



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

News Release

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Corps of Engineers to dredge Brazos Island Harbor area, nourish Padre beaches

The Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers has undertaken emergency maintenance dredging of the Brazos Island Harbor area from the Brownsville Jetty to Port Isabel. A contract was awarded to King Fish Marine Service, Port Lavaca, Texas, in early December, and work is expected to proceed immediately on this project. The work is intended to address cumulative storm damage from 2008.

This dredging project will provide a double benefit to the area, according to Alicia Rea, Galveston District Operations Project Manager for this project. In addition to dredging the affected areas to keep the waterways open for navigation, Padre Island beaches will be nourished.

“Approximately 418,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be placed on the north end of Padre Island beaches as a result of this operation,” she said. “This beach nourishment project, called beneficial use, seeks to employ environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities. Through beach nourishment, we can improve eroded coastlines through the placement of this dredged material.”

The dredging job is expected to go from the inside jetty channel across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the main channel, and then up the Port Isabel channel to the turning basin, according to Rea.

The contract award was for \$7,565,750.

The beach nourishment portion of the project should be completed by Feb. 28, 2009, in order to avoid both the turtle nesting season and Spring Break. The entire project is expected to be completed by mid March.