



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

**CESAM-RD-M**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2024-01056-KMN**

**December 12, 2024**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (MDEQ)**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**DMR24-000589**

**PETIT BOIS ISLAND ARTIFICIAL REEF, MISSISSIPPI SOUND, JACKSON COUNTY,**  
**MISSISSIPPI**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
Attention: Mr. Travis Williams  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

**LOCATION:** Mississippi Sound; approximately 0.5 miles south of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, approximately 5.5 miles south of Pascagoula and approximately 2 miles north of Petit Bois Island; Jackson County, Mississippi;  
Northwest Corner: 30.239709° / -88.471011° NAD 83  
Northeast Corner: 30.239790° / -88.467767° NAD 83  
Southeast Corner: 30.237995° / -88.467707° NAD 83  
Southwest Corner: 30.237915° / -88.470935° NAD 83

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant is requesting a 10-year DA permit to create 15 acres of new reef area that would be located approximately two miles north of Petit Bois Island in the Mississippi Sound. Mean low water (MLW) depths at the site would be approximately 12-18 feet. Reef material deployed at the site would have a clearance of eight (8) feet from MLW. Sediments on the site are composed of sand with a mud/clay mixture. The reef material would consist of clean nontoxic concrete, oyster shells, limestone, and materials of design (bay balls, reef pyramids, or eco disc). The establishment of the reef would create and enhance reef habitat that would support and sustain healthy populations of estuarine fish and other invertebrates. There has been no observance of submerged aquatic vegetation near the proposed site.

**COASTAL ZONE:** The applicant has applied for coastal zone (CZ) consistency under number DMR24-000589 in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management

Program. A determination relative to CZ consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

**WATER 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).

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the entire 15-acre artificial reef site to be located in other waters of the United States. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic resources. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the following federally-listed species may occur within the project area: *West Indian Manatee (T)*, *Eastern Black Rail (T)*, *Piping Plover (T-CH)*, *Red Knot (T-CH)*, *Green Sea Turtle (T)*, *Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (E)*, *Loggerhead Sea Turtle (T-CH)*, *Hawksbill Sea Turtle (E)*, *Leatherback Sea Turtle (E)*, *Giant Manta Ray (T)*, and *Gulf Sturgeon (T-CH)*. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on the above-listed species. Further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service – Protected Resource Division (NMFS-PRD) will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would impact approximately 15 acres of marine substrate. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not adversely affect EFH or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service. 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.

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

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 benefit 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 the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic 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, consideration of property ownership 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.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2024-01056-KMN** and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Kaaren M. Neumann, or submitted electronically at [Kaaren.M.Neumann@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kaaren.M.Neumann@usace.army.mil), (228) 386-8293. Copies of all comments should

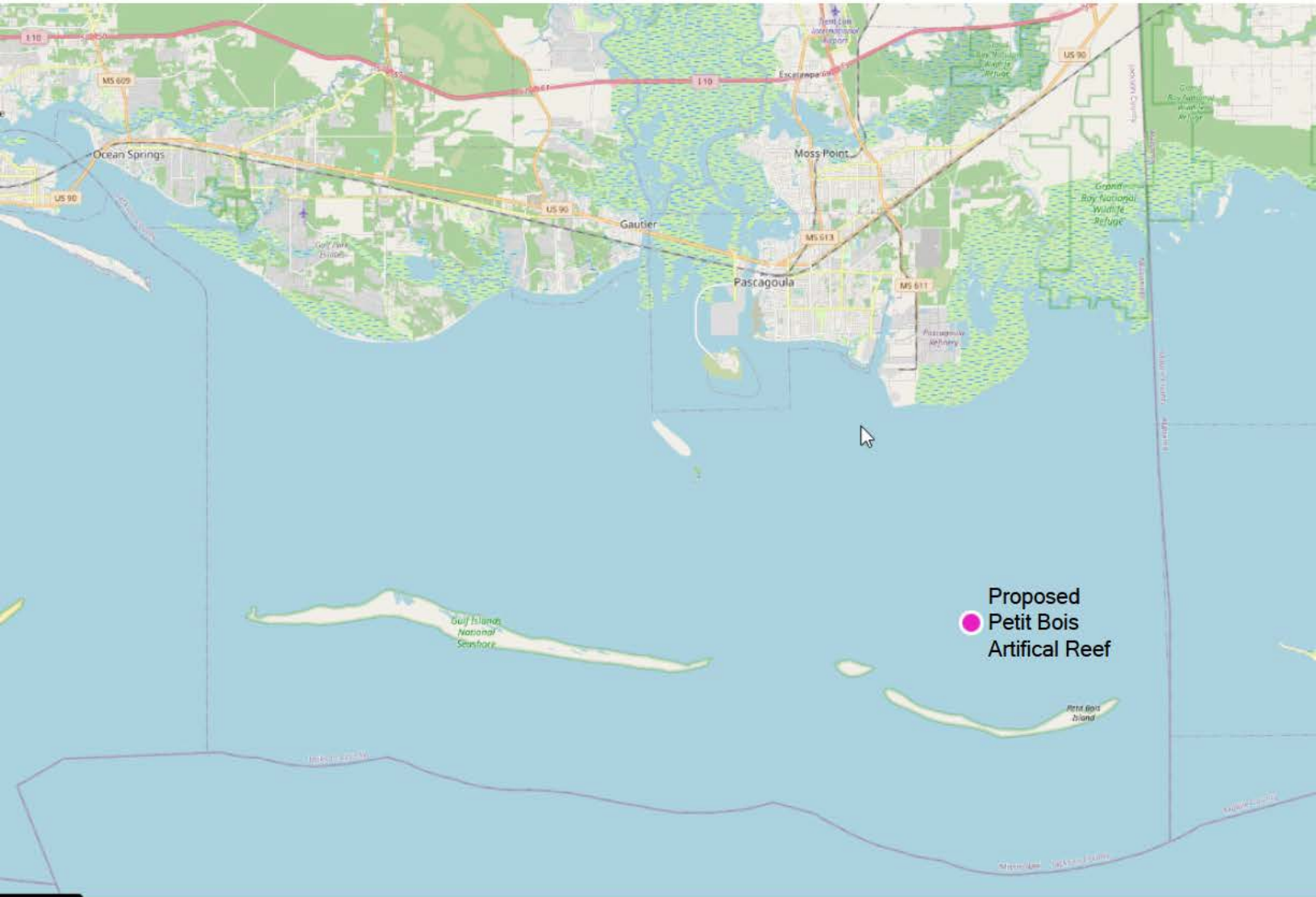
be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, Attention: Ms. Carrie Barefoot at [CBAREFOOT@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:CBAREFOOT@mdeq.ms.gov), and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, Attention: Ms. Allison Faggard at [Allison.Faggard@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:Allison.Faggard@dmr.ms.gov).

**All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.**

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

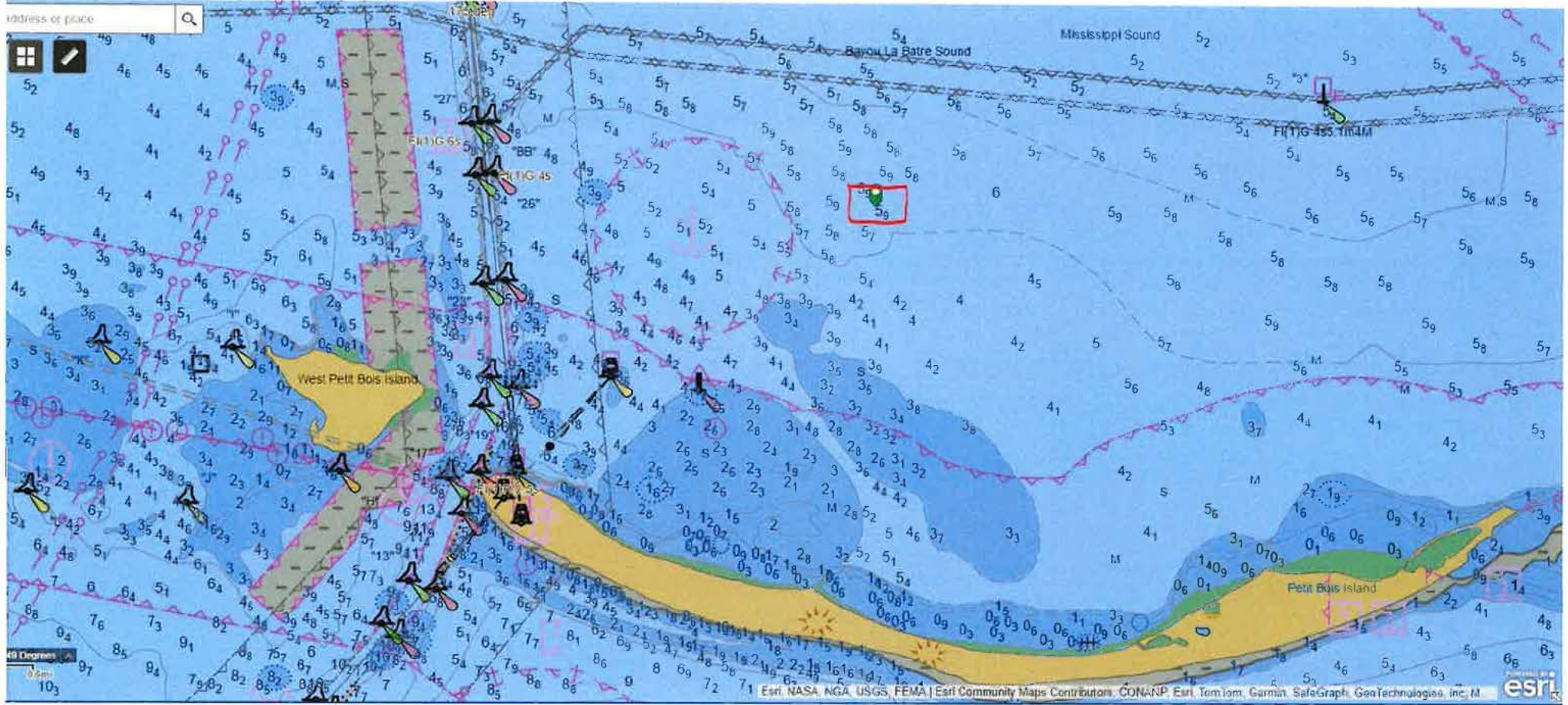
MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments



SAM-2024-01056-KMN





Northwest corner

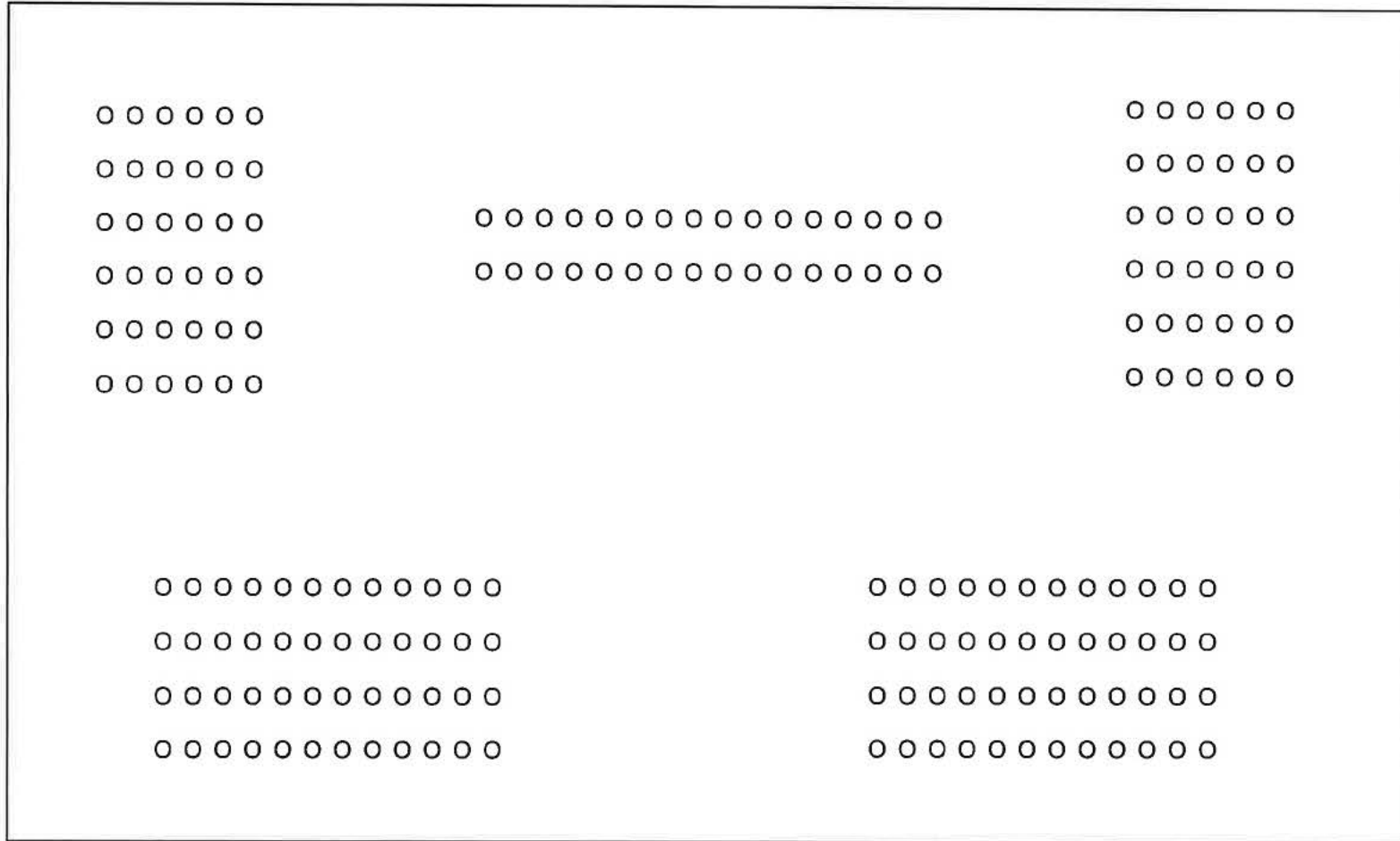
30.239709° -88.471011°

Petit Bois Island Reef with Eco Disc layout

(approximately 200 units)

Northeast corner

30.239790° -88.467767°



Southwest corner

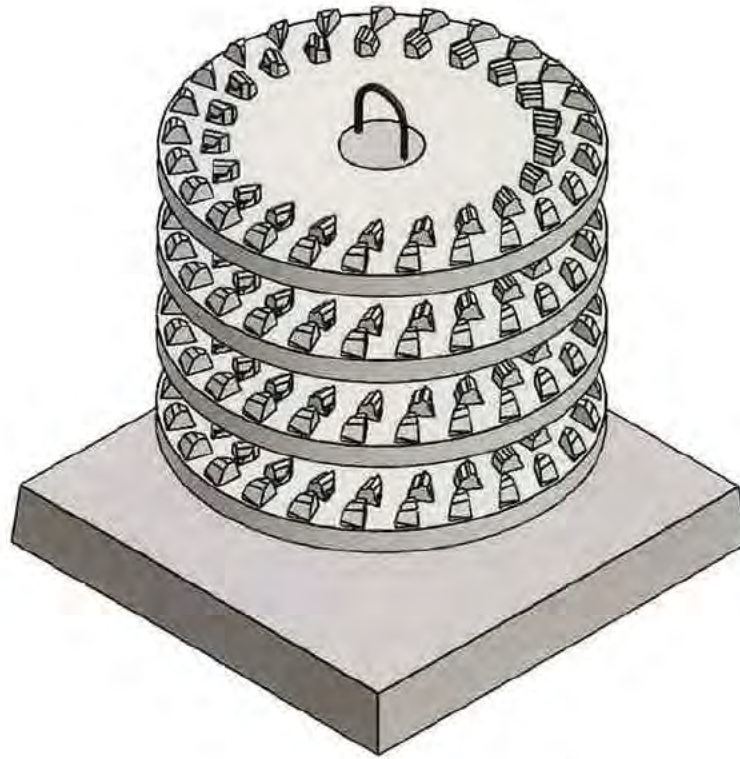
30.237915° -88.470935°

Southeast corner

30.237995° -88.467707°

# Eco Disc Reef

With 5' by 5' base and 4 disc stacked on top



ISO VIEW  
For Viewing Purpose Only

Note: rocks are not accurately modeled. Real rocks will have various size, shapes, and locations. Structure is made of rebar, limestone rocks, and concrete.



TITLE

Eco Disc

DWG NO.

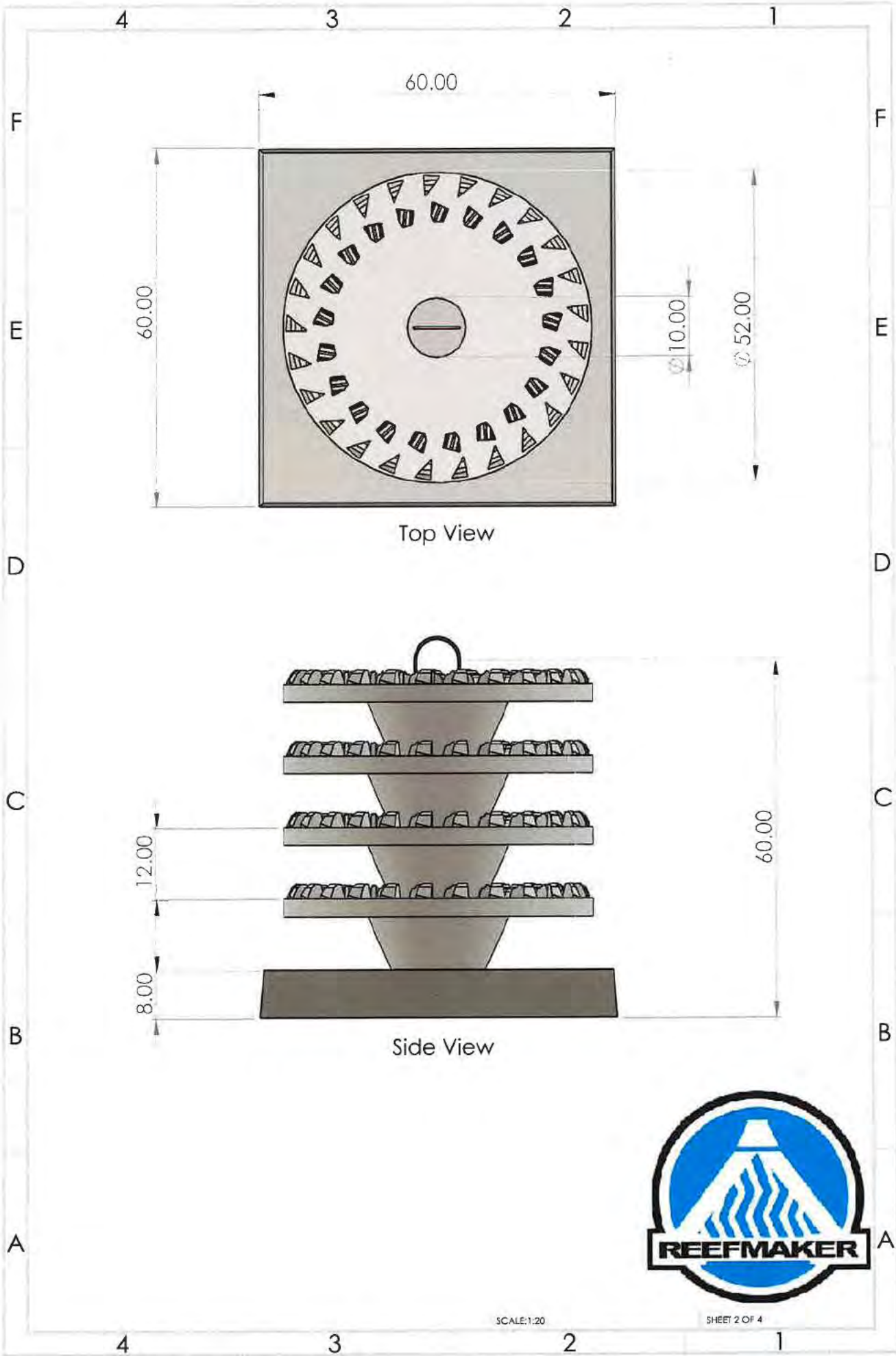
5x5 with 4 disc

A4

SCALE:1:50

SHEET 1 OF 4

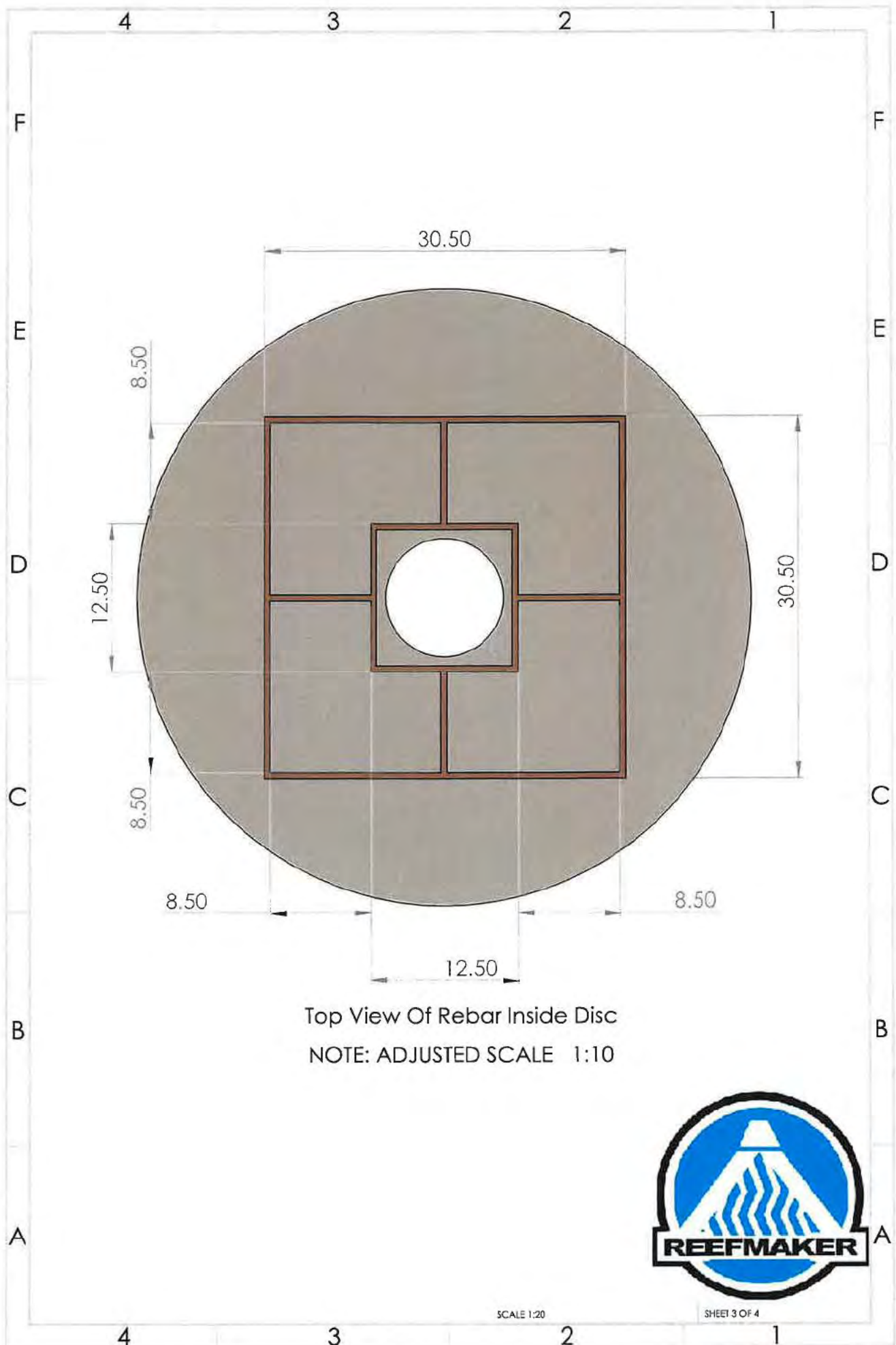




Top View

Side View





Top View Of Rebar Inside Disc  
 NOTE: ADJUSTED SCALE 1:10



