



**AGENDA
MARINA ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2024
6:00 PM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 Workshop minutes- April 22, 2024
 - 4.2 Regular meeting minutes- April 22, 2024
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 7.1 Army Corps of Engineers: Discussion, de-authorize federal channel
- 8. MARINA MANAGER REPORT**
- 9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**
- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the City Clerk at (904) 310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired). All interested parties may appear at said meeting and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered with respect to such matter. For information regarding this matter, please contact the Marina Manager.

MARINA ADVISORY BOARD
WORKSHOP MEETING MIUTES
APRIL 22, 2024
CITY HALL COMMISSON CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE
3. ROLL CALL – CHAIRMAN BLANCHARD- Present
VICE CHAIR KENT-Excused
MEMBER PHILLIPS - Excused
MEMBER SPRATTO- Present
MEMBER SHARPE- Present
OASIS MGR CHAPMAN-Present
MEMBER/SECRETARY NICKOLOFF- Present

Special Meeting Called as a workshop to ask Community for ideas/suggestions for new sources of revenue for the Marina

4. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 4.1 MAC MORRIS- Asked when corps planning on moving channel. May be beneficial to move docks north with specialized areas, water deeper. (liver boards) A) move 100' to west corps of engineers (RETURN)-Asked if Bretts area and Atlantic Seafood under city purview vs marina. BLANCHARD- land under parks and recreation. Although Oasis collects lease payments from Atlantic Seafood (per CHAPMAN).
 - 4.2 LAWRENCE PIPER- Asked if we get revenue from Atlantic Seafood and Bretts. Answer- yes, but not much. Suggested an idea of a Seafood Wharf- presented a plan along with sketch. Wonder if county or TDC can have a meeting for long term planning session to copay any expansion etc.
 - 4.3 CHARLIE GEORGE (City Mgr.-Interim; City Engineer)- Will have to tear down to fix. Cost more to fix than tear down and rebuild. Moving channel to north estimated (rough estimate) at \$67 mm dollar project. Could move 80 feet to north before encroach on private property. CHANNEL- corps has approved moving 100' to the west. In the works still. BLANCHARD – asked if we've approached county to help because they get some benefit. GEORGE – Not aware
 - 4.4 PAUL LORE- Preservation of marina should be the focus. It doesn't need to pay for itself. Asks- can it be preserved somehow with a special status? Similar to Historic

Districts Etc. Regardless, it's a jewel. SHARPE- agrees it generates money in many ways (tourists, charters, tours, fishing etc.) and help numerous people. Some benefits and value you can't assign a price tag to it.

4.5 WOLFGANG L. - When our grandparents could afford to put marina why can't we maintain it. Extend into the river into deeper water. Thanked Cathy and the Oasis team for their hard work.

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

PHILLIPS-N/A

SPRATTO- Should not be considered a business. But can apply best business practices to make successful. There is Intrinsic value to the marina. Large expensive to dredge and location once hindrance.

KENT-N/A

NICKOLOFF- Thank speakers for suggestions/ideas. Goal of this committee is to continue to always look for creative ways to minimize debt service. Encourage by what we've heard tonight. Believes the marina is something special, worth continuing operation.

CHAIR BLANCHARD- Thanks to speakers

6. ADJOURNMENT AT 1803

Respectfully submitted, CHRIS NICKOLOFF Secretary

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MEMBER/SECRETARY NICKOLOFF- Present
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- *Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting.*
MOTION- Blanchard SECOND- Sharpe PASSED 3-0
5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 5.1 PAUL LORE- Appreciate Marina and Oasis. Proponent of collaboration. Advises to exercise caution when approaching other entities for cost sharing. It may be out of their mission and ability.
 - 5.2 MAC MORRIS- Enterprise should be used as publicity, use marina as a marketing tool for the city.
6. OLD BUSINESS- BLANCHARD approach CITY COMMISION on Boat trailer recommendation made by our board last meeting. CITY COMMISION took no action but will take into consideration.
7. NEW BUSINESS –
 - 7.1 Shrimp Festival Activities- Space allotted to have two shrimp boats on D dock. Committee all ready. Final details on parking currently being drawn up.
 - 7.2 Boat Trailer Parking- WOLFGANG L.- Trailer spots had cars parking one busy night downtown. Asked about enforcement. SHARPE to follow-up with Police Chief. CHAPMAN said Oasis has good working relationship with FBPD, and they are helpful when we ask. LAWRENCE PIPER- Disappointed city commission did not take our suggestion. PAUL LORE- Suggest tour buses park off site, as opposed to LOT D. MAC MORRIS- research shows communities around the state with smaller populations have more trailer parking spaces.

7.3 Marina Security- (Postponed)

7.4 Complaints/Issues (Member PHILLIPS)- (Postponed)

8. MARINA MANAGER REPORT- BOAT TRAILER PARKING- FBPD has done great job collaborating with Oasis when needed. Open to extra patrols in parking area. GATES- in final design phase. City Manager is project mgr. 4-6 weeks for fabrication. Currently, have 9 security cameras in use. Have had problem with theft by individuals coming from water. WIFI- has been good with addition. Big yachts frequently seem to block WIFI signal. DIESEL FUEL- line discovered to have problem after alarm activation. Guardian is the repair vendor and is soon scheduled to come and pressure test and isolate. BUDGET- Had to move funds around to cover unexpected expenses (fuel line example). Diesel fuel over 500k for year. 51% year over year over 200' transient vessels. \$29K under budget payroll. STAFF RECOGNITION- Oasis had GM summit in Annapolis, MD. Oasis (FB Harbor Marina) got award for hospitality. Oasis had over 500, 5-star reviews. Very unexpected and have a great team. Very proud of team. Press release forthcoming.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

PHILLIPS- None

SPRATTO- None

KENT- None

NICKOLOFF- None

CHAIR BLANCHARD- None

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – 5/27/2024

11. ADJOURNMENT AT 1847

Respectfully submitted,
CHRIS NICKOLOFF Secretary

USACE Multiple Waterways Deauthorization Project Meeting

Webex Meeting

10 June 2024

Attendees:

USACE, Savannah District

- Madison Monroe, Biologist
- Suzy Hill, NEPA Lead
- Andrea Farmer, Archeologist
- Brian Choate, Lead Planner
- Alex Gregory, Biologist
- Kim Garvey, Chief of Planning

USFWS

- Bill Wikoff
- Nathan Hawkaluk

NMFS

- Pace Wilber
- Jordy Wolfe

EPA

- Doug White

GA DNR- CRD

- Jim Long
- Kelie Moore

GA DNR- EPD

- David Hedeem
- Dewey Richardson

Riverkeepers

- Emily Floore, St.Marys Riverkeeper
- Shannon Gregory, Satilla Riverkeeper
- Maggie Van Cantfort, Altamaha Riverkeeper

Notes:

- The Corps gave a broad overview of the purpose of the disposition study, the NEPA process, information about the project and next steps.
- Information on Bellville Point Harbor was provided in the chat. It was never dredged due to environmental concerns related to spoil material and potential adverse effects to benthic habitat. The concerns were that dredging would change the species diversity of the benthic population because the habitat would be converted from open water sites to tidal mudflats or upland areas due to continuous maintenance dredging.
- EPA asked what plans do you have to analyze the EJ communities? This would include any considerations towards transportation or other issues that may affect the EJ communities.
 - The Corps responded that because the proposed action is administrative in nature and does not result in any physical changes to the waterways, the proposed action would not have disproportionate effects on EJ communities. There will also be an analysis on EJ communities in the EA.
 - There will also be an Other Social Effects table in the EA.
- There was also a question asking if the Corps was conducting scoping for this EA.
 - The Corps responded that since this was an expedited process, there will not be a formal scoping period. There have been several meetings with stakeholders and

interested parties that serve as the scoping. This is not a requirement under the expedited process.

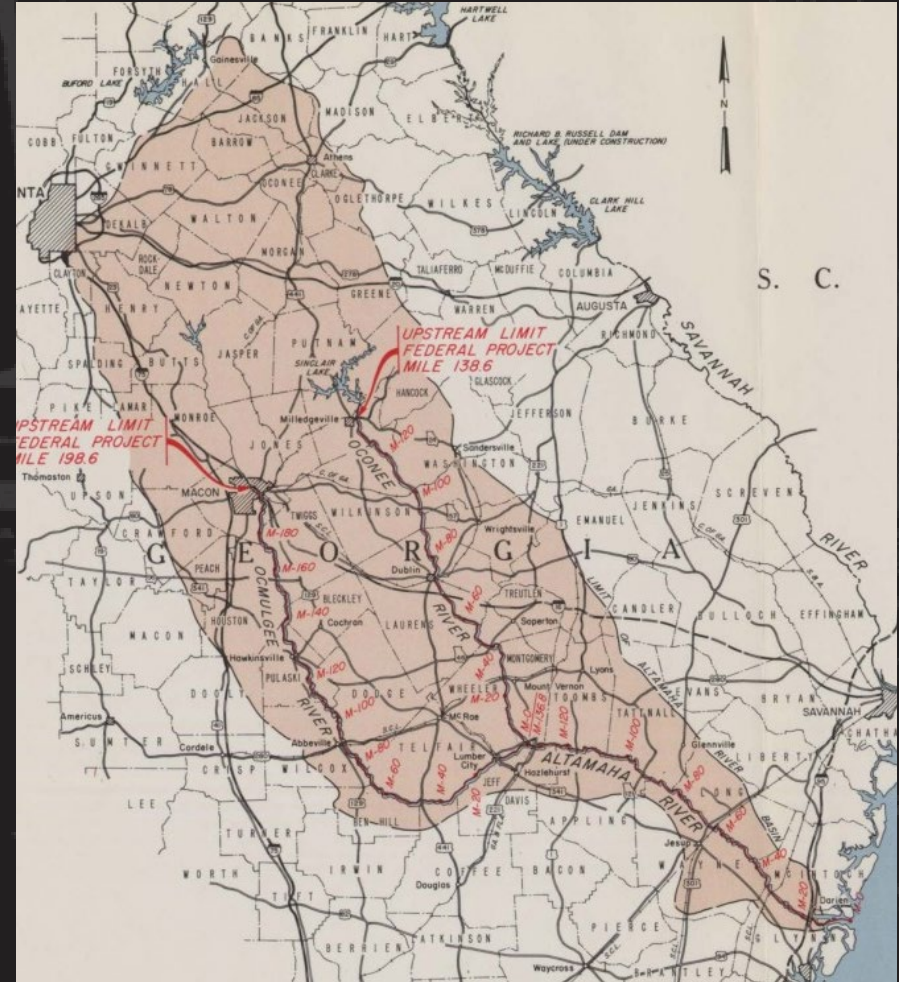
- St. Mary's Riverkeeper asked for the results and information from the annual surveys? It was mentioned that it would be helpful to know what USACE is looking for during a survey.
 - EPD is currently developing an open channel hydro model of the St. Marys River.
 - The Corps will find that survey data and send it to the group.
- GADNR mentioned that in 1984-1986 there was an EA & ROD for Bellville Small Harbor Dredge Project to dredge to address tidal delays of the shrimping fleet. Overboard disposal was being proposed and met with resource agency resistance. Is commercial shrimping access in any of these areas still a concern?
 - The Corps responded that we have not gotten any requests to look into that and we are not tracking any issues with shrimping fleet.
 - During the public comment period, the public will have the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have regarding the action.
 - The Corps does not have any records of request to dredge at that harbor.
- GADNR asked if Altamaha was deauthorized and needed 'snag removal' in the future, would that be done under a CAP in which a non-federal sponsor would have to pay 20% - 35% of the cost (as opposed to 100% federal funding as it is now)?
 - The Corps responded that the responsibility would fall to the state but CAP funding can be requested.
 - If there is an emergency (due to a storm or something), then the state can request help that would be fully funded through federal authorizations.
- Altamaha Riverkeeper asked if there has been any analysis done on the potential impacts to the fishing community at Bellville Point Harbor/Pelican Point. The question referred to whether the Corps had reached out to the fishers/commercial industry in the area.
 - The Corps responded that there was some outreach to agencies as part of the process but there was no direct communication with the fishing industry. Those comments will come forward during the public comment period of the EA.
 - The deauthorization of these waterways is following an expedited process. This expedited process is for any waterways that do not have structures.
 - Altamaha Riverkeeper made a comment that Sapelo River is experiencing filling and many residents are losing their deepwater access. The residents say that they contacted the Corps several years ago to maintain the harbor, but nothing came of the action.
 - The Corps asked if any of the residents have those records, it would be helpful if they could share that.
- St. Mary's Riverkeeper suggested adding some of the applicable Florida environmental laws.
- St. Mary's Riverkeeper asked how the annual survey results used.
 - The Corps answered that the surveys indicate whether the rivers are maintaining the authorized depths and shows areas that may be experiencing shoaling.
 - The surveys are performed to record current project "centerline" conditions, but that is all. The data is not currently hosted on any public accessible repository.
- The Altamaha Riverkeeper wanted to confirm that since maintenance dredging has not been occurring, the only thing that will change is maintenance surveys?

- The action is administrative in nature. The annual maintenance surveys would be the only things to change.
- There were several questions on the definition of commercial navigation and navigability.
- NMFS asked what happens after the Final EA? How long until deauthorization is effective?
 - There is not finality on if or when the action would take place. The final action is an act of congress.
- NMFS wanted to confirm that there were no in water structures tied to these waterways that would need to be removed to complete this process.
 - The Corps responded that in order to complete the expedited process, we have to demonstrate that there are no in water structures for these waterways.
- USFWS mentioned that the Edward I. Hatch Nuclear Plant was considering barging materials along the river at one point.
 - The Corps has already talked to the plant, and they said they did not need the authorized depth to fulfill their mission. However, we will reach back out to them to ask about the barging of materials.
- USFWS asked that the Robust Red Horse be a species that is considered in the analysis. The Robust Red Horse is a species under consideration for ESA would be in Ocmulgee, Altamaha, Oconee. There would be no impacts to the fish, but it would be important to include for awareness.
- The St. Marys Riverkeeper asked if it is possible that the waterways could be updated based on information provided in the public comment period. This question was in reference to a railroad/bridge along the St. Marys River.
 - We will consider all comments and respond to them in the public comment period.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAVANNAH DISTRICT

DISPOSITION STUDY OVERVIEW NEPA PROCESS

10 JUNE 2024



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PURPOSE OF A DISPOSITION STUDY

- *Authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970*, a disposition study gives USACE the authority to evaluate a project which may no longer be serving its Congressionally authorized purpose.
- The intended outcome is to establish whether a federal interest continues to exist for the project's authorized purpose (commercial navigation) or national security needs, and if not, to recommend deauthorization of that project (i.e., federal navigation channel, or portions of the federal navigation channel).
- If Congress concurs, USACE would expect to save federal dollars and staff oversight as a result of these decisions.

NOTE:

- Authorized purpose, in this case, is defined as commercial navigation.
- Any deauthorized federal channel would still require USACE regulatory permits for any alterations to the waterways.



NEPA PROCESS

Proposed Action and Purpose and Need

Alternatives Analysis and Affected Environment

We are here

Evaluate Environmental Consequences

Draft Environmental Assessment Public Comment Period

30-day Public Comment Period

Comments Considered in Decision Making



PURPOSE AND NEED AND PROPOSED ACTION

The Corps, Savannah District is undertaking this Disposition Study to **determine whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation** within multiple waterways in coastal Georgia.

Those waterways include the Altamaha River, Oconee River, Ocmulgee River, Bellville Point Harbor, Darien Harbor, Fancy Bluff Creek, Sapelo Harbor, Satilla River, and St. Mary's River.

If no federal interest exists, the Corps may recommend deauthorization of the navigation channel and any associated Government-owned real property and improvements.

 **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative 1: Project Retained/No Action

- Project will continue as an inactive federal water resource project that is unlikely to be maintained through dredging operations. The project would still be under consideration by the Administration for maintenance dredging, which is unlikely to be funded. Corps would continue annual surveys.

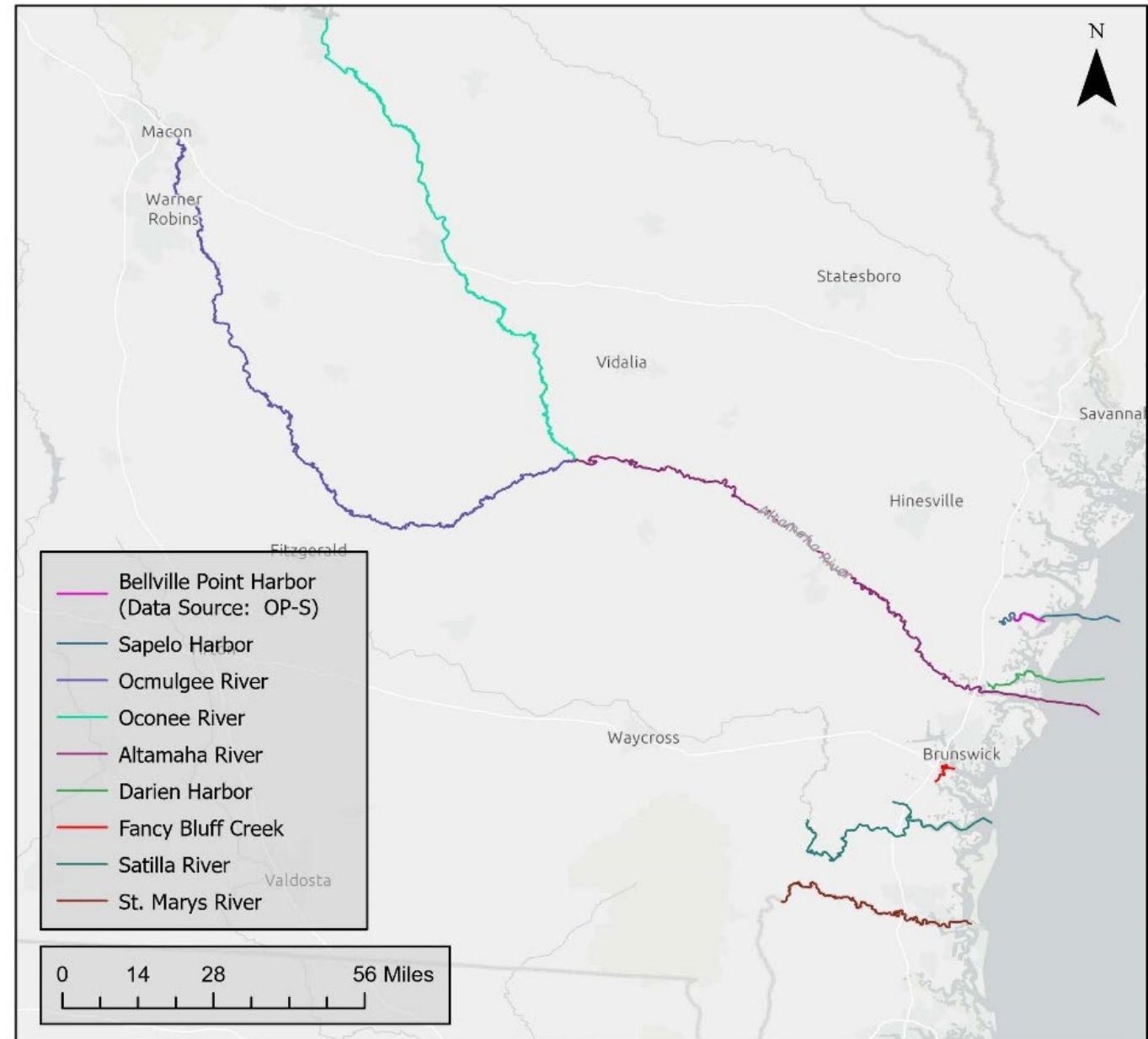
Alternative 2: Project Deauthorized/Proposed Action

- Recommended plan is deauthorization. The deauthorization would mean that the project would no longer be considered by the Administration for maintenance dredging funding and annual surveys would discontinue. The waterways would be under the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia and Florida (St. Marys) and subject to state laws. Waterways would still be subject to Clean Water Act and River and Harbor Act, as applicable.



PROJECT LOCATIONS

Waterways	Counties
Altamaha River	Appling, Glynn, Toombs, Wayne, Wheeler, McIntosh, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Long, Montgomery
Bellville Point Harbor	McIntosh
Darien Harbor	McIntosh
Fancy Bluff Creek	Camden, Glynn
Ocmulgee River	Wheeler, Wilcox, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Twiggs, Pulaski, Houston, Bibb
Oconee River	Baldwin, Johnson, Laurens, Washington, Wilkinson, Wheeler, Treutlen, Montgomery
Sapelo Harbor	McIntosh
Satilla River	Camden, Glynn, Charlton
St. Marys River	Camden, Charlton, Nassau (FL)





AUTHORIZATIONS AND LAST MAINTENANCE PERFORMED

Waterways	Authorization	Last Maintenance
Altamaha River	River and Harbor Acts of 1890	1978*
Bellville Point Harbor	Small Navigation Project Authority contained in Section 107, River and Harbor Act of 1960 (never dredged due to environmental concerns)	Never
Darien Harbor	River and Harbor Acts of 1880	1925
Fancy Bluff Creek	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1912	1923
Ocmulgee River	River and Harbor Acts of 1890	1946
Oconee River	River and Harbor Acts of 1890	1945
Sapelo Harbor	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1910; River and Harbor Act of 2 August 1882	1926
Satilla River	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1912; Rivers and Harbors Act of 1913 extended federal channel from river mouth to Waycross	1929
St. Marys River	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1912	1930

*Note: Altamaha was cleared of snags in 1978 but last dredged in 1946.

 **RESOURCES ANALYZED IN THE EA**

USACE will evaluate the effects of the proposed action to the following resources:

- Climate
- Geology
- Soils
- Hydrology
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Aquatic Habitats
- Vegetation
- Protected Species
- Invasive Species
- Waterfowl
- Fish
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Wetlands
- Cultural Resources

Impacts analysis is generally qualitative and a comparison between effects from the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMPLIANCE

USACE will evaluate in the Draft EA, compliance with applicable federal and state laws, such as:

Federal Laws and Executive Orders

- Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice
- Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children
- Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management
- Executive Order 11990 Wetlands Protection
- Clean Water Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10
- Endangered Species Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

State Laws

- Georgia Coastal Marshland Protections Act
- Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act- stream buffer protections

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species management is done by the state of Georgia and state of Florida

Georgia Department of Natural Resources- Wildlife Resources Division

- Georgia Invasive Species Strategy
- Georgia Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)



Flathead Catfish



Channeled Apple Snail



Parrot Feather

Link to strategy/plan: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/assets/documents/GeorgiaInvasiveSpeciesStrategy.pdf>

https://georgiawildlife.com/sites/default/files/wrd/pdf/management/ANSPlan_Final_rev.pdf

Link to FWC: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/>



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT AFTER DEAUTHORIZATION?

- No longer Federal Navigation Channel- annual surveys would cease, no funding for maintenance dredging
- Any deauthorized federal channel would still require USACE regulatory permits for any alterations to the waterways, e.g. Clean Water Act, section 404 and River and Harbors, Section 10. Permitting through regulatory requires compliance with laws such as:
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act, section 106
- States (Georgia and Florida) would continue to manage waterways in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations.

 **NEXT STEPS**

- Complete Draft Environmental Assessment/ Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- 30-day Public Comment Period on Draft EA/ Draft FONSI (Anticipated Summer 2024)
 - Tribes, Federal, State, and Local Agencies, and Public will receive notification and will be invited to comment on the draft EA
- Comments received on the draft EA will be considered in the Corps decision making on whether a finding of no significant impact is appropriate



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OPEN DISCUSSION