



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

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

**March 6, 2023**

**CEASAM-RD-III**

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-00356-KMN**

**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**  
**DMR23-000104**

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CAT ISLAND BENEFICIAL USE SITE FOR**  
**DISPOSAL OF DREDGED MATERIAL, HARRISON 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. Jared Harris**  
**1141 Bayview Avenue**  
**Biloxi, Mississippi 39530**

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:**

**Cat Island Beneficial Use Site:** Mississippi Sound, South End of Cat Island, Harrison County, Mississippi. Latitude 30.198136° North, Longitude -89.098033° West [NAD83]

**Borrow Area 1:** Mississippi Sound, West of Gulfport Federal Navigation Channel and Northeast of Cat Island, Harrison County, Mississippi. Latitude 30.251603° North, Longitude -89.023965° West [NAD83]

**Borrow Area 2:** Mississippi Sound, West of Gulfport Federal Navigation Channel and East of Cat Island, Harrison County, Mississippi. Latitude 30.2373676° North, Longitude -89.011039° West [NAD83]

**Borrow Area 3:** Mississippi Sound, West of Gulfport Federal Navigation Channel and East of Cat Island, Harrison County, Mississippi. Latitude 30.225610° North, Longitude -89.005048° West [NAD83]

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant is requesting a 10-year Department of the Army Permit to construct a beneficial use site for the placement of dredged material in the open

waters of the Mississippi Sound. The purpose of this project as stated by the applicant is to restore and create sand dune and marsh habitat at the southeastern tip of Cat Island that is similar to existing littoral habitats located on the southern and eastern shore of Cat Island, while also providing beneficial use (BU) capacity for dredged material from future dredging projects. The site would be located within the Mississippi Sound at the southeast end of Cat Island and approximately 9 miles southeast of Pass Christian, Mississippi. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) performed a beach and dune fill project on the eastern shore of Cat Island in 2017. The State-owned water bottoms were filled to an elevation above the mean high waterline which remain State-owned. The National Park Service (NPS) owns the land adjacent to state lands. The proposed 660-acre restoration project would not tie into NPS lands and would only tie into the previous USACE restoration project. The proposed 660-acre project site would be created in two phases and dredged material for construction of all portions of the project would be obtained from off-site locations.

**Phase I:** Approximately 250 acres would be constructed to include approximately 91 acres of berm, 173 acres of dune, and 42 acres of marsh. Approximately 4.2 to 6.7 million cubic yards of borrow material would be required for construction of the proposed 12,700 linear foot sand berm and dunes. The interior containment area would be able to hold approximately 575,000 to 750,000 cubic yards of dredged material. Depths at the proposed site range from approximately 0 feet to -11.1 feet MLLW.

**Phase 2:** Approximately 410 acres would be constructed to include approximately 71 acres of berm, 149 acres of dune, and 168 acres of marsh. Approximately 4.3 to 6.4 million cubic yards of borrow material would be required for construction of the proposed 12,300 linear foot sand berm and dunes. The interior containment area would be able to hold approximately 3.3 to 4.2 million cubic yards of dredged material. Depths at the proposed site range from approximately -1.6 feet to -11.6 feet MLLW.

**Sand Berms** (25,000 linear feet) would have design crest elevation of +8 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) (7.2 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD88]). The proposed seaward berm slopes would be 30 horizontal feet to 1 vertical foot (30H:1V) to match the geometry of the existing berms on Cat Island adjacent to the proposed project site. The Phase 2 marsh side berm slope would be 10H:1V. Sand for the proposed berms would be excavated from three potential USACE borrow sources located along the Port of Gulfport navigation channel. Material from the borrow sources would be mechanically or hydraulically excavated and mechanically or hydraulically offloaded at the proposed project site. The estimated total volume of material to be excavated would range from 8.5 to 13.1 million cubic yards. Within 3 years of completion of initial construction, if natural breaches in the sand berms have not occurred, gaps would be created in the containment berm to allow for tidal flushing of the site and ingress and egress of aquatic organisms. The physical dimensions of the breaches/gaps in the sand berms would be coordinated with regulatory agencies during final design.

**Dune habitat** would be created during the construction of the sand berms and would include all portions located above 1-foot MLLW (0.2 feet NAVD88) which should be primarily emergent during normal tidal conditions.

**Marsh habitat** elevations would vary between -0.5 feet to +3 feet MLLW (-1.3 to +2.2 feet NAVD88). Marsh planting is not anticipated as a component of the project. Due to the proximity of existing healthy marsh on Cat Island, natural recruitment is anticipated to provide seeding of the newly created BU areas. *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) and *Spartina patens* (salt meadow cordgrass) are two common marsh species known to exist on Cat Island and would be likely volunteers for recruitment to the newly constructed BU cells.

**Borrow Areas:** Material to be dredged for construction of the Sand Berms and Dunes would be obtained from material previously dredged from the Gulfport Federal Navigation Channel which is routinely tested by USACE.

**Borrow Area 1:** Approximately 520 acres to be cut 7.5 feet deep for use of material estimated at 6.3 million cubic yards. Depths currently at the proposed borrow site range from approximately -5.6 to -18.0 feet MLLW.

**Borrow Area 2:** Approximately 400 acres to be cut 13 feet deep for use of material estimated at 8.3 million cubic yards. Depths currently at the proposed borrow site range from approximately -10.8 feet to -16.0 feet MLLW.

**Borrow Area 3:** Approximately 200 acres to be cut 8 feet deep for use of material estimated at 2.6 million cubic yards. Depths currently at the proposed borrow site range from approximately -12.9 feet to -16.1 feet MLLW.

The applicant has applied for coastal zone (CZ) consistency 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. (DMR23-000104).

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE 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 USACE 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 USACE 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.

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 new 660-acre project site and the three borrow sites (520 acres, 400 acres, and 200 acres). 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 applicant has submitted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the permit area, which is currently under evaluation by the USACE for a federal determination of effects. The Mobile District is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

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 and their critical habitat are known or expected to 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), and Gulf Sturgeon (T-CH). At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination with regard to potential effects of the project on the above-listed species. Further

coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NMFS will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact the 660-acre project site and the three borrow sites (520 acres, 400 acres, and 200 acres) of marine/estuarine substrate utilized by various life stages of species. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would have no effect to EFH or Federally managed fisheries. 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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2022-00356-KMN** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: South Mississippi Branch (cesam-rd@usace.army.mil), with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Attention Ms. Carrie Barefoot (CBarefoot@mdeq.ms.gov), Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Attention: Ms. Anna Gamblin (Anna.Gamblin@dmr.ms.gov), 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, in time to be received within **30 days** of the date of this public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager for this application, **Kaaren M. Neumann (Kaaren.M.Neumann@usace.army.mil), phone (228) 386-8293**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at: [www.sam.usace.army.mil](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil) and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

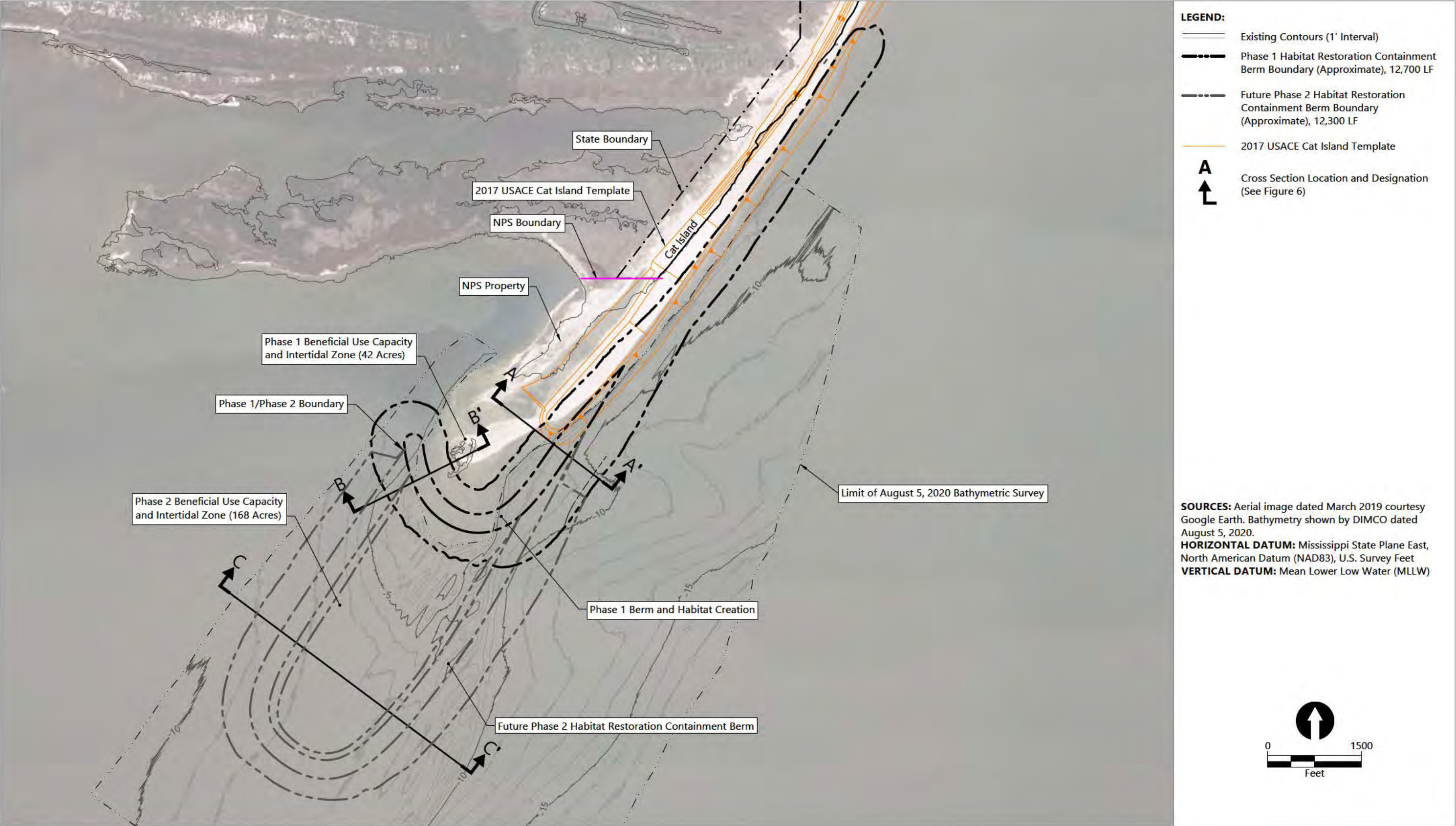
MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



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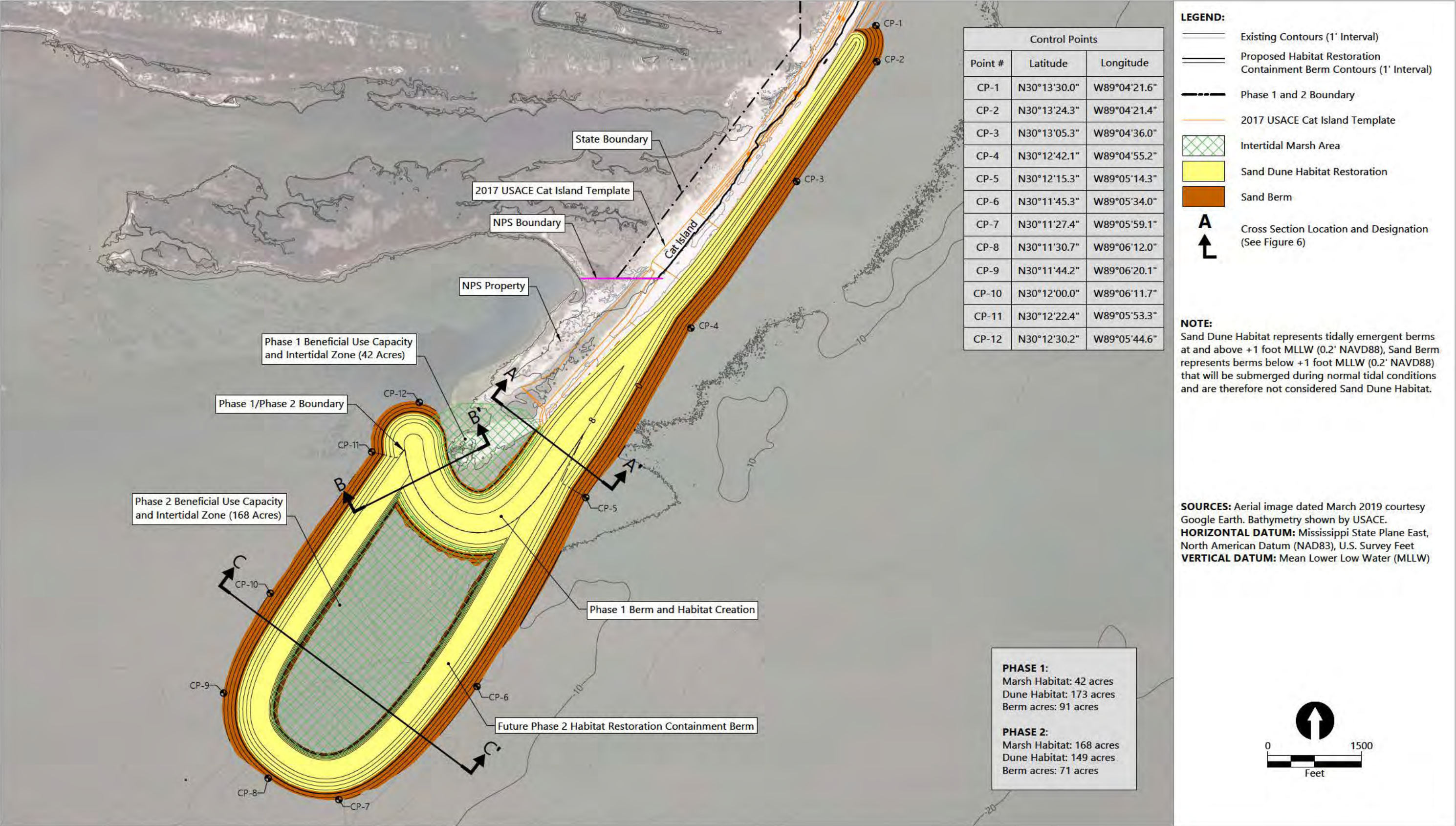


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**Figure 2**  
**Conceptual Site Layout**  
Cat Island Coastal Habitat Restoration Permit  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality





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**Figure 3**  
**Conceptual Site Layout**  
Cat Island Coastal Habitat Restoration Permit  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality





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**Figure 4**  
**Borrow Source Area Exploration Locations**  
Cat Island Coastal Habitat Restoration Permit  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

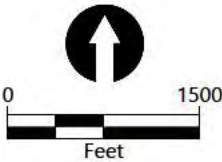




**LEGEND:**

- Existing Contours (1' Interval)
- 0715-04-001.000 Parcel Number
- Limits of Survey

**SOURCES:** Aerial image dated March 2019 courtesy Google Earth. Bathymetry shown by DIMCO dated August 5, 2020.  
**HORIZONTAL DATUM:** Mississippi State Plane East, North American Datum (NAD83), U.S. Survey Feet  
**VERTICAL DATUM:** Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)  
**NOTE:** Property information obtained from Harrison County, Mississippi G.I.S.

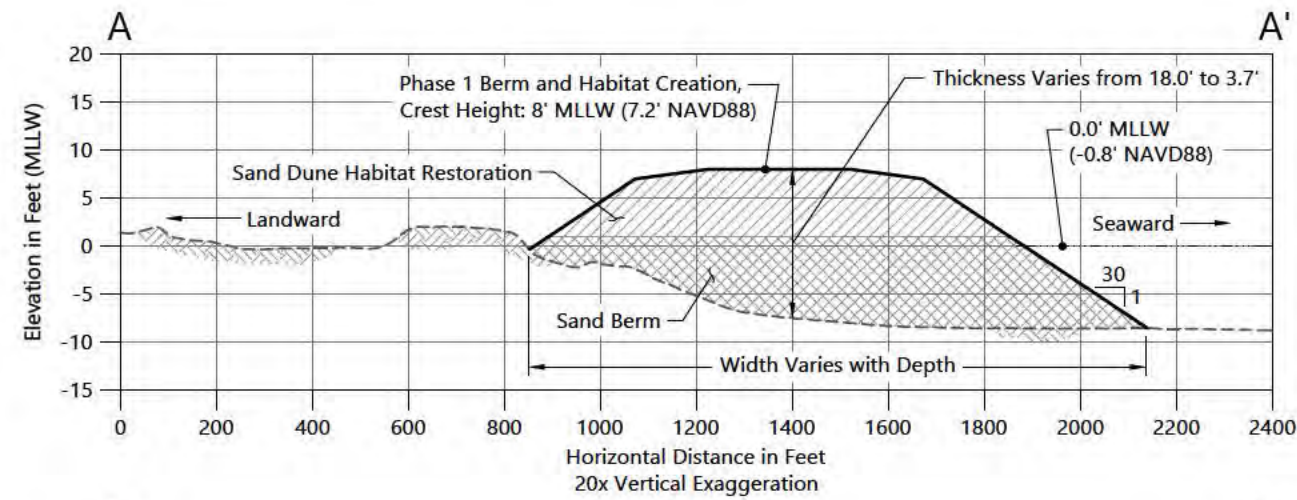


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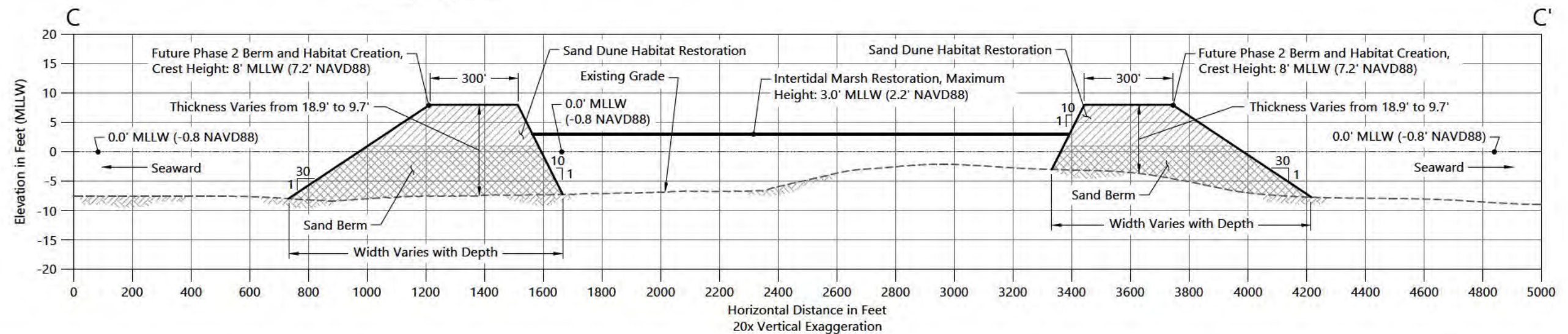
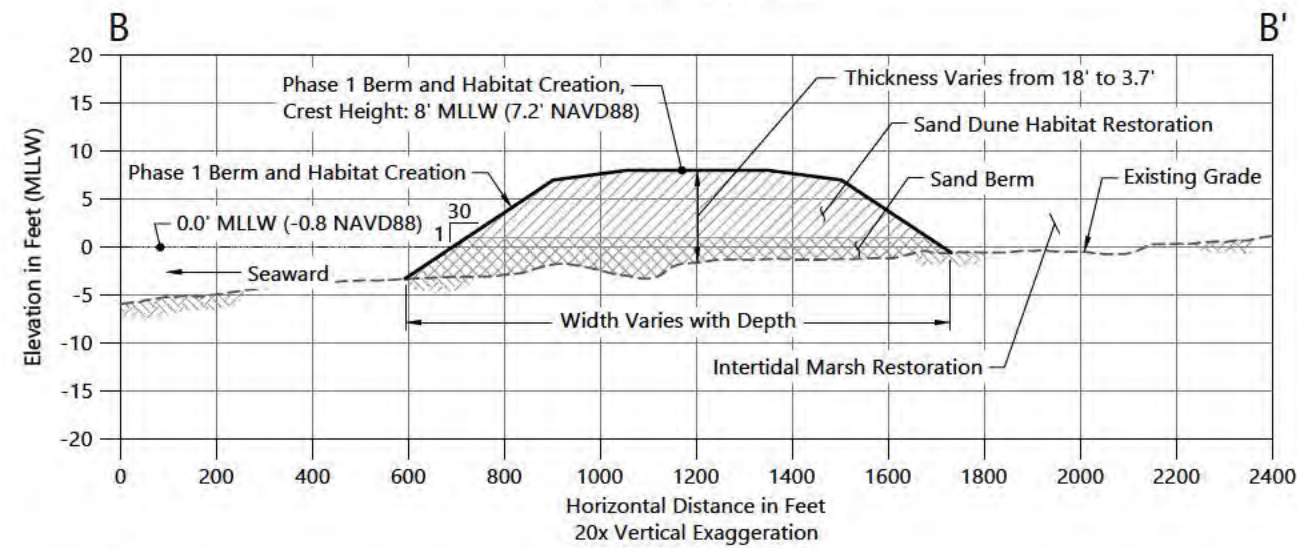


**Figure 5**  
**Adjacent Property Owners**  
Cat Island Coastal Habitat Restoration Permit  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

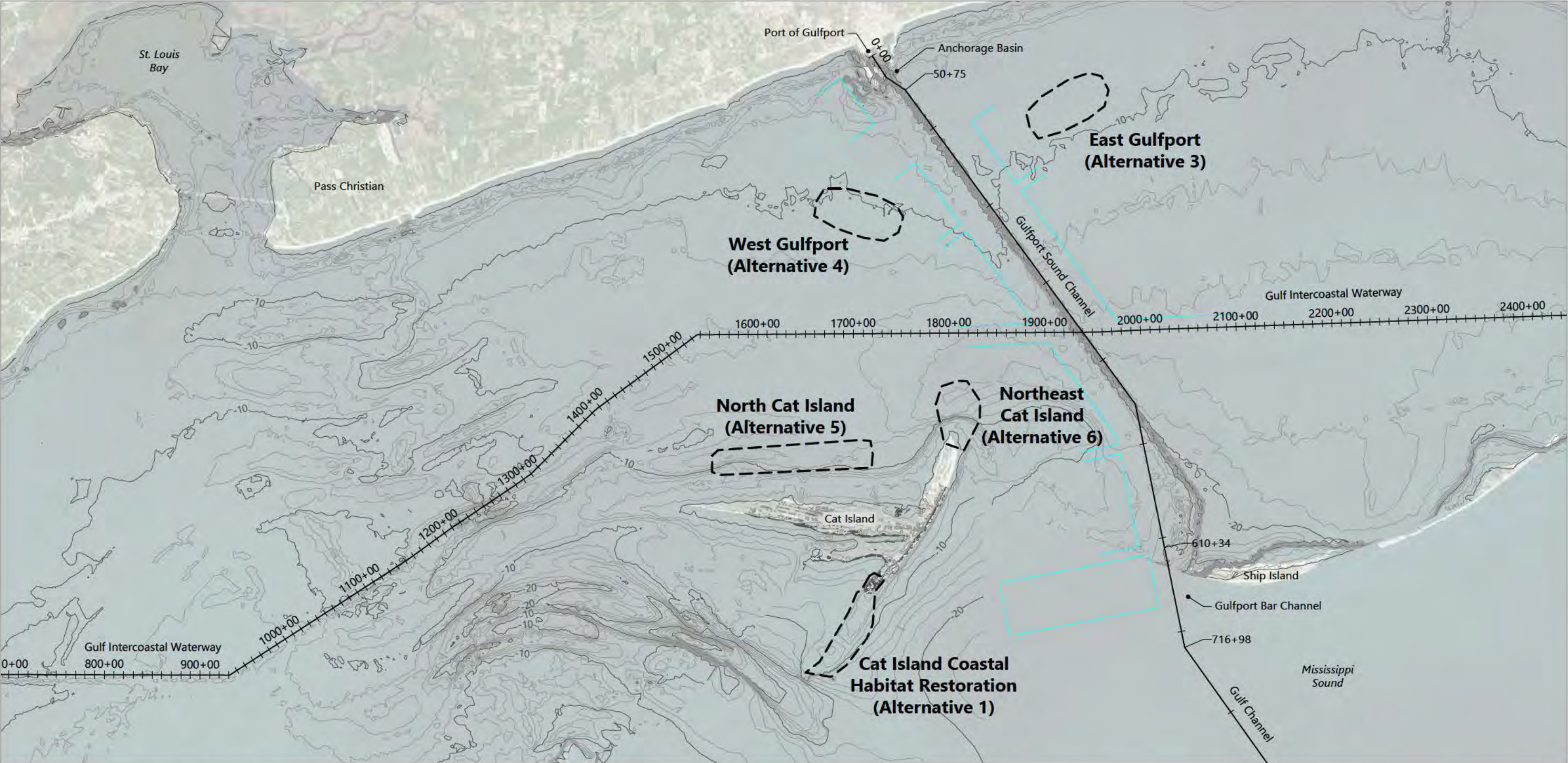




**NOTE:**  
Sand Dune Habitat represents tidally emergent berms at and above +1 foot MLLW (0.2' NAVD88), Sand Berm represents berms below +1 foot MLLW (0.2' NAVD88) that will be submerged during normal tidal conditions and are therefore not considered Sand Dune Habitat.







**SOURCE:** Aerial image ©2018 Microsoft Corporation ©2018 DigitalGlobe ©CNES (2018) Distribution Airbus DS.  
Bathymetry shown is a composite of surveys obtained from NOS and NOAA. The survey dates range from 1960 to 2007.  
**HORIZONTAL DATUM:** Mississippi State Plane East, North American Datum (NAD83), U.S. Survey Feet  
**VERTICAL DATUM:** Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)

**LEGEND:**



Existing Contours (2' Interval)  
Alternative Beneficial Use (BU) Area

900+00



Centerline of Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)



Disposal Locations (Approximate)

