



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Mike Walsh  
[nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil](mailto:nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil)

Programs/Project  
Management Division

Date: February 29, 2012

Comment Period Closes: March 29, 2012

---

## 30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

### FEDERAL MAINTENANCE OF EAST BREAKWATER STONINGTON HARBOR STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, plans to repair the East Federal Breakwater in Stonington Harbor (Stonington, Connecticut). Attachment 1 lists pertinent laws, regulations, and directives applicable to the project.

**Project Description:** The east breakwater of the Stonington Harbor (Stonington, CT) Federal Navigation Project (FNP) (Attachment 2) was originally authorized by the River & Harbor Act of 14 June 1880. The breakwater was originally constructed between Dec. 1880 and Nov. 1894, with repairs being undertaken in 1915, 1940, and 1958. The east breakwater is a 2,900 foot long rubble mound structure comprised of a 2,300 foot long main section with a crest height of 9.0 feet above Mean Low Water (MLW), a crest width of 12 feet, a seaward slope of 1 on 2, and a harbor side slope of 1 on 1; and a 600 foot long low crest section over Bartlett's Reef with a crest elevation at Mean High Water (2.75' MLW), a crest width of 8 feet, a seaward slope of 1 on 2, and a harbor side slope of 1 on 1. The breakwater was damaged by Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, 2011 and is currently in need of repair. Approximately 3,000 tons of new stone will be needed to restore damaged sections of the east breakwater to its authorized dimensions (Attachments 2 & 3).

**Character and Purpose of Work:** The purpose of the work is to perform repairs to the east breakwater in Stonington Harbor, Stonington, CT. Several sections of the breakwater incurred significant damage during Tropical Storm Irene, resulting in a loss of protection to the harbor. The proposed work will restore damaged sections of the breakwater to authorized dimensions. The Corps estimates approximately 3,000 tons of new stone will be needed to repair the breakwater. The work involves repairing damaged areas of the breakwater (Attachment 2) by placing additional stone and/or retrieval and re-use of displaced stones which have been dislodged from the structure. Work is anticipated to take approximately two to four months to complete and is currently scheduled to start in the fall of 2012.

**Additional Information:** Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Mike Walsh, Programs & Civil Project Management Branch, Programs Project Management Division, at the return address shown, by email at [nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil](mailto:nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil) or by telephone (978) 318-8586.

**Coordination:** The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State, and local agencies:

**Federal:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Marine Fisheries Service

**State of Connecticut:**

Department of Energy & Environ. Protection  
Office of Long Island Sound Programs  
Historical Commission

**Town of Stonington:**

Warden of Stonington  
Stonington Harbormaster  
Stonington Town Engineer

**Environmental Impacts:** An Environmental Assessment for the proposed work has been prepared and will be available for review upon request. Our review of this project has determined the impacts of the proposed action are consistent with the existing Environmental Assessment for Jetty and Rock Repair dated 1994. It is our determination that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of this project. I have made a preliminary determination that an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed breakwater maintenance is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This determination will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

**Federal Consistency with the Connecticut Coastal Zone Management Program:** I find that the repair of the authorized east breakwater in Stonington Harbor, Stonington, Connecticut is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the applicable management program established as a result of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The breakwater repair will be conducted, to the maximum extent practicable, in a manner that is consistent with the approved management program.

**Other Information:**

- a. **Local Sponsor:** The Town of Stonington, CT is the local sponsor for the proposed work.
- b. **Previous Repair/Rehabilitation:** The last repair to the east breakwater was in 1958 when approximately 4,000 tons of stone were placed on the structure to bring it to its authorized dimensions.
- c. **Endangered Species:** It is our preliminary determination that no threatened or endangered species are residents of the project area. The Corps is consulting with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or

critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

- d. Floodplain Management: In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed work will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.
- e. Cultural Resources: The proposed work is being coordinated with Connecticut Historic Preservation Officer and is not likely to affect any cultural or archaeological features or resources.
- f. Essential Fish Habitat Assessment: It is our preliminary determination that the proposed project may have a temporary adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The project area is contained within areas designated EFH as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 for federally managed fish species. The Corps is consulting with NMFS to assure that all impacts will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
- g. Additional Requirements: USACE-NAE has determined that this action of maintenance does not require a Clean Water Act Section 404 or 401 evaluation.

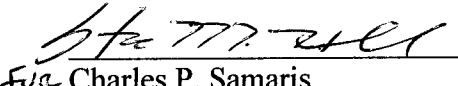
The decision whether to perform the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, and the welfare of the people.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the repair of the east breakwater may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to me within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Mr. Mike Walsh, within 30 days of this notice.

29 Feb 12

Date

  
for Charles P. Samaris  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

## **Attachment 1**

### **PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND DIRECTIVES**

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1221 et. seq.)

Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.)

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1) and (2)], Sections 307(c)(1) and (2)

Code of Federal Regulation, Title 33, Parts 335 through 338

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 668aa-668cc)

Estuary Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1221 et. seq.)

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et. seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666c)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et. seq.)

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended through January 12, 2007 and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996

Migratory Marine Game-Fish Act (16 U.S.C. 760c-760g)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)

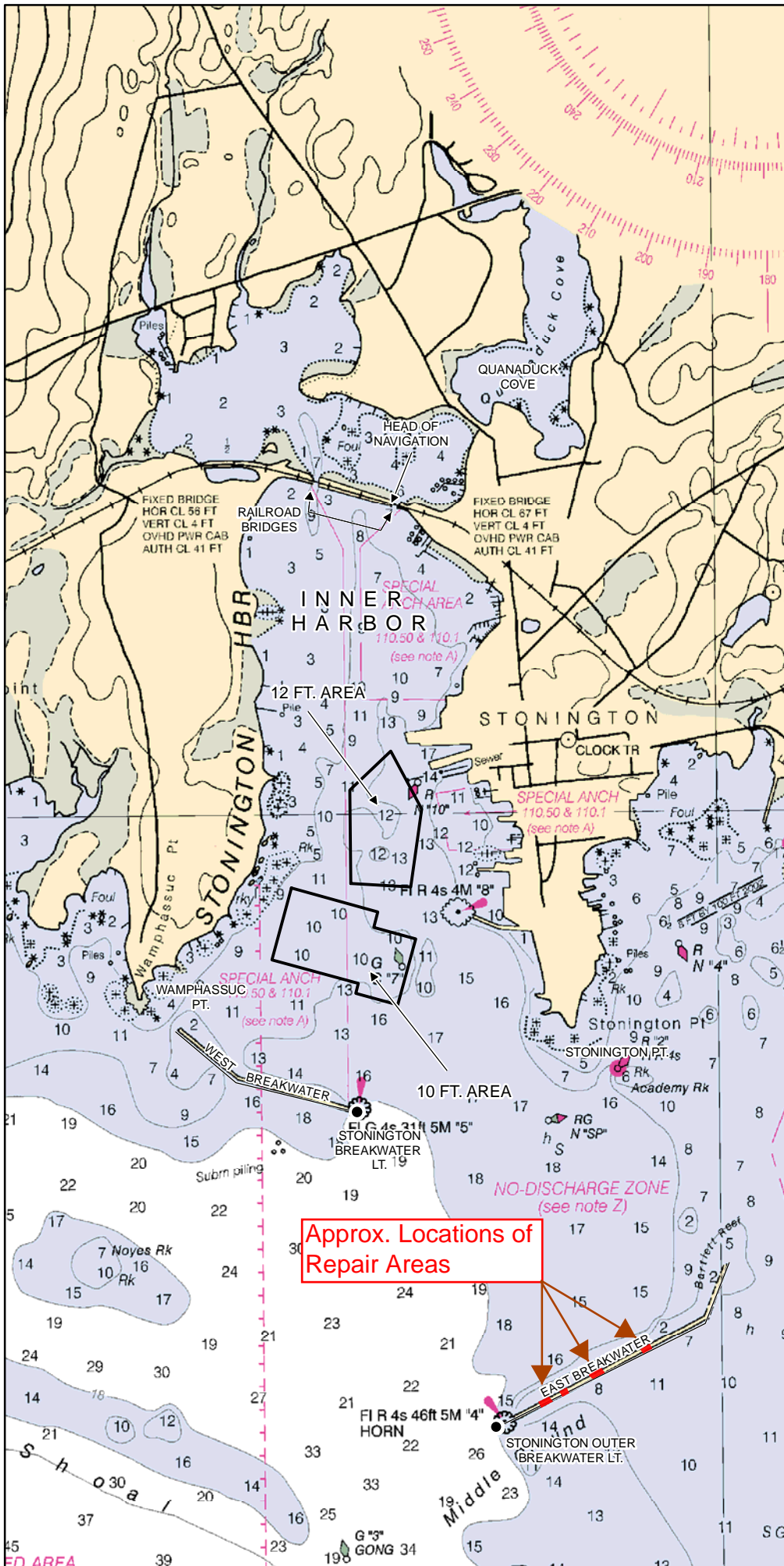
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

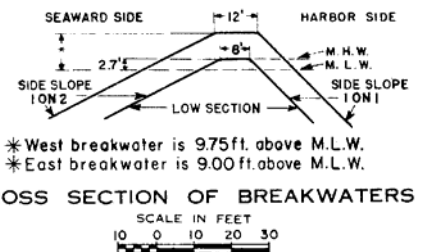
Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations, 11 February 1994

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997



Attachment 2

CHART: 13214-1  
 FISHERS ISLAND SOUND  
 CURRENT EDITION: 28  
 PRINT DATE: 04/01/2006

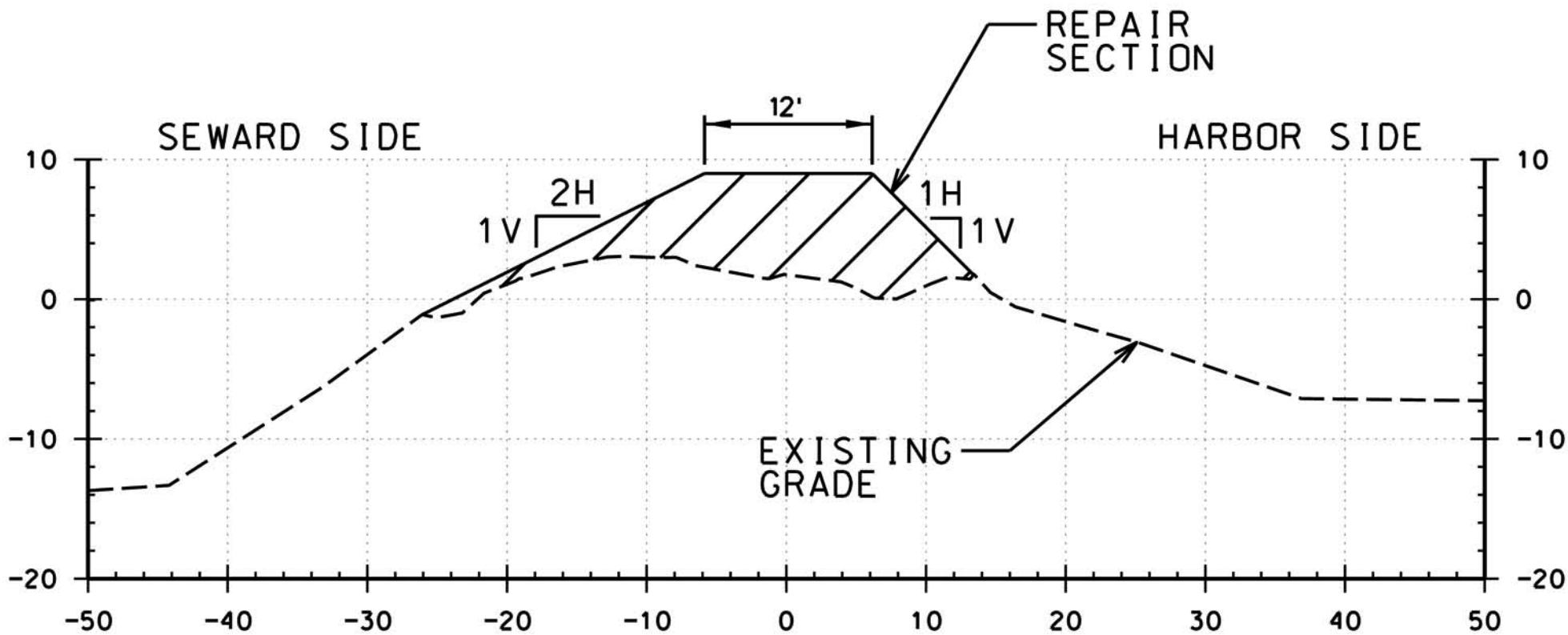


Approx. Locations of Repair Areas

STONINGTON HARBOR CONNECTICUT

24 August 2010





TYPICAL REPAIR SECTION

STONINGTON HARBOR, CT  
 REPAIRS TO EAST BREAKWATER