facility at U.S. Marine Corps' (USMC) Camp Lejeune. On behalf of the USMC, USACE is proposing to conduct maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel with placement of dredged material into an existing upland confined placement facility. Maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel is vital for continued military operations at Camp Lejeune. Mile Hammock Bay is utilized by USMC for hovercraft loading and unloading operations.

Maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel, to the required depth of 12 feet mean lower low water, with an allowable overdepth of 2 feet, could be conducted by hydraulic cutterhead or mechanical dredging. All dredged material, estimated not to exceed 300,000 cubic yards (CY), would be placed in an existing upland confined placement facility. Any effluent from the placement area would be discharged by temporary overland spillway pipe into Mile Hammock Bay. The quantity of material to be dredged during FY27 is estimated to be 115,000 CY; however, USMC requests the ability to dredge up to 300,000 CY, which is the remaining capacity of the placement facility, over the lifetime of the concurrence. This would allow further maintenance dredging in the future without the need for additional permitting. Maintenance dredging impacts would occur to approximately 21.36 acres of Mile Hammock Bay and 2.42 acres of the entrance and main channels.

Proposed work on the rehabilitation of the upland confined placement facility would include clearing an approximately 12-foot-wide access path along the top of the existing dike wall and an approximately 5-foot-wide overland path to lay out a temporary pipeline to Mile Hammock Bay. The temporary outfall pipeline would be located atop of

current grade, and no excavation would occur. The dredged material placed in the confined placement facility would be dewatered through a potential suite of options, including floating pumps, pumping water into geo-tubes, or creating a temporary weir/decanting system, which would allow water to return to Mile Hammock Bay while capturing any released sediment. This is proposed because there is an existing cultural resources area immediately south of the confined placement facility, which would not be disturbed.

In accordance with Section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the USACE has determined that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's Coastal Management Program. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code. We request that the NCDCM concur with this consistency determination and provide a response no later than 60 days from the date of this letter July 12, 2026.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. John Policarpo, Environmental Resources Section, at (910) 251-4700 or by email at [John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Justin P. Bashaw for Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental  
Branch

## **Project Name: USMC Camp Lejeune – Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging and Upland Confined Placement Area Rehabilitation**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), on behalf of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), is seeking Federal Consistency concurrence for proposed rehabilitation of an existing upland confined dredged material placement facility and maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel. The proposed project is shown on the attached plan set (Appendix A).

This determination addresses the proposed long-term maintenance dredging plan for USMCs Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel to maintain navigation, at Camp Lejeune. The project is located within waters of the United States, associated with Mile Hammock Bay, at Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, North Carolina (Latitude: 34.552503°; Longitude: -77.325107°).

### **Project Purpose**

The project purpose is to conduct maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel, rehabilitate an existing upland confined dredged material placement area, for continued navigation and military operations.

### **Project History and Existing Conditions**

The project area includes an existing upland confined dredged material placement facility, constructed in 2002, that outfalls south to Mile Hammock Bay. The existing outfall pipe has been crushed by heavy military equipment traveling over the buried pipe over time. The pipe daylights at an existing riprap protected shoreline within an area used by the USMC for loading and unloading hovercraft. There is also a large concrete boat ramp for launching watercraft. The existing dredged material placement facility's dike walls are vegetated throughout. The placement area has two internal horizontal dikes to control and slow effluent before it discharges through the outfall pipe. The internal portion of the facility is vegetated with common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Mile Hammock Bay is a protected embayment maintained at a depth of 12 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) with 2 feet of allowable overdepth. The entrance to Mile Hammock Bay is connected to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) to the southwest. The bay is fronted by intertidal flats and salt marsh. These marsh and flats areas have four small, low-lying, dredged material islands on them, most likely placed during initial construction of the AIWW in this location.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed project is the maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel out to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) Navigation Channel to the required depth of 12 feet MLLW with an allowable overdepth of 2 feet. Maintenance dredging could be accomplished using a hydraulic cutterhead or

mechanical dredge. All dredged material, estimated not to exceed 300,000 cubic yards (CY), would be pumped via pipeline to an existing upland confined placement facility. Any effluent from the placement area would be discharged back into Mile Hammock Bay. There is currently no dredging window for the project area. The estimated quantity of material to be dredged during FY27 is approximately 115,000 CY, which would not exceed the 300,000 CY capacity remaining within the placement facility. This would allow further maintenance dredging in the future without the need for additional permitting. Maintenance dredging impacts would occur to approximately 21.36 acres of Mile Hammock Bay and 2.42 acres of the entrance and main channels.

Proposed work on the rehabilitation of the upland confined placement facility would include clearing an approximately 12-foot-wide access path along the top of the existing dike wall and an approximately 5-foot-wide overland path to lay out a temporary pipeline to Mile Hammock Bay. The temporary outfall pipeline would be located atop of current grade, and no excavation would occur. There is an existing cultural resources area immediately south of the confined placement facility, which would not be disturbed. The dredged material placed in the confined placement facility would be dewatered through a potential suite of options, including floating pumps, pumping water into geo-tubes, or creating a temporary weir/decanting system, which would allow water to return to Mile Hammock Bay while capturing any released sediment. Despite the option chosen to dewater the dredged material, no excavation of the existing ground would occur to protect the on-site cultural resource area. The contractor shall protect the damaged existing spillway and outfall structure during dredging operations to prevent brackish water from flowing through the existing damaged outfall pipe and overland during placement of dredged material. The contractor shall remove the spillway protection following construction so that stormwater can freely flow out of the upland confined placement facility.

### **Minimization Measures**

The USMC proposes to avoid and minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable dredging only those areas that are in need (please see attached plans in Appendix A). If the area were to be hydraulically dredged, then the temporary pipeline would either be floated or laid on the bottom of the waterway in a manner that does not impede navigation or the ability of wildlife to move through the area. It would also be noted in the contract specifications that the contractor must abide by all measures to protect federally listed threatened and endangered species during work, as discussed in detail below. The contractor would be required to adhere to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) *Guidelines for Avoiding Impacts to the West Indian Manatee* (2017) and the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) *2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion for Dredging and Material Placement Activities in the Southeast United States* (2020 SARBO). These conservation measures would remain in place until all work is complete, all vessels have left the area, and all equipment has been removed from placement areas. Preparatory work on the upland confined placement facility, specifically tree clearing, would be conducted under a time-of-year restriction to avoid

impacts to the Northern long-eared bat from 15 December through 15 February and 1 April through 15 July.

Water quality would be monitored two times per day, at a minimum, where the outfall pipe empties into the basin. If turbidity exceeds 25 nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs), measures, such as using stop-logs at the spillway or moderating dredging operations to allow settlement of suspended sediment over time, would be implemented.

Protection of an existing cultural resources area located immediately south of the upland confined placement facility would include laying a temporary outfall pipe on the ground surface with no excavation, so as not to disturb this sensitive area.

### **Analysis of the Project in Relation to North Carolina's Coastal Management Program**

The project area is within areas of environmental concern (AEC) as defined by Section 113A-113 of the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). Specifically, the proposed actions will be occurring in Estuarine Waters, Public Trust, Primary Nursery Areas, and other AECs as discussed below.

#### **Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC)**

**15A NCAC 07H.0205 Coastal Wetlands:** Coastal wetlands are defined as any salt marsh or other marsh subject to regular or occasional flooding by tides, including wind tides, that reach the marshland areas through natural or artificial watercourses, provided this does not include hurricane or tropical storm tides. Alteration of coastal wetlands includes mowing or cutting of coastal wetlands vegetation whether by mechanized equipment or manual means. Coastal wetland alteration not meeting the exemption criteria shall require a CAMA permit.

Coastal wetlands in the project vicinity include estuarine emergent wetlands located east and west along the shorelines of Mile Hammock Bay and to the south as a sedge island between the bay and the AIWW. Placement of dredged material into the upland confined placement facility via pipeline could be done by extending the pipeline perpendicular over the riprap shoreline and across the uplands to the placement facility. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on coastal wetlands surrounding the project area.

**15A NCAC 07H.0206 Estuarine Waters:** Estuarine Waters are defined in G.S. 113A-113(b)(2) to include all the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within the boundary of North Carolina and all the waters of the bays, sounds, rivers, and tributaries thereto, seaward of the dividing line between coastal fishing waters and inland fishing waters. The rule establishes management objectives for estuarine waters to conserve and manage the important features of estuarine waters in a manner that safeguards and perpetuates their ecological and economical values and to coordinate and establish a management system capable of conserving and using estuarine waters that maximize their benefits

to humans and the estuarine and marine systems. Suitable land and water use shall be consistent with the management objectives. Highest priority of use shall be allocated to the conservation of estuarine waters and their vital components, while second priority of estuarine waters use shall be given to those types of development activities that require water access and use that cannot function elsewhere, such as simple access channels, structures to prevent erosion, navigation channels, boat docks, marinas, piers, wharfs, and mooring pilings.

The proposed action is the maintenance of Mile Hammock Bay and the entrance channel for navigation and military operations, which is considered a water dependent activity. The project also includes the replacement of the outfall pipe from the upland confined placement facility that allows the discharge of return water back to the bay. The project would not have long-term adverse effects on the estuarine system, including wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds, shellfish areas, or nursery areas. The project's design, location, and use have been considered regarding effects to coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, and public trust areas.

**15A NCAC 07H.0207 Public Trust Areas:** Public trust areas are all waters of the Atlantic Ocean and lands thereunder from the mean high-water mark to the seaward limit of state jurisdiction; all natural bodies of water subject to tidal influence and lands thereunder to the normal high water or normal water level; all navigable natural bodies of water and lands thereunder to the normal high water or normal water level; all water in artificially created bodies of water containing public fishing resources or other public resources that are accessible to the public by navigation from bodies of water in which the public has rights of navigation; and all waters in artificially created bodies of water in which the public has acquired rights by prescription, custom, usage, dedication, or any other means. The rule establishes management objectives to protect public rights for navigation and recreation and to conserve and manage the public trust areas to safeguard and perpetuate their biological, economic, and aesthetic value.

The proposed action would not result in the loss of coastal uses nor impact coastal resources or prohibit access to coastal resources by the public; however, it should be noted that the project area is an active military base with restricted public access. The proposed maintenance dredging would provide safe, reliable navigation in the project area for the USMC to conduct continued military operations. The activities that comprise the proposed action are not intended to adversely impact public rights for navigation and recreation and are consistent with conservation of the biological, physical, and aesthetic values of public trust areas.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208 Use Standards:** Uses that are not water dependent, shall not be permitted in coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, and public trust areas. Water dependent uses include, but are not limited to, docks, wharves, boat ramps, dredging, bridges and bridge approaches, revetments, and bulkheads. Use standards require that a project be sited and designed to avoid significant adverse impacts to various resources, such as coastal wetlands, shellfish beds, primary nursery areas, and submerged aquatic vegetation, unless the project has public benefits that outweigh the long-range adverse

effects of the project, there is no reasonable alternate available, and all adverse impacts of the project have been mitigated, including avoidance and minimization measures.

The proposed maintenance of Mile Hammock Bay and entrance channel, as well as the rehabilitation of the existing upland confined dredged material placement facility, is a water dependent use. The placement of non-beach quality dredged material into an existing upland confined placement facility would not be beneficially used; however, beneficial use of dredged material opportunities in the area are limited and the project area is an active military base. Mile Hammock Bay and the landing facilities here are utilized for hovercraft operations by the military. The project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to sensitive resources, such as wetlands, shellfish and SAV beds, and nursery areas, to the maximum extent practicable. The USACE has addressed the applicable General Use Standards at 15A NCAC 07H.208(a), individually below.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(a)(4) Primary Nursery Areas:** Primary nursery areas are defined as those areas in the estuarine and ocean system where initial post larval development of finfish and crustaceans takes place. They are usually located in the uppermost sections of a system where populations are uniformly early juvenile stages.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) has classified the entirety of Mile Hammock Bay and entrance channel as a Primary Nursery Area (PNA) (15A NCAC 07H.0208(a)(4)). Available data suggests the area may contain Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the following: snapper-grouper complex (all life stages), shrimp (all life stages), and coastal migratory pelagic fish (all life stages). In addition, the project area is within waters designated as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), specifically for Primary Nursery Area and Coastal Inlets (both for penaeid shrimp). Maintenance dredging areas of the proposed project will impact EFH within the channel and embayment. However, maintenance dredging will be conducted within the existing federally authorized footprint; the USMC is not proposing to dredge deeper or wider than previously authorized limits (see plan set in Appendix A). The area has been dredged on an as-needed basis, depending on shoaling and available funding, and the proposed action is not considered new work. There are currently no environmental windows for dredging Mile Hammock Bay. Return water from the upland confined placement facility will discharge back into Mile Hammock Bay as required by Federal Nationwide Permit No. 16 (*Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas*) and corresponding North Carolina Division of Water Resources General Water Quality Certificate No. 8571.

There are no identified Secondary Nursery Areas or Special Secondary Nursery Areas within the project area. Effects of dredging (increased turbidity, entrainment, and noise) are temporary and not expected to have a significant impact on EFH, HAPC, shellfish beds, or crab spawning sanctuary resources. The USACE has determined that the project has public benefits that outweigh the long-range adverse effects and that there is no reasonable alternative available.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(a)(5) Outstanding Resource Waters:** Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) are defined as those estuarine waters and public trust areas classified by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (NCEMC). In those estuarine waters and public trust areas classified as ORW, no permit required by CAMA shall be approved for any project that would be inconsistent with applicable use standards for estuarine waters, public trust areas, or coastal wetlands.

The NCEMC has classified the project area as “tidal salt water; high quality waters” (SA; HQW), which are tidal salt waters that are used for shellfishing for marketing purposes, as defined in 15A NCAC 07H.0208(a)(5). There are no ORWs within the project area.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(a)(6) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation:** Submerged aquatic vegetation is defined as those habitats in public trust and estuarine waters vegetated with one or more species of submergent vegetation. These vegetation beds occur in both subtidal and intertidal zones and may occur in isolated patches or cover extensive areas.

There are no SAV beds within the project area; however, SAV beds are located approximately 0.75-miles to the northwest in Traps Bay. Areas of SAV were identified using NCDEQs 2020-21 mapping data. Maintenance dredging activities would avoid known areas of SAV.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(1) Specific Use Standards:** Navigation channels, canals, and boat basins shall be aligned or located so as to avoid primary nursery areas, shellfish beds, beds of submerged aquatic vegetation, or areas of coastal wetlands except as otherwise allowed within this Subchapter. Only those criteria under 15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(1) specific to the proposed action are addressed below.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(1)(A) and (B): (1)(A)** Navigation channels and canals may be allowed through fringes of regularly and irregularly flooded coastal wetlands if the loss of wetlands will have no significant adverse impacts on fishery resources, water quality or adjacent wetlands, and if there were no reasonable alternative that would avoid the wetland losses. **(1)(B)** All dredged material shall be confined landward of regularly and irregularly flooded coastal wetlands and stabilized to prevent entry of sediments into the adjacent water bodies or coastal wetlands. **(1)(C)** Dredged material from maintenance of channels and canals through coastal wetlands shall be placed on non-wetland areas, remnant spoil piles, or disposed of by a method having no wetland impacts. Under no circumstances shall dredged material be placed on regularly or irregularly flooded wetlands. New dredged material disposal areas shall not be located in the buffer area as outlined in 15A NCAC 07H .0209(d)(10).

The proposed action would not have any impact on coastal wetlands. All maintenance dredging would be conducted within Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel. Dredged material would be placed in an existing upland confined placement facility that discharges return water back to the bay. The proposed maintenance dredging would impact PNA within Mile Hammock Bay; however, maintenance dredging would

be conducted within the existing federally authorized footprint. The USMC is not proposing to dredge deeper or wider than previously authorized limits. The area is dredged on an as-needed basis, depending on shoaling and available funding, and the proposed action is not considered new work. The navigability of Mile Hammock Bay is integral to military operations for Camp Lejeune, as the area is utilized for hovercraft loading and offloading.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(1)(D) and (E): (1)(D)** Widths of excavated canals and channels shall be the minimum required to meet the applicant's needs but not impair water circulation. **(1)(E)** Any canal or boat basin shall be excavated no deeper than the depth of the connecting waters.

The proposed maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel would not exceed what has been previously authorized. Dredging would be to 12 feet MLLW with an allowable overdepth of 2 feet, which connects to the AIWW at the same depth.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(1)(H):** Maintenance excavation in canals, channels, and boat basins, within PNA and areas of SAV, as defined in 15A NCAC 03I .0101(4)(i), by the Marine Fisheries Commission shall be avoided. However, when essential to maintain a traditional and established use, maintenance excavation may be approved if the applicant meets the criteria in this section.

By its very nature, dredging is a water dependent use to maintain navigation of waterways. Maintenance dredging of Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel would be to previously authorized depths of 12 feet MLLW with an allowable overdepth of 2 feet. There are no proposed changes to channel or dredged area dimensions. All dredged material would be placed in an existing upland confined dredged material placement facility; there are no options for beneficial use of dredged material in the area.

**15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(2) Hydraulic Dredging:** Hydraulic dredging is permitted under the criteria in 15A NCAC 07H.0208(b)(2)(A-H).

Hydraulic pipeline dredging would occur on an as-needed basis depending on shoaling and availability of funds. Pipeline dredging would place dredged material in an existing upland confined placement facility with return water discharge to the bay. Care would be taken to ensure dredged material does not go beyond its intended limits. The confined placement facility would be upgraded with a new outfall pipe that would continue to discharge return water to the bay. The placement of the outfall pipe would be such that it does not cause erosion to the shoreline. No impacts to coastal wetlands would occur due to dredging of channels and placement of dredged material.

**15A NCAC 07H.0209 Coastal Shorelines:** The Coastal Shorelines category includes estuarine shorelines and public trust shorelines. Estuarine shorelines AEC are those non-ocean shorelines extending from the normal high-water level or normal water level

along the estuarine waters, estuaries, sounds, bays, fresh and brackish waters, and public trust areas for a distance of 75 feet landward. Public trust shorelines AEC are those non-ocean shorelines immediately contiguous to public trust areas located inland of the dividing line between coastal fishing waters and inland fishing waters as set forth in that agreement and extending 30 feet landward of the normal high-water level or normal water level. Acceptable uses shall be those consistent with the management objectives in this rule. These uses shall be limited to those types of development activities that will not be detrimental to the public trust rights and the biological and physical functions of the estuarine and ocean system. Every effort shall be made to avoid or minimize adverse impacts of development to estuarine and coastal systems through the planning and design of the development project.

The proposed action to maintain navigability of Mile Hammock Bay and its entrance channel is a water dependent activity; development that would include new permanent structures or impervious cover is not proposed as part of the project. The project area is utilized for Camp Lejeune's hovercraft operations. Placement of dredged material in the existing upland confined placement facility has occurred since the facility was constructed in 2002. Impacts to wetlands, SAV, or shellfish beds are not expected.

**15A NCAC 07H.0505 Coastal Areas that Sustain Remnant Species:** Coastal areas that sustain remnant species are those areas that support native plants or animals determined to be rare or endangered (synonymous with threatened and endangered), within the coastal area. This addresses the need to protect unique habitat conditions that are necessary to the continued survival of threatened and endangered native plants and animals and to minimize land use impacts that might jeopardize these conditions. Permits for development in designated fragile coastal natural or cultural resource areas will be approved upon finding that the project will not cause major or irreversible damage to the resource, no reasonable alternative exists, reasonable mitigative measures are incorporated into the project, and the project will have a public benefit that outweighs the loss.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website was utilized to determine what federally listed species and designated critical habitat is at or near the project area. On 23 March 2026, an official species list was requested from USFWS (Appendix B). The following species under USFWS purview have been identified as potentially being in the project area: Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*), rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Southern hognose snake (*Heterodon simus*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), and rough-leaved loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*); there are no designated or proposed critical habitats under USFWSs purview in the project area.

The NMFSSs ESA Section 7 Mapper website was utilized to determine which federally listed species under NMFSSs purview could be found in the project area. The following

species have been identified: giant manta ray (*Mobula birostris*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*); the area also contains designated critical habitat for the green sea turtle.

The USACE has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on the following species: Eastern black rail, piping plover, red-cockaded woodpecker, rufa red knot, Southern hognose snake, monarch butterfly, pondberry, and rough-leaved loosestrife. The project area has experienced periods of clearing numerous times over the last 40 years for military operations. The forested area is highly fragmented in the project area and existing vegetation is approximately 10 to 20 years old, which coincides with the construction of the upland confined dredged material placement facility in 2002. Therefore, the project area does not contain the required habitats for these species.

The USACE has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (MANLAA), the West Indian manatee. This determination was made based on the March 2025 West Indian Manatee Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) (Path: 1b – 2b – 3a – 4b – MANLAA) (see Appendix B). The contractor would be required to adhere to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Guidelines for Avoiding Impacts to the West Indian Manatee (2017).

The USACE has also determined that the proposed project may affect the Northern long-eared bat. The USACE made this determination based on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat determination key on the IPaC website (see Appendix B). Consultation with the USFWS is ongoing; however, during construction of the outfall pipe from the existing upland confined placement facility, the USMC would abide by a tree clearing window from 15 December through 15 February and 1 April through 15 July, to protect the bat during the winter torpor, summer occupancy, and pupping seasons should these moratoria be required by USFWS.

The USACE has also determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, swimming sea turtles (loggerhead, green, Kemp's Ridley), Atlantic sturgeon, and the giant manta ray, as well as critical habitat for the green sea turtle. The contractor would be required to adhere to NMFS's 2020 SARBO Project Design Criteria (PDCs). These conservation measures would remain in place until all work is complete and the vessels have left the area.

**15A NCAC 07H.0509 Significant Coastal Archaeological Resources:** Significant coastal archaeological resources are defined as areas that contain archaeological remains (objects, features, and/or sites) that have more than local significance to history or prehistory. The objective is to conserve coastal archaeological resources of more than local significance to history or prehistory that constitute important scientific sites, or are valuable educational, associative, or aesthetic resources; and,

**15A NCAC 07H.0510 Significant Coastal Historic Architectural Resources:**

Significant coastal historic architectural resources are defined as districts, structures, buildings, sites, or objects that have more than local significance to history or architecture. The objective is to conserve coastal historic architectural resources of more than local significance which are valuable educational, scientific, associative, or aesthetic resources.

The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Historic Preservation Office Web (HPOWEB) Map Service was queried to identify known architectural resources in and near the project area (North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office 2024). This service provides information for recorded architectural properties within the state and historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This data is useful when considering effects and adverse effects to cultural resources but typically does not include submerged resources, such as shipwrecks.

According to HPOWEB, there are no terrestrial resources (i.e., NRHP properties, historic structures, cemeteries, or bridges) in the APE or its vicinity; however, a survey was conducted by USMC for the area south of the upland confined facility. The area was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP (Site 31ON1241/1241\*\*) (see Appendix C). Details of the cultural resources survey for the area are not known. Due to the presence of cultural resources in the area, there will be no excavation below ground surface in the NRHP eligible area. The temporary outfall would be placed on the ground surface so that return water can be discharged to Mile Hammock Bay. Therefore, USACE has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on historic or archaeological resources. Consultation with SHPO is being undertaken through the USACE Regulatory Division permitting process. In the event cultural resources, including, but not limited to, cultural artifacts, relics, remains, or objects of antiquity are discovered in the project area, the resource(s) in question would be protected from further disturbance until consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is completed.

**15A NCAC 07H.0602 Pollution of Waters:** No development shall be allowed in any AEC which would have a substantial likelihood of causing pollution of the waters of the state in which shellfishing is an existing use to the extent that such waters would be officially closed to the taking of shellfish.

The potential water quality impacts of maintenance dredging and dredged material placement include minor and short-term suspended sediment plumes and the release of soluble trace constituents from the sediment. Suspended sediments also affect turbidity that affects light penetration into the water column. During dredging, turbidity increases outside the dredging area should be less than 25 NTUs to be considered insignificant. There are no NCDMF-listed artificial reefs or oyster sanctuaries within the project area; therefore, USACE has determined that the proposed project would not adversely affect the quality of surrounding waters that they would need shellfish closures.

### **15A NCAC 07M.1100 Policy on Beneficial Use and Availability of Materials**

**Resulting from Excavation or Maintenance of Navigation Channels:** Certain dredged material placement practices may result in removal of material important to the sediment budget of ocean and inlet beaches. This may, particularly over time, adversely impact important natural beach functions especially during storm events and may increase long term erosion rates. Therefore, it is the policy of the State of North Carolina that material resulting from the excavation or maintenance of navigation channels be used in a beneficial way wherever practicable. Section 15A NCAC 07M.1102(a) states that clean, beach quality material from navigation channels within the active nearshore, beach, or inlet shoal systems must not be removed permanently from the active nearshore, beach or inlet shoal system unless no practicable alternative exists. Preferably, dredged material will be placed on the ocean beach or shallow active nearshore area where environmentally acceptable and compatible with other uses of the beach.

The proposed project is a water dependent activity that provides beneficial uses to the public by maintaining operational military needs. All proposed dredged material would be placed within an existing upland confined dredged material placement facility. Currently, there are no opportunities for beneficial use of dredged material in or near the project area. Mile Hammock Bay is integral in Camp Lejeune's military operations and is utilized as a loading and offloading area for hovercraft. Should beneficial use of dredged material opportunities be identified in the future, the USMC would coordinate those efforts and acquire all necessary State and Federal authorizations.

### **Other Required Approvals**

On behalf of the USMC, USACE has submitted an application for Nationwide Permit Nos. 3, 16, and 35 for *Maintenance, Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas, and Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins*, respectively, to USACE's Regulatory Division. The USACE has also verified that the proposed project meets the terms and conditions of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Water Resources (DWR), General Water Quality Certification Nos. 8562, 8571, and 8584.

All necessary authorizations (Sections 404 and 401 Clean Water Act permits) would be obtained prior to work commencing and all conditions would be met.

### **Consistency Determination**

Pursuant to North Carolina CAMA regulations for the proposed project, and based on the summary of impacts described above, the proposed action is not expected to have significant adverse effects on water quality, shellfish, SAV, or PNAs.

In accordance with Section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, USACE has determined that the proposed action is consistent, to

the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's Coastal Management Program. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code. We request that the NCDCM concur with this consistency determination.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the findings described in this consistency determination, it is in the Federal interest to implement the proposed long-term maintenance dredging plan and rehabilitation for an existing upland confined dredged material placement facility for Mile Hammock Bay within USMCs Camp Lejeune.

Actions associated with dredging and dredged material placement would result in minor and short-term impacts to water quality, noise, benthic organisms, fisheries resources, and protected species. The overall benefit of the proposed action is to provide a safer, more navigable channel for continued military operations for the USMC.

The proposed action conforms to the management objectives of all enforceable policies of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program, since it would result in maintenance of important navigation features while minimizing adverse impacts as described herein.

## **Appendix A**

Plan Set







## **Appendix B**

### Threatened and Endangered Species



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office  
3916 Sunset Ridge Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
Phone: (919) 856-4520 Fax: (919) 856-4556

In Reply Refer To:

05/14/2026 14:46:28 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0066492

Project Name: Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). If your project area contains suitable habitat for any of the federally-listed species on this species list, the proposed action has the potential to adversely affect those species. If suitable habitat is present, surveys should be conducted to determine the species' presence or absence within the project area. The use of this species list and/or North Carolina Natural Heritage program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Marine Mammals
- Coastal Barriers

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office**

3916 Sunset Ridge Rd

Raleigh, NC 27607

(919) 856-4520

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0066492

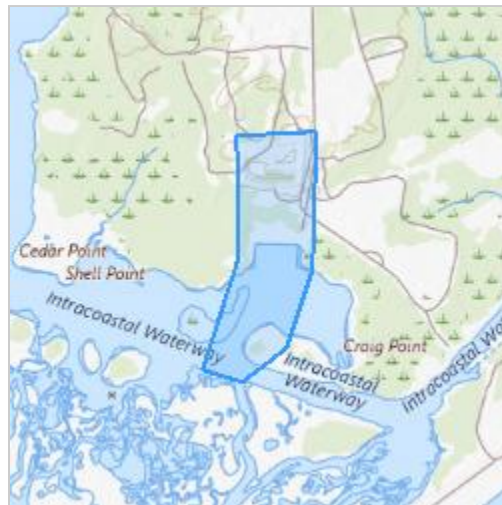
Project Name: Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

Project Type: Dredge/Fill

Project Description: The project is the hydraulic cutterhead maintenance dredging of USMCs Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel to the required depth of 12 feet mean lower low water, with an allowable overdepth dredge of 2 feet. All dredged material, estimated to not exceed 300,000 cubic yards, would be pumped via pipeline to an existing upland confined placement area. Also proposed is the rehabilitation of an existing upland confined dredged material placement area.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.553313349999996,-77.32502725304678,14z>



Counties: Onslow County, North Carolina

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 12 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <b>This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.</b> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469</a>	Threatened

## BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a>	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker <i>Dryobates borealis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614</a>	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>	Threatened

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
American Alligator <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/776">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/776</a>	Similarity of Appearance (Threatened)
Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Population: North Atlantic DPS There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199</a>	Threatened
Southern Hognose Snake <i>Heterodon simus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3248">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3248</a>	Proposed Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279</a>	Endangered
Rough-leaved Loosestrife <i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2747">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2747</a>	Endangered

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

- 
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

### Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

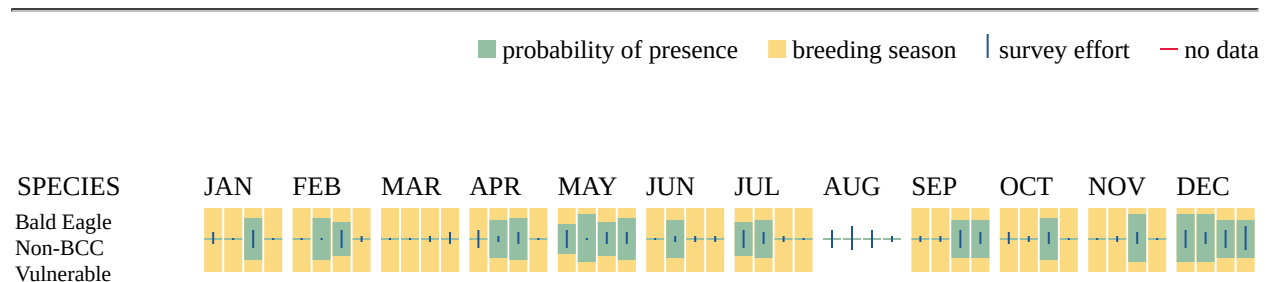
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

- 
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a></p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
<p>American Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935</a></p>	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31
<p>Bachman's Sparrow <i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 30
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>            This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a></p>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
<p>Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234</a></p>	Breeds May 20 to Sep 15
<p>Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427</a></p>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
<p>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a></p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p>Chuck-will's-widow <i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604</a></p>	Breeds May 10 to Jul 10
<p>Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum antillarum</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919</a></p>	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511</a></p>	Breeds Apr 25 to Aug 15
<p>Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
<p>Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439</a></p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a></p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p>Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i>  This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Saltmarsh Sparrow <i>Ammospiza caudacuta</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9719">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9719</a></p>	Breeds May 15 to Sep 5
<p>Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11991">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11991</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669</a></p>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5
<p>Wilson's Plover <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9722">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9722</a></p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 20

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

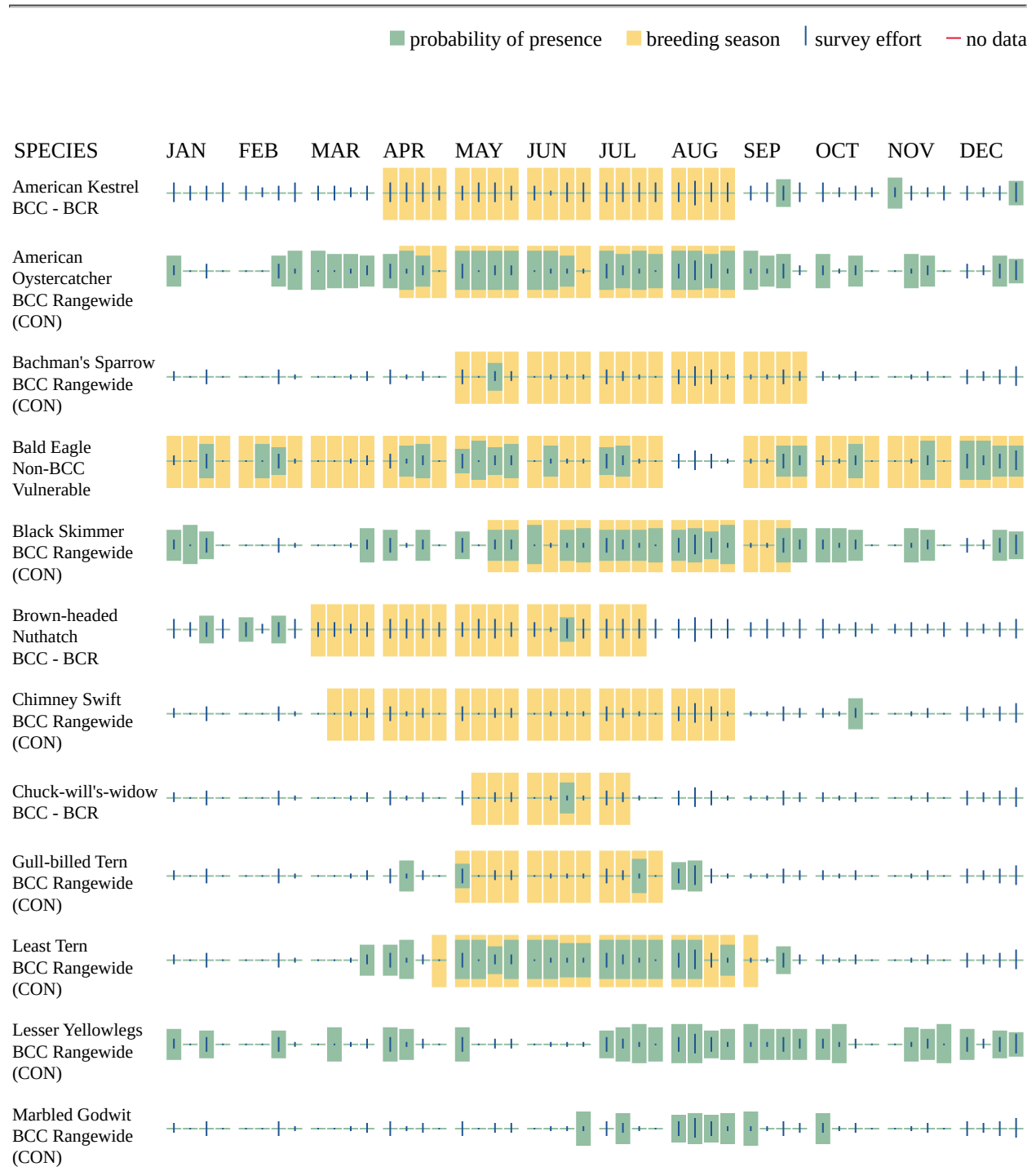
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

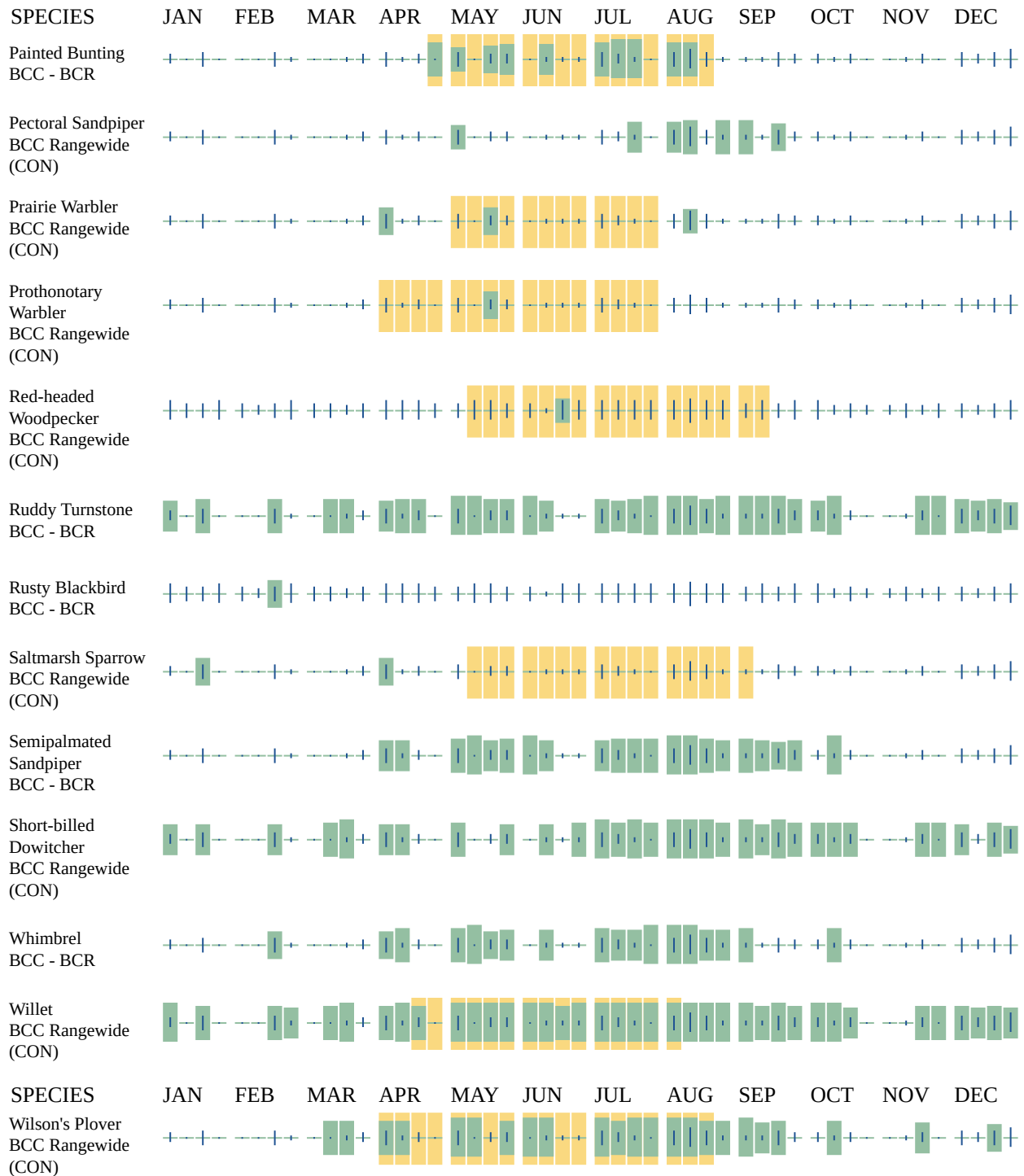
### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

**No Data (-)**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## COASTAL BARRIERS

Projects within the [John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System](#) (CBRS) may be subject to the restrictions on Federal expenditures and financial assistance and the consultation requirements of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). For more information, please contact the local [Ecological Services Field Office](#) or visit the [CBRA Consultations website](#). The CBRA website provides tools such as a flow chart to help determine whether consultation is required and a template to facilitate the consultation process.

UNIT	NAME	TYPE	SYSTEM UNIT ESTABLISHMENT DATE	FLOOD INSURANCE PROHIBITION DATE
L05	Onslow Beach	UNKNOWN	12/21/2018	12/21/2018
L05	Onslow Beach	UNKNOWN	12/21/2018	12/21/2018

## MARINE MAMMALS

Marine mammals are protected under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#). Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>2</sup>.

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walruses, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries<sup>3</sup> [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the [Marine Mammals](#) page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

- 
1. The [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) of 1973.
  2. The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
  3. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

NAME

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West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469>

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: John Policarpo  
Address: 69 Darlington Avenue  
City: Wilmington  
State: NC  
Zip: 28403  
Email: johnick0714@gmail.com  
Phone: 9102514700

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Marine Corps  
Name: Jessi Baker



## SLOPES Appendix A – West Indian Manatee Effects Determination Key

*Note that when USACE is the lead Federal agency for a project, it is responsible for determining (1) the ESA action area for that project, and (2) the effects to federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat.*

**Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is the action area<sup>1</sup> located in a manatee consultation area (is West Indian manatee listed on your project-specific IPaC species list, or shown in the Regulatory Viewer as potentially present)?

- a. No ..... No effect<sup>1</sup>. Section 7 consultation complete.
- b. Yes. .... Go to 2.

2. Will the project occur in tidal waters that are accessible to manatees? NOTE: Lakes and other water bodies upstream of structures such as dams, weirs, grated culverts, and fish ladders are normally not considered accessible to manatees.

- a. No ..... No effect<sup>2</sup>. Section 7 consultation complete. Make a note to the file and/or include documentation as appropriate.
- b. Yes. .... Go to 3.

3. Will the project require one of the following activities:

- In-water blasting or other detonation activity (e.g., for channel deepening and/or widening, geotechnical surveys or exploration, bridge and structure removals, filming (TV or movie), military shows, or special events)
- Modification or construction of warm or fresh-water discharges from industrial sites, power plants, water treatment facilities, etc., or natural springs or artesian wells.

- a. No ..... Go to 4.
- b. Yes. .... Consultation Required<sup>3</sup>

4. Does the project involve in-water construction (e.g. dredging, bulkhead or pier construction or repair, riprap, bridge, in-water sediment discharge, mooring buoys, living shoreline, mariculture, etc.) **and** will the project be required to comply with the USFWS Guidelines for Avoiding Impacts to the West Indian Manatee (Attached)?

- a. No ..... Go to 5
- b. Yes ..... NLAA<sup>4</sup>. Section 7 consultation complete. Include documentation of this D-key result in the project file.

5. If the USACE or applicant does not elect to incorporate the most current manatee protection guidelines according to the guidance of this key, or the activities directly or indirectly affect manatees in a manner not covered by this key then consultation with the USFWS is required<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Please contact the appropriate USACE representative for any questions as to the size of the action area. For a list of USACE representatives, please see the contact list at:  
<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Contact/>.

<sup>2</sup>No effect - The proposed project would result in no effect to this species and/or its federally designated critical habitat (if applicable). Further consultation with the USFWS Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office is not necessary for the project as described.

<sup>3</sup>Consultation required - Further consultation with the USFWS Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office is necessary to discern if the activity would result in a “no effect,” “not likely to adversely affect,” or “likely to adversely affect” determination.

<sup>4</sup>NLAA - The proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect this species and/or its designated critical habitat (if applicable). NLAA determinations for projects made pursuant to this key require no further consultation with the USFWS Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office, therefore, consultation is considered complete for this species.



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office  
3916 Sunset Ridge Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
Phone: (919) 856-4520 Fax: (919) 856-4556

In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2026-0066492  
Project Name: Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

05/14/2026 14:54:38 UTC

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Marine Corps

Subject: Record of project proponent's determinations for 'Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging'.

**Dear John Policarpo:**

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 14, 2026, for "Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging" (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0066492 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed IPaC and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and based on qualifying actions in a standing analysis. All information submitted by the federal action agency or designated representative to IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the North Carolina Ecological Services Field Offices (ESFOs) Determination Key (NC DKey) invalidates this letter. **Answers to certain questions in the NC DKey commit the federal action agency to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.**

**Determinations**

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's North Carolina DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Eastern Black Rail ( <i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Green Sea Turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Piping Plover ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Pondberry ( <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> )	Endangered	No effect
Red-cockaded Woodpecker ( <i>Dryobates borealis</i> )	Threatened	No effect
Rough-leaved Loosestrife ( <i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i> )	Endangered	No effect
Rufa Red Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> )	Threatened	No effect
West Indian Manatee ( <i>Trichechus manatus</i> )	Threatened	NLAA

## Conclusion

### Next Steps

**Consultation with the Service is necessary.** This letter serves as technical assistance. The above NLAA determination(s) become valid only after the Service concurs with the determination(s). The federal action agency or designated representative must submit a request to the Service asking for concurrence and reliance on the North Carolina DKey to satisfy the agency's consultation requirements for the Project.

Please provide this technical assistance letter to the federal action agency or its designated representative with a request for review. As deemed appropriate, the federal action agency or its designated representative should submit the determination(s) for concurrence through IPaC by doing the following:

1. Log into IPaC using an agency email account and click on My Projects, click "Search by record locator" to find this Project using **620-181359573**. (Alternatively, the originator of the project in IPaC can add the agency representative to the project by using the Add Member button on the project home page.)
2. Review the answers to the North Carolina DKey to ensure that they are accurate.
3. Click on Review/ Finalize to convert the 'not likely to adversely affect' technical assistance letter to a concurrence letter. Download the concurrence letter for your files if needed.

### *No Effect (NE)*

To make NE determinations, the full scope of the proposed Action should not have any effects (either positive or negative) on a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the Action are all consequences to listed species or designated critical habitat that are caused by the proposed Action. A consequence is caused by the proposed Action if it would not occur but for the proposed Action, and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the Action may occur

later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the Action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency or designated representative makes a NE determination, no consultation with the Service is required for that species (ESA §7).

This letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations provided in the NC DKey for project review to satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

Due to obligations under the ESA, potential impacts of this project must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this **identified** Action may affect any listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this Action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not considered in this assessment; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified Action. If any of the above conditions occur, additional consultation with the Service's North Carolina ESFOs should take place before project changes are final or resources are committed.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted NC DKey does **not** apply to the following ESA-protected or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat that may also occur in your Action area:

- American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* Similarity of Appearance (Threatened)
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* Endangered
- Southern Hognose Snake *Heterodon simus* Proposed Threatened

To address these resources, you may access additional determination keys in IPaC or coordinate with the North Carolina ESFOs for guidance as to whether the Action may affect the federally listed species or designated critical habitat listed above. Species or critical habitat proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the ESA, and Section 7 of the ESA does not apply. However, as soon as a listing or designation becomes effective (typically 30 days after publication of the final rule in the Federal Register), the prohibitions of the ESA will apply.

Please note the Service shares jurisdiction with the Fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) over sea turtles. The Service exerts jurisdiction when sea turtles are nesting on coastal beaches while NOAA Fisheries has jurisdiction when sea turtles inhabit coastal and offshore waters.

In-water activities may require consultation with NOAA Fisheries visit the NOAA Fisheries website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/endangered-species-conservation#conservation-&-management> to review their consultation requirements.

### **Coastal Barrier Resources Act**

This project is within a unit designated by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). CBRA consultation for this project may be necessary if it is federally funded. CBRA prohibits most new federal expenditures or financial assistance within System Units of the

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) including but not limited to: shoreline stabilization; dredging; construction or purchase of roads, structures, and facilities; loans; grants; disaster assistance; and flood insurance. CBRA imposes no restrictions on actions or projects within the CBRS carried out with state, local, or private funding, and does not prohibit the issuance of federal permits.

Federal agencies, after consultation with the Service, may make Federal expenditures and financial assistance available within System Units for activities that meet one of the CBRA's [exceptions](#). More information is available at: <https://www.fws.gov/service/coastal-barrier-resources-act-project-consultation>.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging':

The project is the hydraulic cutterhead maintenance dredging of USMCs Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel to the required depth of 12 feet mean lower low water, with an allowable overdepth dredge of 2 feet. All dredged material, estimated to not exceed 300,000 cubic yards, would be pumped via pipeline to an existing upland confined placement area. Also proposed is the rehabilitation of an existing upland confined dredged material placement area.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.553313349999996,-77.32502725304678,14z>



## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. As a representative of this project, do you agree that all items submitted represent the complete scope of the project details and you will answer all questions truthfully?

*Yes*

2. Is the project a federal grant, loan transfer, or federally-insured loan project request for existing structures, utilities and infrastructure that may be completed without requiring additional activities?

**Note:** If your project fits this description, it may be eligible to use the Dkey "Clearance to Proceed with Federally-Insured Loan and Grant Project Requests." If you are interested in changing the Dkey, Select 'Exit Review' at the top of this screen and return to Step 2: Evaluate Determination Keys in IPaC.

*No*

3. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed species?

*No*

4. Is the action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

5. Does the project intersect a unit designated by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

6. Is the project federally funded, or does it use federal financial assistance?

*Yes*

7. Is the lead federal action agency the Army Corps of Engineers?

*No*

8. Are you the lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative?

*No*

9. Is the project being implemented by or for an agency that has a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the specific project type that is being proposed and species considered?

*No*

10. Does this analysis include all effects of the action to listed species and their critical habitats that may result from the project in the action area?

*Yes*

11. Will all project activities be located entirely within previously disturbed, urbanized, or developed areas or within areas that do not represent suitable habitat for federally protected species?  
*No*
12. Will the proposed project occur entirely within an existing road right-of-way (ROW)?  
*No*
13. Is the project an existing structure that requires maintenance, repair, or replacement?  
*Yes*
14. Will the entire project take place within an/the existing structure's footprint?  
*Yes*
15. Will the project impact wetlands (directly or indirectly)?  
*No*
16. Will the project alter surface water flow, water velocity, water depth, or water quality in streams or other waterways either permanently or temporarily?  
*Yes*
17. Will the project alter groundwater flow, velocity, direction, quality, or discharge to streams, wetlands, or other bodies of water either permanently or temporarily?  
*No*
18. Will the proposed project involve ground disturbance (e.g., vehicles, tracked equipment, excavating, grading, placing fill material, etc.)?  
*Yes*
19. Will the proposed project involve earth moving or ground disturbance that could cause erosion and sedimentation, and/or contamination within 300 feet of a freshwater wetland or along a stream or tributary of a stream?  
*No*
20. Will the proposed project involve streambed disturbance?  
*No*
21. Will the proposed project include the application of pesticides or herbicides?  
*No*
22. Will the project have any impact to cliffs, rock outcrops, or rocks laying adjacent to rock outcrops?  
*No*
23. Will the proposed project result in changes to beach dynamics that may modify formation of habitat over time?  
*No*

24. Does any component of the project associated with this action include activities or structures that may pose a collision risk to birds (e.g., plane-based surveys, communication towers, high voltage transmission lines, any type of towers with or without guy wires)?

No

25. Will the proposed project include only the creation of new shorebird habitat (e.g., nourishing severely eroded shorelines)?

No

26. Does the proposed action area contain suitable **piping plover** and/or **red knot** foraging, breeding, or roosting habitat?

No

27. Will the project impact suitable habitat for the **eastern black rail**?

Note: Suitable habitat for **eastern black rail** consists of consistently shallow (moist soil to 1-3 cm deep pools) wetlands with dense emergent herbaceous plant cover, hydric soil, and/or wetland & upland transition zones with dense herbaceous plant cover adjacent to the wetlands. Click the attached [link](#) for more information on eastern black rail habitat.

No

28. Is the action area located within suitable **red-cockaded woodpecker** foraging habitat or nesting habitat (pine or pine/hardwood stands in which 50% or more of the dominant trees are pines and the dominant pine trees are 30 years of age or older or ≥8-inches dbh)?

No

29. Will the project occur in tidal waters that are accessible to **manatees**?

Note: Lakes and other water bodies upstream of structures such as dams, weirs, grated culverts, and fish ladders are normally not considered accessible to manatees.

Yes

30. Will the project require in-water blasting or other detonation activity (e.g., for channel deepening and/or widening, geotechnical surveys or exploration, bridge and structure removals, military shows, or special events)?

No

31. Will the project require modification or construction of warm or fresh-water discharges from industrial sites, power plants, water treatment facilities, etc., or natural springs or artesian wells?

No

32. Does the project involve in-water construction (e.g., dredging, bulkhead or pier construction or repair, rip-rap, bridge, in-water sediment discharge, mooring buoys, living shoreline, mariculture, etc.)?

Yes

33. Will the project be required to comply with the [USFWS Guidelines for Avoiding Impacts to the West Indian Manatee](#)?

Yes

34. Your project is located within the list area of at least one sea turtle species. Please answer the following questions relevant to potential impacts to sea turtles and their habitat.

**Is the action area on a sandy beach above the mean high-water line?**

*No*

35. Is the action area below the mean high-water line in a coastal area, such as a beach, embayment, coastal creek, or river with a connection to the Atlantic Ocean?

*Yes*

## **DETERMINATION KEY RESULTS**

1. Which Federal Agency is the lead agency for your project?

*US Marine Corps*

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: John Policarpo  
Address: 69 Darlington Avenue  
City: Wilmington  
State: NC  
Zip: 28403  
Email john.n.policarpo@usace.army.mil  
Phone: 9102514700

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Marine Corps  
Name: Jessi Baker



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office  
3916 Sunset Ridge Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
Phone: (919) 856-4520 Fax: (919) 856-4556

In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2026-0066492  
Project Name: Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

05/14/2026 15:11:23 UTC

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Marine Corps

**Subject:** Technical assistance for 'Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging'

Dear John Policarpo:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 14, 2026, for 'Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0066492 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. **Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Department of Defense Determination Key for Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat (Dkey), invalidates this letter.**

## **Determination for the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	May affect

## **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* Similarity of Appearance (Threatened)
- Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis* Threatened
- Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas* Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Threatened
- Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia* Endangered
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Dryobates borealis* Threatened
- Rough-leaved Loosestrife *Lysimachia asperulaefolia* Endangered
- Rufa Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened
- Southern Hognose Snake *Heterodon simus* Proposed Threatened
- West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the species listed above.

## **Conclusion**

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Mile Hammock Bay Maintenance Dredging':

The project is the hydraulic cutterhead maintenance dredging of USMCs Mile Hammock Bay basin and entrance channel to the required depth of 12 feet mean lower low water, with an allowable overdepth dredge of 2 feet. All dredged material, estimated to not exceed 300,000 cubic yards, would be pumped via pipeline to an existing upland confined placement area. Also proposed is the rehabilitation of an existing upland confined dredged material placement area.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.553313349999996,-77.32502725304678,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the proposed action authorized, funded, or being carried out by the Department of Defense in whole or in part? Note: Projects that are permitted or licensed by USACE should continue to use the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Rangewide Determination Key.

*Yes*

3. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

5. Your project overlaps with an area where northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Do you understand that your project may impact bats roosting in trees at any time during the year?

*Yes*

6. Does the proposed action include wind facilities?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the Department of Defense, working on behalf of the Department of Defense, or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

*Yes*

8. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

Note: If unsure, answer "No."

*No*

9. Are trees present within 1000 feet (305 meters) of the action area?

Note: If there are trees within the action area that may be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

10. Does the action include the use of white phosphorus?

*No*

11. Will all spills and sheens be contained and remediated? Note: If project activities do not include the use of any materials that could cause spills or sheens, answer this question "Yes"?

*Yes*

12. Does the action include existing firing ranges?

*No*

13. Does the action include activities at new firing ranges?

*No*

14. Does the action include maneuver areas, field training and/or bivouac exercises?

*No*

15. Will the action include smoke and obscurants?

*No*

16. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

17. Does the action include cave and subterranean training?

*No*

18. Will the action include military use of an enclosed environment that hosts bats? Note: If there is a history of the enclosed environment hosting bats, or if bats are present in any season when the enclosed environment is not in use, answer this question "yes".

*No*

19. Will the action cause effects to a bridge? **Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

20. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

21. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure? **Note:**

Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

22. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) known or suspected to contain roosting bats?

*No*

23. Does the action include new construction or facility maintenance activities?

*Yes*

24. Will new construction or facility maintenance activities occur within 273 yards (250 meters) of known or assumed maternity colonies or hibernacula?

*No*

25. Will new construction or facility maintenance activities implement appropriate sediment and erosion control measures?

*Yes*

26. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public? For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

27. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

28. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

29. Will the proposed action include use of Explosive Ordnance (e.g., artillery, mortars, rockets, missiles, and maneuver live fire ranges)?

No

30. Will the action include drilling?

No

31. Will the action include blasting?

No

32. Will the action involve air operations (e.g., helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

No

33. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

34. Your project overlaps with an area where northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise [(above current levels of ambient noise in area)] in suitable summer habitat for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season? Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining. **Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

35. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

36. Your project overlaps with an area where northern long-eared bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round. Is suitable northern long-eared bat habitat present within 1000 feet of project activities? If unsure, answer "Yes". Note: If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh (12.7 centimeter), answer "Yes". For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat, please see the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

37. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Marine Corps  
Name: Jessi Baker

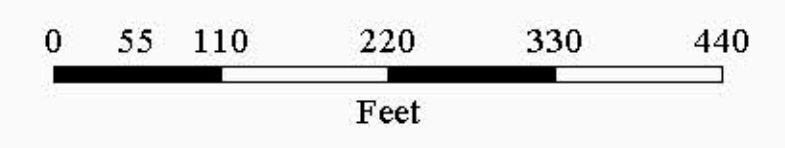
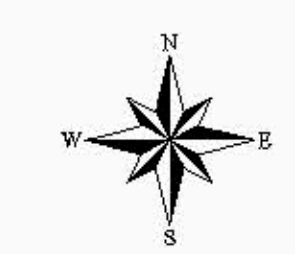
## **Appendix C**

Cultural Resources Map



**ArchaeologicalSiteArea  
nationalRegisterStatus**

- Ineligible
- Eligible
- Unassessed



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Prepared: R. Richardson 16 February 2017