

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Date: January 15, 2008

Comment Period Ends: February 15, 2008

File Number: NAE-2007-3262

In Reply Refer To: David M. Keddell

Or by e-mail: david.m.keddell@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT

Northeast Mosquito Control & Wetlands Management District 261 Northern Blvd.

Newburyport, Ma 01950 Attn: Emily Sullivan

ACTIVITY

The Northeast Mosquito Control & Wetlands Management District has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 to implement Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM) in various towns in Northeastern Massachusetts. This work is to abate mosquito populations, reduce the need for insecticides, enhance the tidal food web, and enhance and restore previously adversely impacted salt marshes. The OMWM involves six types of alterations: pond, reservoir, radial, selective ditch, gutter ditch and sill ditch. Three-foot deep ponds will be utilized where depressions exist. Reservoirs will be three feet deep and will be utilized in areas where no existing depressions exist. Radials will be used to connect three or more ponds and reservoirs and will be eighteen inches deep. Circuit radials will also be eighteen inches deep and will be used to connect a pond or reservoir to another pond or reservoir. Selective ditches will be used to enhance tidal flow to an isolated breeding depression or tidally restricted salt marsh. They will be utilized to divert fresh water from an OMWM closed system. Gutter ditches will be utilized to maintain diversity by diverting surface freshwater or sheet runoff away from an OMWM closed system. Sill ditches will be used to enhance tidal flow to a closed system.

The applicant has applied to implement OMWM within 31 communities in Northeastern Massachusetts if necessary for mosquito control. The applicant will submit data pertaining to proposed sites annually to the Corps of Engineers as part of the OMWM Committee review. The proposed work is described in the attached document entitled "Standard Open Marsh Water Management, OMWM". The potential sites are shown on the attached quadrangle sheet sections, on 23 sheets. A prior Corps of Engineers permit was issued in 1997 for OMWM in Essex County, Massachusetts. The permit number was 199703019.

A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

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WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

This work is proposed in various salt marshes in Essex County Massachusetts. The proposed locations will be located on the USGS Newburyport East, Newburyport West, Haverhill, Lawrence, Ipswich, Rockport, Gloucester, Salem, Lynn, Boston North, or Reading quadrangle sheets and centered around UTM coordinates 4740996 N and 347855 E Zone 19

AUTHORITY

Permi	ts are required pursuant to:
X_	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
X_	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
	Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries

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Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

This project will potentially impact some of the 23,000 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua), haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus). pollock (Pollachius virens), whiting (Merluccius bilinearis), offshore hake (Merluccius albidus), red hake (Urophycis chuss), white hake (Urophycis tenuis), redfish (Sebastes fasciatus), witch flounder (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus), winter flounder (Pleuronectes americanus), yellowtail flounder (Pleuronectes ferruginea), windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus), American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides), ocean pout (Macrozoarces americanus), Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus), Atlantic sea scallop (Placopecten magellanicus), Atlantic sea herring (Clupea harengus). monkfish (Lophius americanus), bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix), long finned squid (Loligo pealei), short finned squid (Illex illecebrosus), Atlantic butterfish (Peprilus triacanthus), Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus), summer flounder (Paralicthys dentatus), scup (Stenotomus chrysops), black sea bass (Centropristus striata), surf clam (Spisula solidissima), ocean quahog (Artica islandica), spiny dogfish (Squalus acanthias), tilefish (Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps). This habitat consists of tidallyinfluenced, upper estuarine silt/mud river bottom, intertidal silt/mud, and estuarine marsh habitat. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua), haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus), pollock (Pollachius virens), whiting (Merluccius bilinearis). offshore hake (Merluccius albidus), red hake (Urophycis chuss), white hake (Urophycis tenuis), redfish (Sebastes fasciatus), witch flounder (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus), winter flounder (Pleuronectes americanus), yellowtail flounder (Pleuronectes ferruginea), windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus), American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides), ocean pout (Macrozoarces americanus), Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus), Atlantic sea scallop (Placopecten magellanicus), Atlantic sea herring (Clupea harengus), monkfish (Lophius americanus), bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix), long finned squid (Loligo pealei), short finned squid (Illex illecebrosus), Atlantic butterfish (Peprilus triacanthus), Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus), summer flounder (Paralicthys dentatus), scup (Stenotomus chrysops), black sea bass (Centropristus striata), surf clam (Spisula solidissima), ocean guahog (Artica islandica), spiny dogfish (Squalus acanthias), tilefish (Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps). However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

SECTION 106 COORDINATION

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

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ADDRESS:

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:						
 (X) Permit, License or Assent from State. () Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission. (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. 						
In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact David Keddell at (978) 318-8692, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.						
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.						
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.						
For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil .						
THIS NOTICE IS <u>NOT</u> AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.						
Karen K Adams						
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch Regulatory Division						
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil . You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.						
NAME:						



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State Reclamation Board

NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS MOSQUITO CONTROL AND WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

261 Northern Boulevard, Plum Island Newburyport, MA 01950 METANDS WITH

Telephone: (978) 463-6630

Fax: (978) 463-6631

Director

Jack A. Card, Jr.

Operations Manager

Walter G. Montgomery

Emily DW Sullivan
Wetlands Project Coordinator

NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS MOSQUITO CONTROL AND WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPEN MARSH WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2007

OMWM PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of OMWM is to abate salt marsh mosquito populations. The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District, herein referred to as the District, has been applying the principals of OMWM on local salt marshes as an integral part of their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and in accordance with written Standards since 1982. Benefits of OMWM include but are not limited to the following: mosquito larval control, reduction in application of pesticides to the salt marsh, enhancement of the tidal food web, and in many cases reduction of non-native populations of *Phragmites*.

SITE PLAN

The District gathers and records data (MA GIS compatible whenever possible) relevant to site specific OMWM projects such as but not limited to the following: (see appendix for additional data available and detailed descriptions).

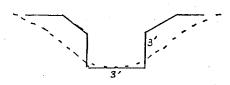
Site Maps
Site Design
Proposed Alterations
Equipment List
Staging Area
Access and Egress Routes
Site Preparation Requirements
Erosion and Sedimentation Controls
Temporary Designated Stockpile Locations
Spoil Disposal Areas

ALTERATION DIMENSIONS AND PROFILE

Pond

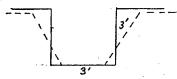
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*(L=diameter)

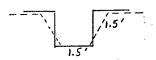


Resevoir

 $L \times 3'W \times 3'D = L \times 9" = cu ft$.



Circut Radial/Radial L x W 1.5' x D 1.5' = L x 2.25' = cu ft.

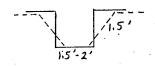


Selective Ditch

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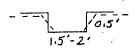
= cu ft.

Excavator L x W 2' x Depth = cu ft.



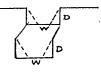
Gutter Ditch

 $L \times W 2' \times D 0.5' = cu ft.$



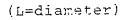
Sill Ditch

 $L \times W \times D + L \times W \times D = cu ft.$



Overflow Pond

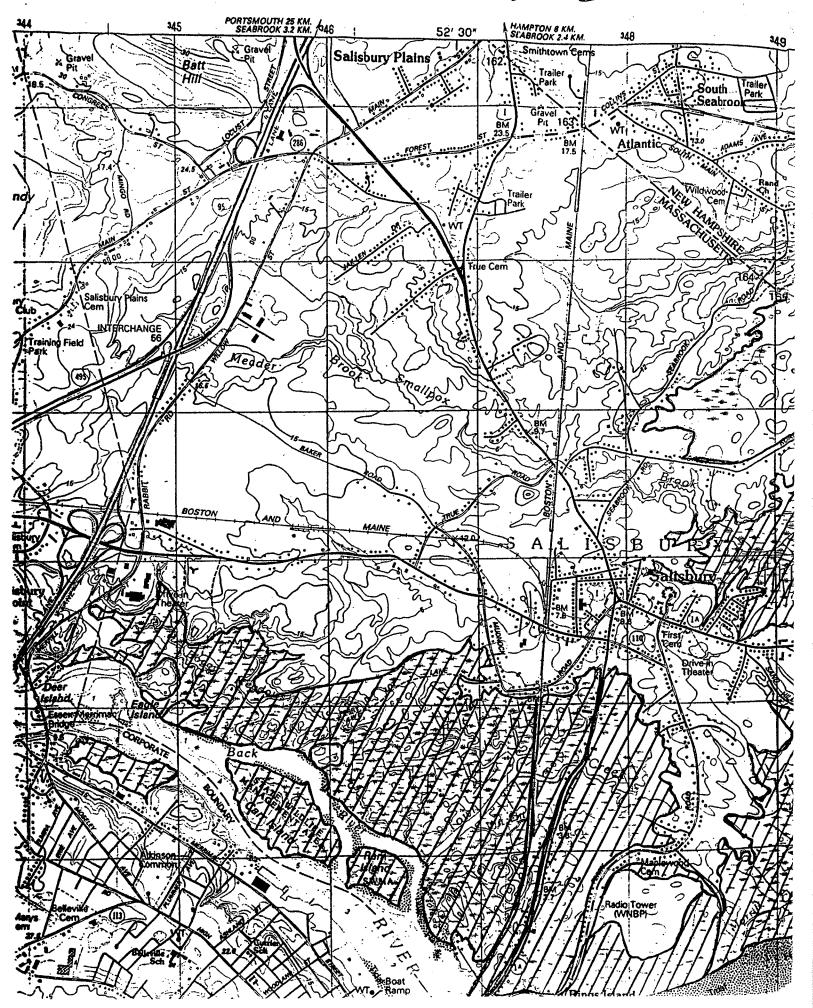
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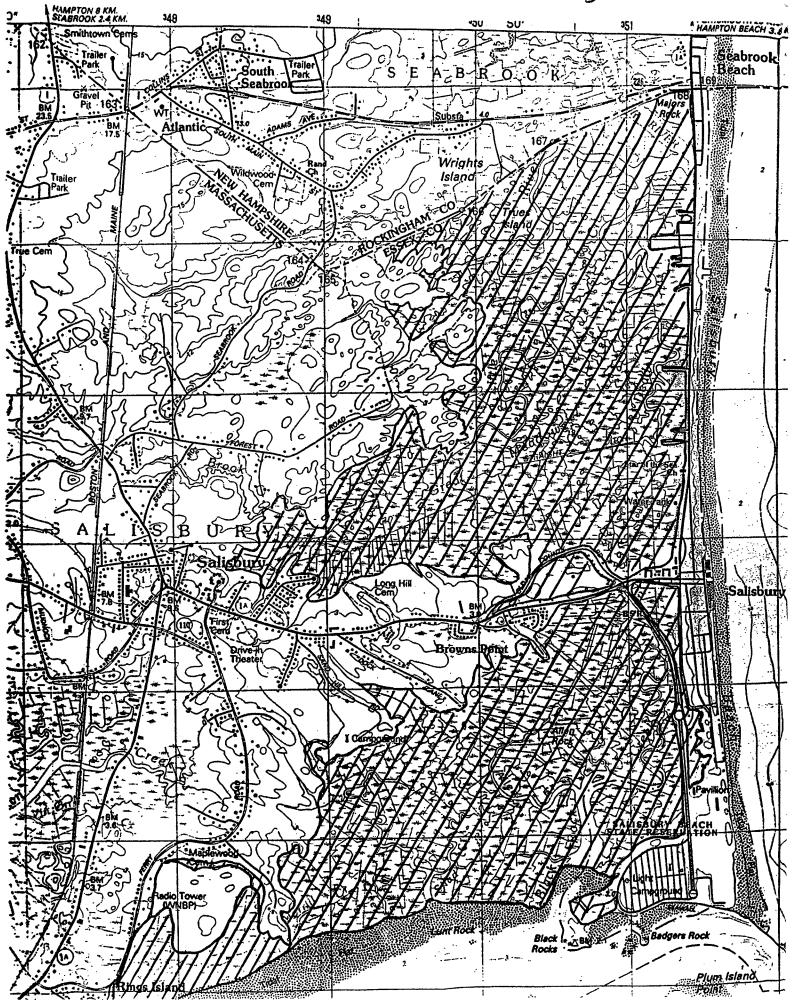




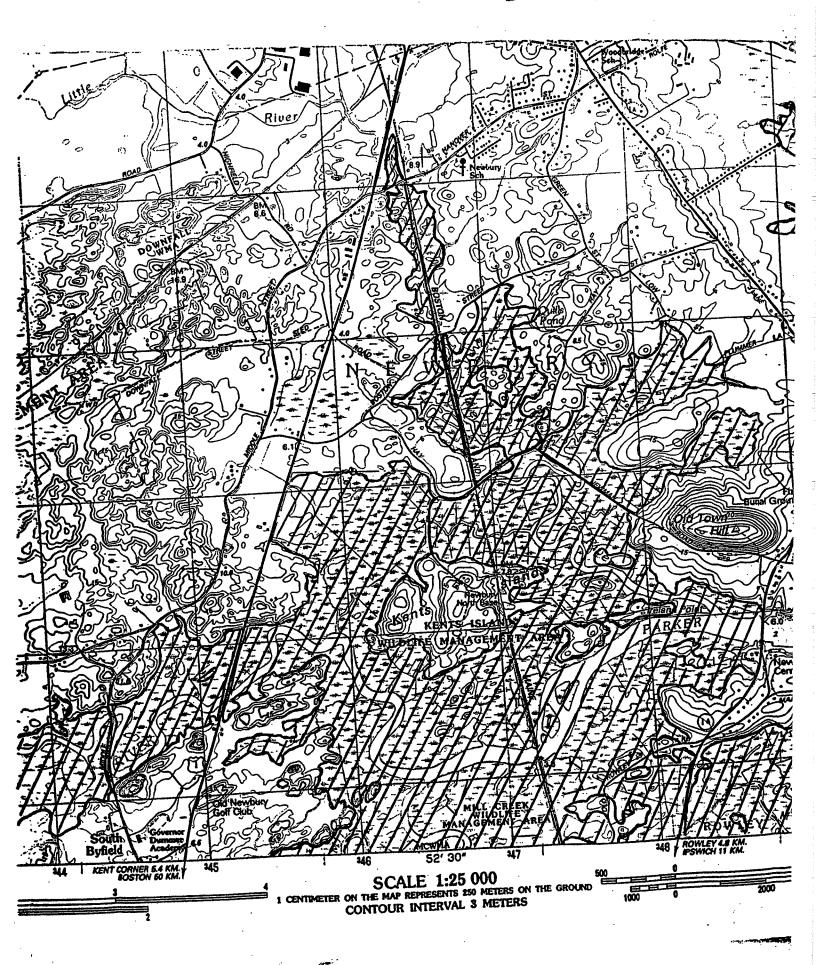
- * When measuring pond an average diameter can be used for the length (L) depending on the pond configuration.
- --- Indicates alternative design.

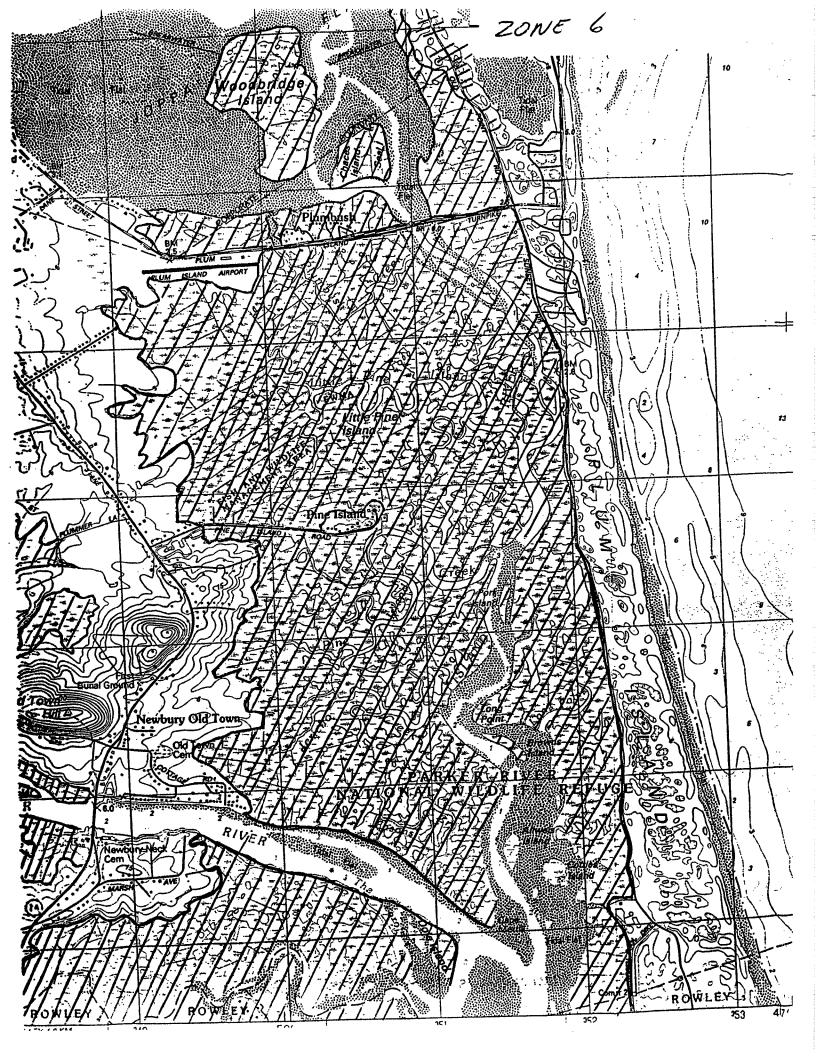






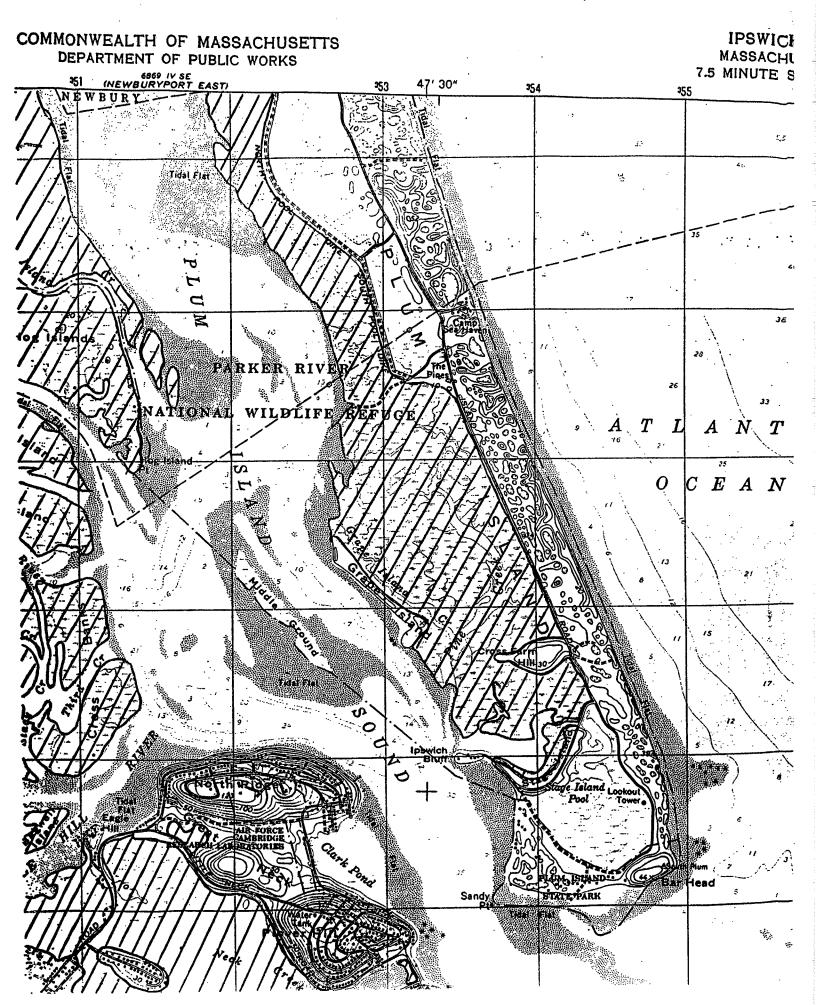




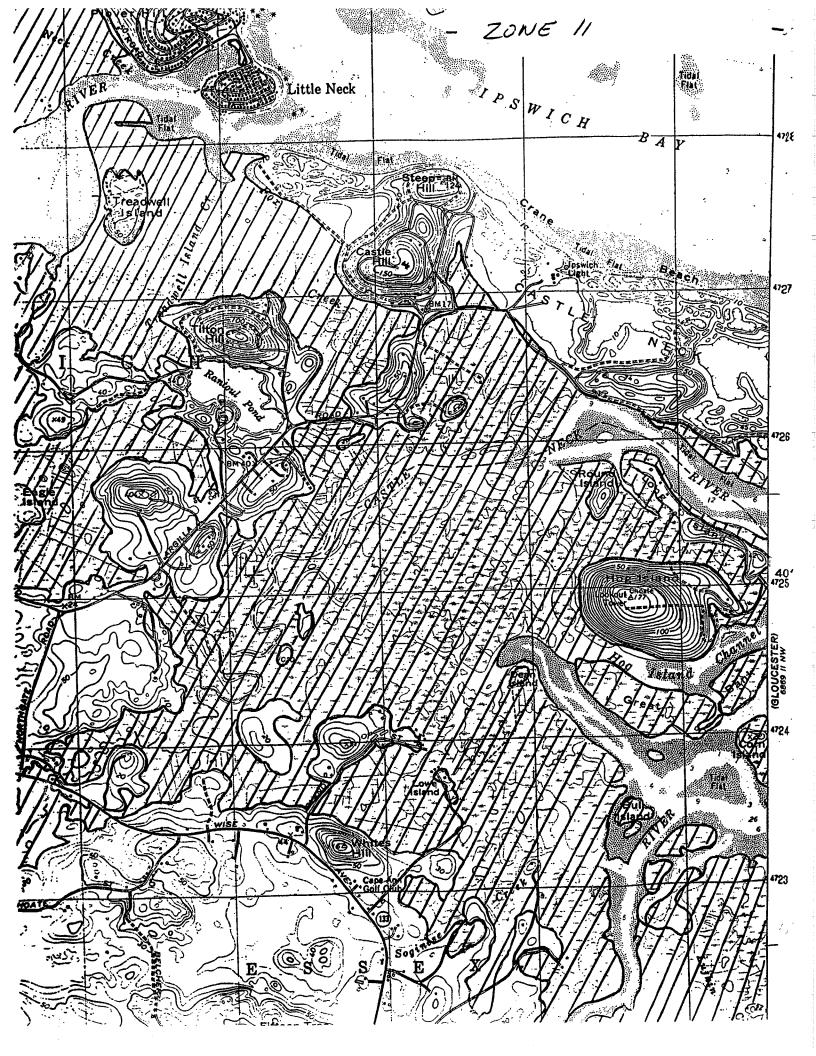




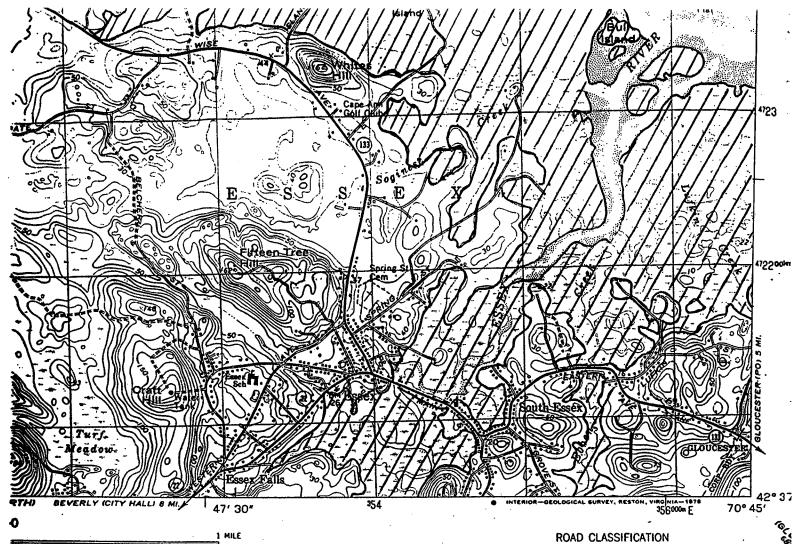
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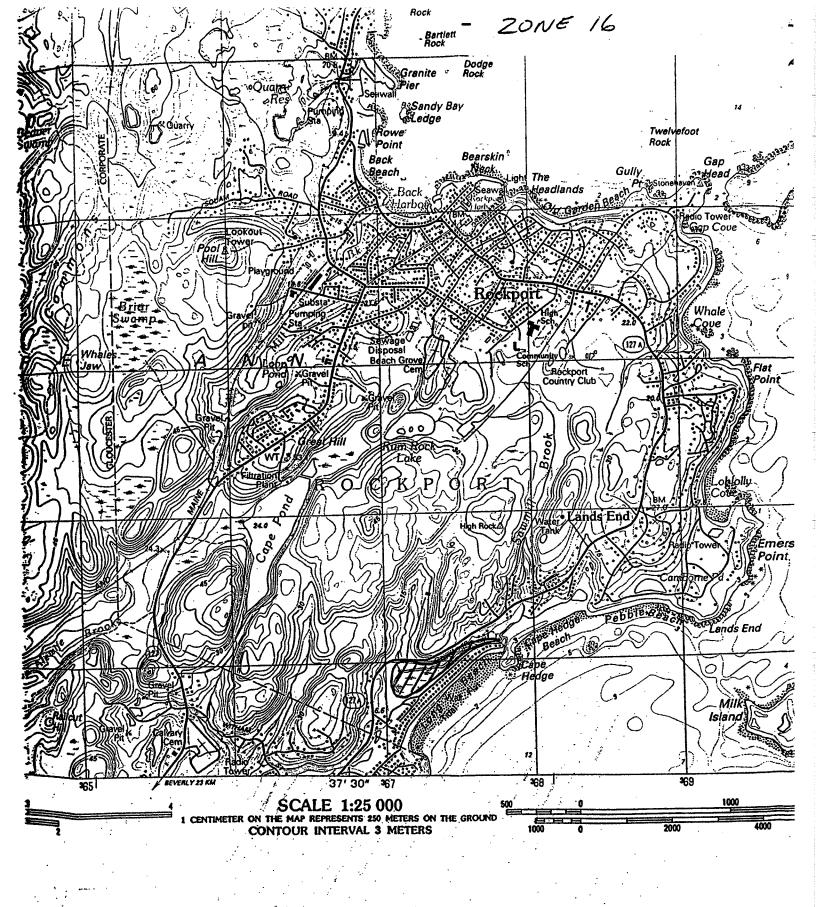
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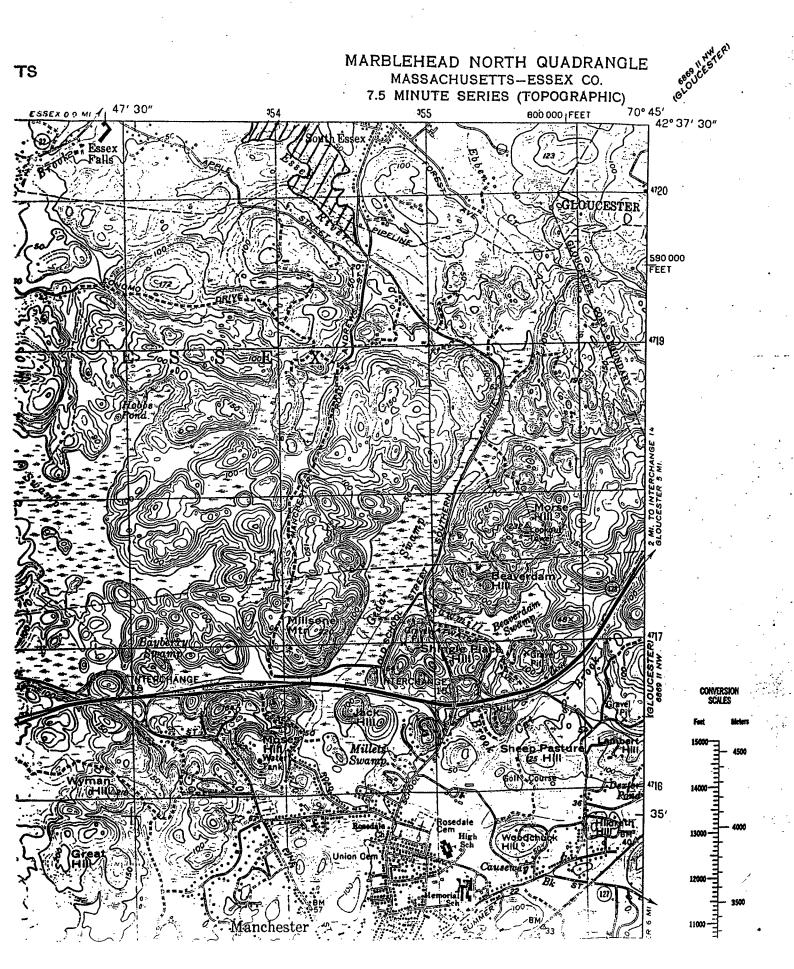
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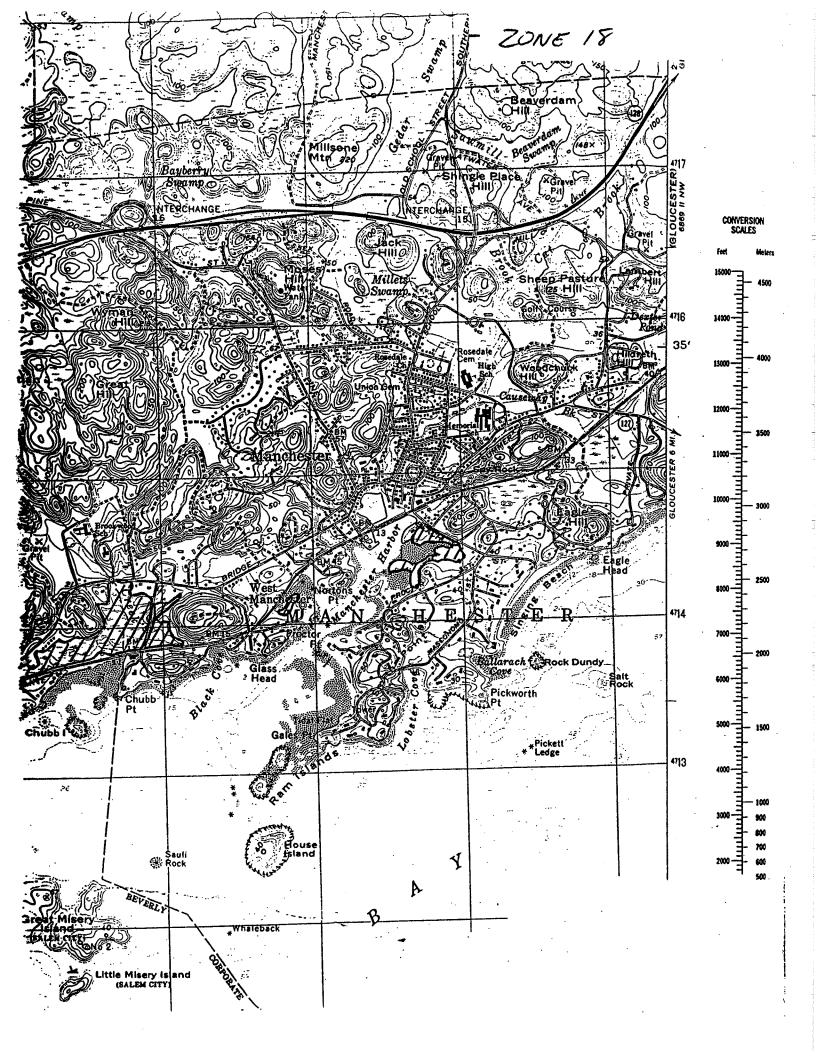
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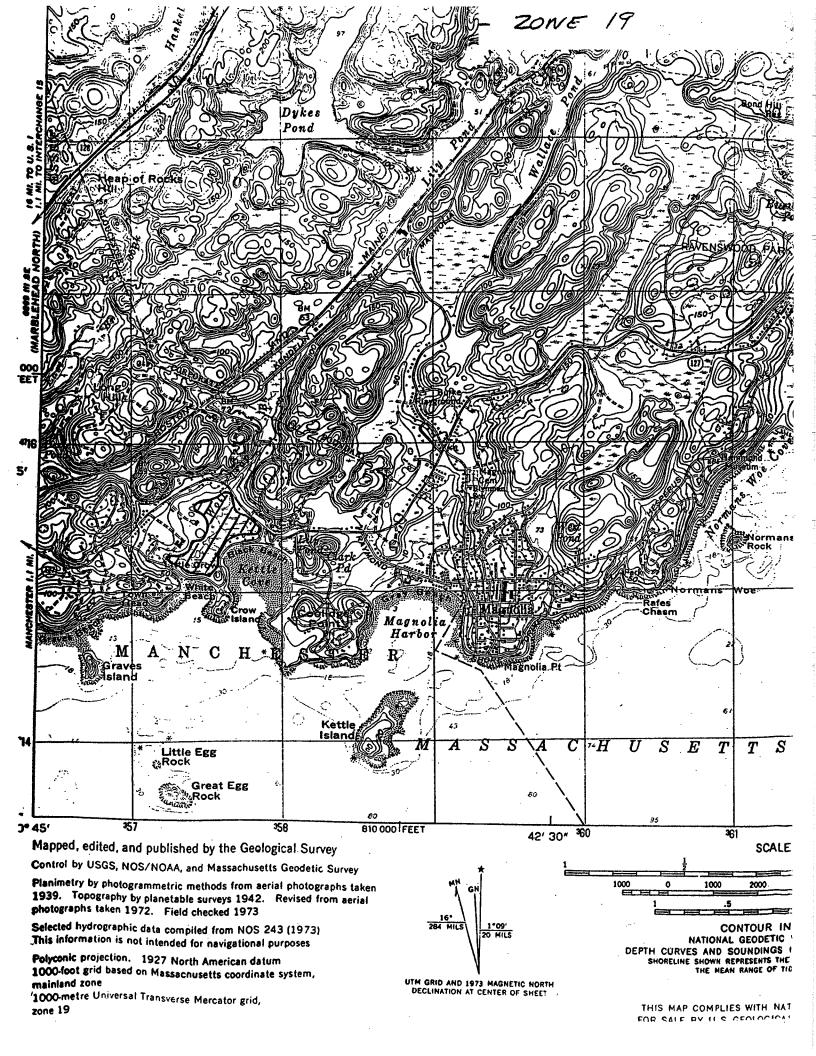
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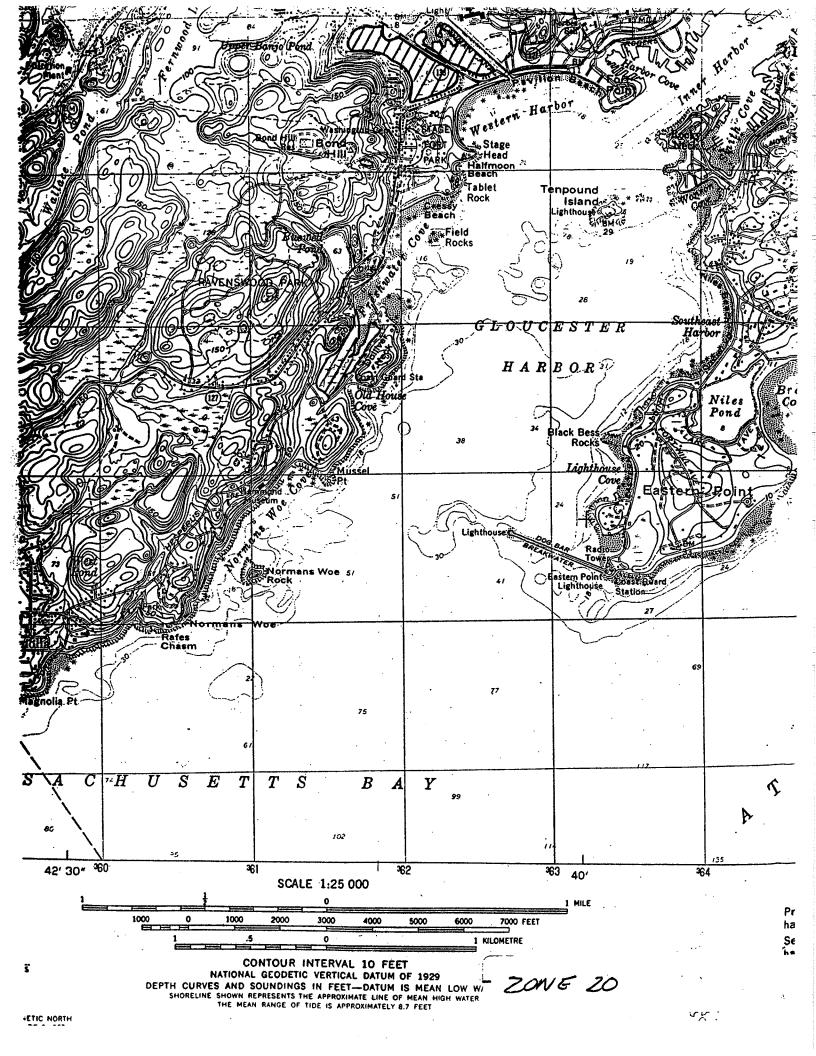






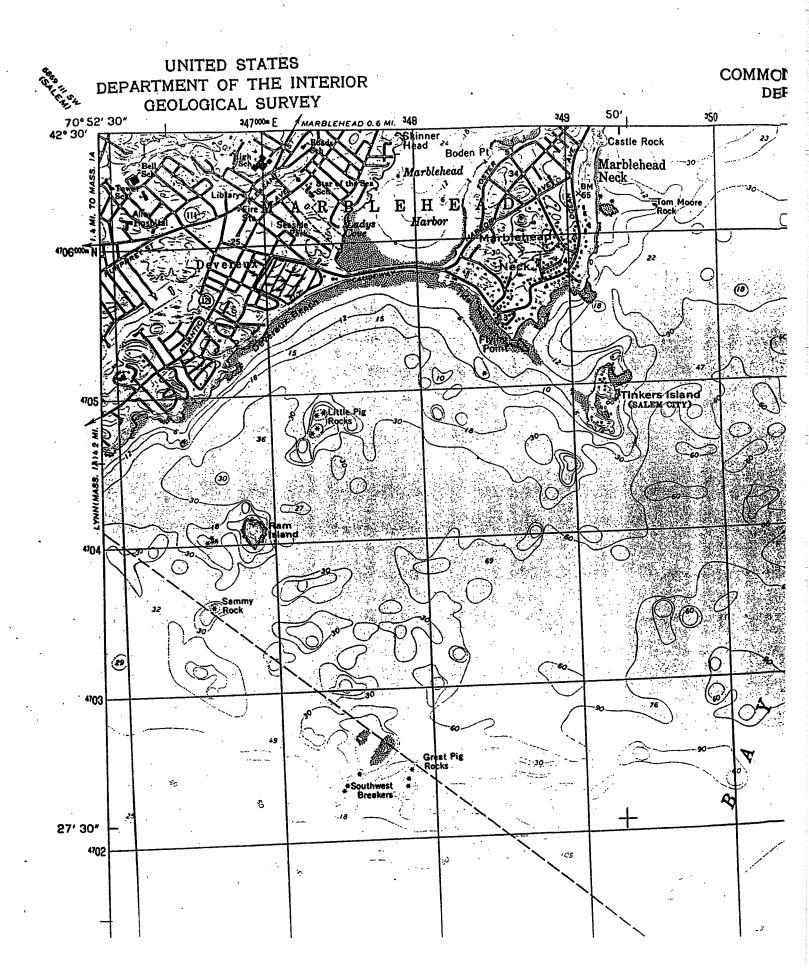












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