

longline or gillnet gear must attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and submit a copy of their workshop certificate before either of the permits will be issued.

In addition to certifying permit holders, all longline and gillnet vessel operators fishing on a vessel issued a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit are required to attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and receive a certificate. The certificate(s) are valid for three years. Vessels that have been issued a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit may not fish unless both the vessel owner and operator have valid workshop certificates onboard at all times. Approximately 60 free Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops have been conducted since 2006.

#### Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

1. April 22, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.
2. April 29, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 1101 North Highway 231, Panama City, FL 32405.
3. May 6, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 5353 North Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949.
4. May 20, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Princess Bayside Hotel, 4801 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842.
5. June 17, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 99701 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037.
6. June 24, 2009, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 8611 Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX 77061.

#### Registration

To register for a scheduled Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (877) 411-4272, 1640 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

#### Registration Materials

To ensure that workshop certificates are linked to the correct permits, participants will need to bring the following items with them to the workshop:

Individual vessel owners must bring a copy of the appropriate permit(s), a copy of the vessel registration or documentation, and proof of identification.

Representatives of a business owned or co-owned vessel must bring proof that the individual is an agent of the business (such as articles of

incorporation), a copy of the applicable permit(s), and proof of identification.

Vessel operators must bring proof of identification.

#### Workshop Objectives

The protected species safe handling, release, and identification workshops are designed to teach longline and gillnet fishermen the required techniques for the safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish. The proper identification of protected species will also be taught at these workshops in an effort to improve reporting. Additionally, individuals attending these workshops will gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries. The overall goal of these workshops is to provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species, which may prevent additional regulations on these fisheries in the future.

#### Grandfathered Permit Holders

Participants in the industry-sponsored workshops on safe handling and release of sea turtles that were held in Orlando, FL (April 8, 2005) and in New Orleans, LA (June 27, 2005) were issued a NOAA workshop certificate in December 2006 that is valid for three years. These workshop certificates may be expiring in 2009. Vessel owners and operators whose certificates expire prior to permit renewal in 2009 must attend a workshop, successfully complete the course, and obtain a new certificate in order to renew their limited access shark and limited access swordfish permits. Failure to provide a valid NOAA workshop certificate could result in a permit denial.

Dated: February 24, 2009.

#### Emily H. Menashes,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### Notice: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Broadband Initiatives

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Federal Communications Commission

**ACTION:** Joint Notice of Public Meeting

**SUMMARY:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development, and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will host a public meeting on March 10, 2009, in connection with the Broadband Initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law No. 111-5.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 10, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Auditorium, Washington, D.C. (Please enter at 14th Street.) The disability accessible entrance is located at the 14th Street Aquarium Entrance. The meeting location is subject to change. Any change in the location will be posted on NTIA's website ([www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov)) prior to the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the meeting, contact Barbara Brown, NTIA, at (202) 482-4374 or [bbrown@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:bbrown@ntia.doc.gov) or Mary Campanola, Rural Development, at (202)-720-8822 or [mary.campanola@usda.gov](mailto:mary.campanola@usda.gov) or Christi Shewman, FCC, at (202) 418-1686 or [christi.shewman@fcc.gov](mailto:christi.shewman@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law on February 17, 2009. The Broadband Initiatives funded in the Act are intended to accelerate broadband deployment in unserved, underserved, and rural areas and to strategic institutions that are likely to create jobs

or provide significant public benefits. NTIA, Rural Development, and the Federal Communications Commission will host a public meeting to discuss the broadband initiatives funded by the Act, including the new Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, the new Rural Development Broadband Program, and the development of a National Broadband Plan. The public meeting agenda and information about the new program will be available at NTIA's website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants>, Rural Development's website at <http://www.usda.gov/rurdev>, and the FCC's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>. This will be the first of several Public Meetings.

Public attendance at the meeting is limited to space available. The meeting will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requesting accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to indicate this to Barbara Brown at least two (2) days prior to the meeting. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting. The meeting will be streamed on the Web with captions and the archive will be made available on NTIA's website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants> and Rural Development's website at <http://www.usda.gov/rurdev>.

Dated: February 23, 2009.

**Bernadette McGuire-Rivera,**

*Associate Administrator, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications.*

Dated: February 23, 2009.

**David P. Grahn,**

*Associate General Counsel, Rural Development.*

Dated: February 23, 2009.

**P. Michele Ellison,**

*Acting General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District's (Port Freeport) Proposed Widening of the Freeport Harbor Ship Channel

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD), for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Port Freeport's proposal to widen the Freeport Harbor Ship Channel. The FEIS was made available for public review and comment on January 11, 2008. Comments received during the FEIS comment period are addressed in the ROD. The ROD discloses the decision to issue a Department of the Army permit for the proposed project.

**DATES:** The waiting period for the FEIS ended February 11, 2008. The ROD was signed on February 3, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions about this action may be addressed to the USACE, Galveston District, Attn: Sam J. Watson, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229; or by calling 409-766-3946.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority:** This Federal Action is in consideration of a Department of the Army Permit application for work under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 103 of the Marine Protection and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) (33 U.S.C. 1413).

**Background:** In April 2005, Port of Freeport submitted a Department of Army Permit Application to widen portions of the Freeport Harbor Jetty Channel and all of the Freeport Harbor Entrance Channel from 400 feet (ft) to 600 ft. It was determined that an Environmental Impact Statement would be required for the proposed project. Since the November 29, 2005 Scoping Meeting, the consulting firm of PBS&], under the direction of the Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project. The ROD is now available to the public.

**Availability of the ROD:** The ROD for the proposed Freeport Channel Widening project is being made available to Federal, State, and local agencies and all interested parties. The ROD can be viewed or downloaded at: <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/>.

**Location:** The project is located in the Freeport Harbor Channel, Brazoria County, TX. Specifically, the project site is located along the northern edge of the Freeport Harbor Jetty and Entrance Channels, between the towns of Surfside and Quintana, TX. The project can be located on the U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map entitled Freeport, TX. Approximate UTM Coordinates: NAD 83, UTM 14N, 861095.730029, 3206475.762543.

**Project Description:** The project includes widening the Freeport Harbor Jetty Channel beginning at Channel Station 63+35 with a gradual widening, at the authorized depth, up to an additional 150 feet (ft) for about 1,835 ft to Channel Station 45+00. From that point to Channel Station 40+00 the widening would be less gradual from the additional 150 ft to an additional 200 ft. Through the rest of the Jetty Channel and to the end of the Freeport Harbor Entrance Channel (Channel Station -260+00), the channel would be widened an additional 200 ft. The length of channel proposed for widening is about 6.1 miles, of which 5.7 miles would be widened by 200 ft. The project depth will remain at the authorized depth of 45 ft in the Jetty Channel and 47 ft in the Entrance Channel. The widening would generate approximately 3.2 million cubic yards (mcy) of new work dredged material. Approximately 2.9 mcy of the new work material would consist of clay material and about 300,000 cubic yards (cy) would consist of silty/sand material. The ocean dredged material disposal sites (ODMDS) previously designated for the existing Freeport Harbor Ship Channel, would be used for placement of the 2.9 mcy of clay/silt material and maintenance material. The 300,000 cy of silty/sand material would be used beneficially and placed on Quintana Beach in front of the Seaway upland confined placement area.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Final Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement To Evaluate Construction of Authorized Improvements to the Gulfport Harbor Federal Navigation Project in Harrison County, MS

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice of availability announces the public release of the Final Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate construction of authorized improvements to the Gulfport Harbor Federal navigation project in Harrison County, MS. The Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)