



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Mrs. Marti Cockrell

Published: March 5, 2026
Expires: April 6, 2026

Mobile District
Permit Application No. SAM-2025-00878-MJF
Joint Public Notice: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE),
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Office of
Pollution Control (MDEQ), and Mississippi Department of
Marine Resources (MDMR) (DMR25-000557)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) **and/or** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Mrs. Marti Cockrell
2814 Mintwood Place
Arlington, Texas, 76016

AGENT: Mr. Eric Sparks
Mississippi State University
1815 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States and navigable waters of the United States associated with the Biloxi Bay. The project/review area is located along the shoreline east of the Ocean Springs Small Craft Harbor and Jetty, at 102 Shearwater Drive, in 37 Section, 7S Township, 8W Range; at Latitude 30.402121 North and Longitude -88.823366 West; in Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The subject property is an existing marsh shoreline located east of the Ocean springs Small Craft Harbor and adjacent to an existing rock jetty to the west and residential properties to the north and east.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The basic project purpose is erosion control

Overall: The overall project purpose is erosion control and revegetation of the existing shoreline.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to install nine (9) breakwaters and plant 7,159 square feet of native marsh vegetation. The breakwaters would be placed approximately 95 feet from mean high water (MHW). Breakwater structures would be 7-feet wide at the base, 2.33-feet wide at the top, and 3.13-feet in height, with 7-foot gaps between each breakwater. Eight (8) breakwaters would be 25-feet in length and one (1) breakwater located on the westernmost end, would be 33-feet in length. A total of approximately 145 cubic yards of riprap, various size rock and/or oyster shell would be required for the construction of the breakwaters. Geotextile material would underlie each breakwater. Breakwater material would be placed from a barge. Vegetation planting would extend from the MHW to approximately 22-foot waterward, approximately to the mean low water (MLW) line. Vegetation would consist of native marsh grasses, *Spartina alterniflora* and *Juncus roemerianus*. Planting would be done by hand at a 50% density.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: Breakwaters would be placed close enough to the shoreline as not to impede navigation. Care would be taken to avoid impacts to existing marsh grasses.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant has provided the following explanation why compensatory mitigation should not be required: The project should not result in the loss of a special aquatic site; the applicant is not proposing mitigation for impacts at this time.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Region Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper were used to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, and/or any proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination

that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed below. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Table 01: ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.

Species Common Name and/or Critical Habitat Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Potential Effect
Mississippi Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Dusky Gopher Frog	<i>Rana sevosa</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Eastern Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	Threatened	No Effect
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Threatened	No Effect
Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Threatened	No Effect
Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle	<i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i>	Endangered	No Effect
West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened	No Effect
Gulf Sturgeon and Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Threatened	NLAA
Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	NLAA
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	NLAA
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	NLAA
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Consultation Required
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius Melodus</i>	Threatened	Consultation Required

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The USACE is the lead Federal agency

for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by USACE.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action may adversely affect EFH and/or fisheries managed by Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Implementation of the proposed project would directly impact approximately 0.20 acres of marine substrate and water column. The effects of the project are determined to be minimal and permanent. These habitat(s) are utilized by the following species and their various life stages:

NOAA Essential Fish Habitat (9 feature(s) returned)	
Species	Life Stage
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	ALL
Red Drum	ALL
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark (Gulf of Mexico Stock)	Juvenile/Adult
Shrimp	ALL
Spinner Shark	Neonate
Bull Shark	Juvenile/Adult
Reef Fish	ALL
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark (Gulf of Mexico Stock)	Neonate
Bull Shark	Neonate
Source: https://services2.arcgis.com/C8EMgrsFcRFL6LrL/arcgis/rest/services/EFH/FeatureServer/0	

Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority).

COASTAL ZONE: The applicant received coastal zone (CZ) consistency from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program under DMR25-000557 on February 18, 2026.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has been verified by Corps personnel.

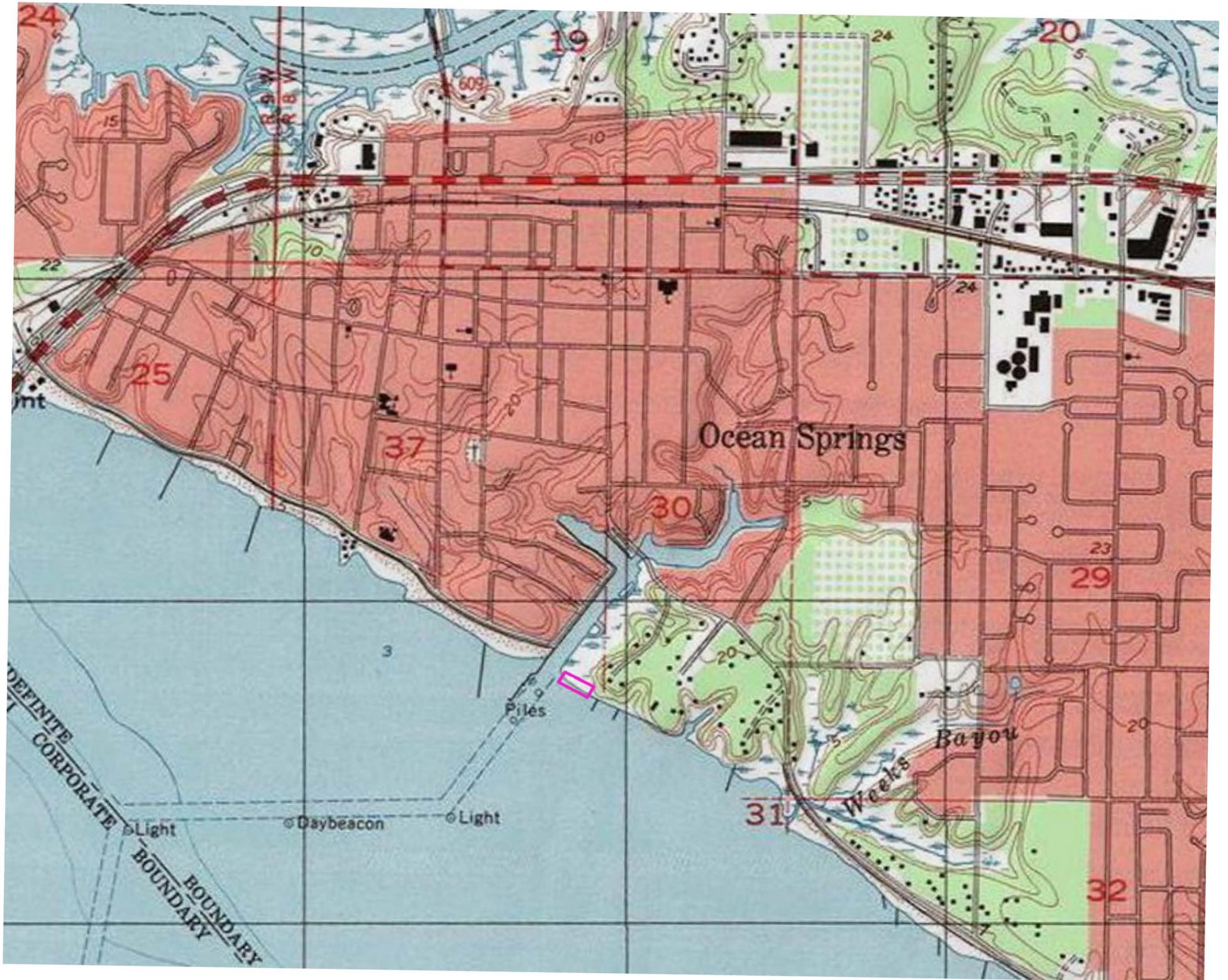
EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps 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 to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are

also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Mobile District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until April 6, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Maryellen Farmer at maryellen.j.farmer@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attention: Maryellen Farmer, 100 Canal Street Regulatory Division Mobile, Alabama 36602-1901. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

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 public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.





Ocean Springs Inner Harbor

Harbor Master Office

Shearwater Park

Dr. Thomas D. Mellwain Harbor Green

Pine Dr

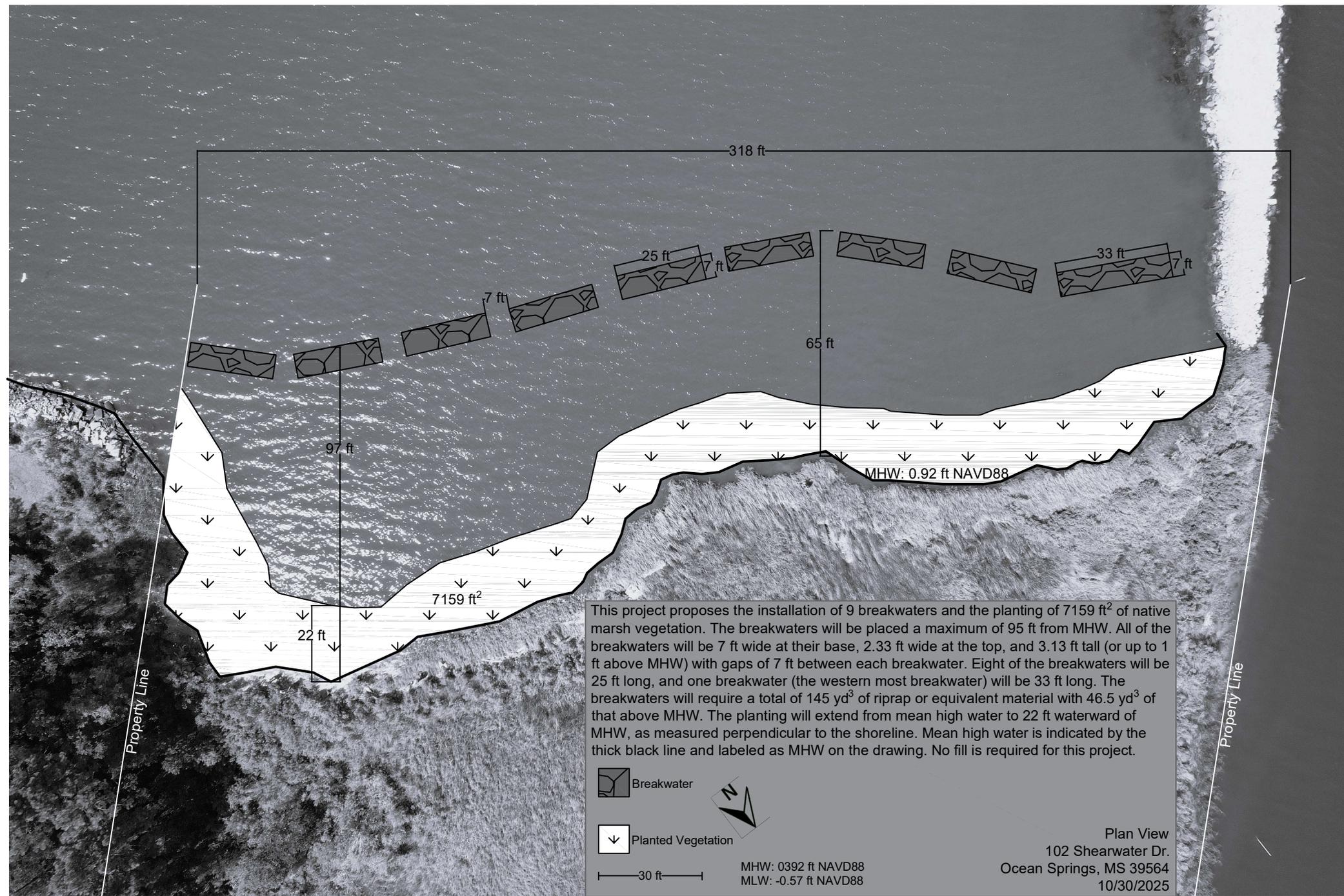
Front Beach Dr

Bait Shop

Ocean Springs Small Craft Harbor

Shearwater Pottery





This project proposes the installation of 9 breakwaters and the planting of 7159 ft² of native marsh vegetation. The breakwaters will be placed a maximum of 95 ft from MHW. All of the breakwaters will be 7 ft wide at their base, 2.33 ft wide at the top, and 3.13 ft tall (or up to 1 ft above MHW) with gaps of 7 ft between each breakwater. Eight of the breakwaters will be 25 ft long, and one breakwater (the western most breakwater) will be 33 ft long. The breakwaters will require a total of 145 yd³ of riprap or equivalent material with 46.5 yd³ of that above MHW. The planting will extend from mean high water to 22 ft waterward of MHW, as measured perpendicular to the shoreline. Mean high water is indicated by the thick black line and labeled as MHW on the drawing. No fill is required for this project.

 Breakwater

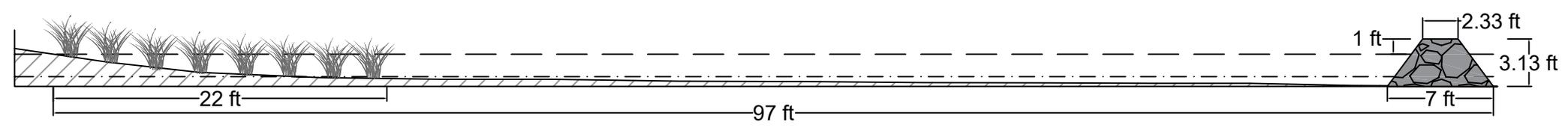
 Planted Vegetation



— 30 ft —

MHW: 0392 ft NAVD88
MLW: -0.57 ft NAVD88

Plan View
102 Shearwater Dr.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
10/30/2025



 Planted Vegetation

 Breakwater

 Water Bottom

--- MHW: 0.92 ft NAVD88

- - - MILW: -0.57 ft NAVD88

30 ft

Cross Sectional View
 102 Shearwater Dr
 Ocean Springs, MS 39564
 10/30/2025