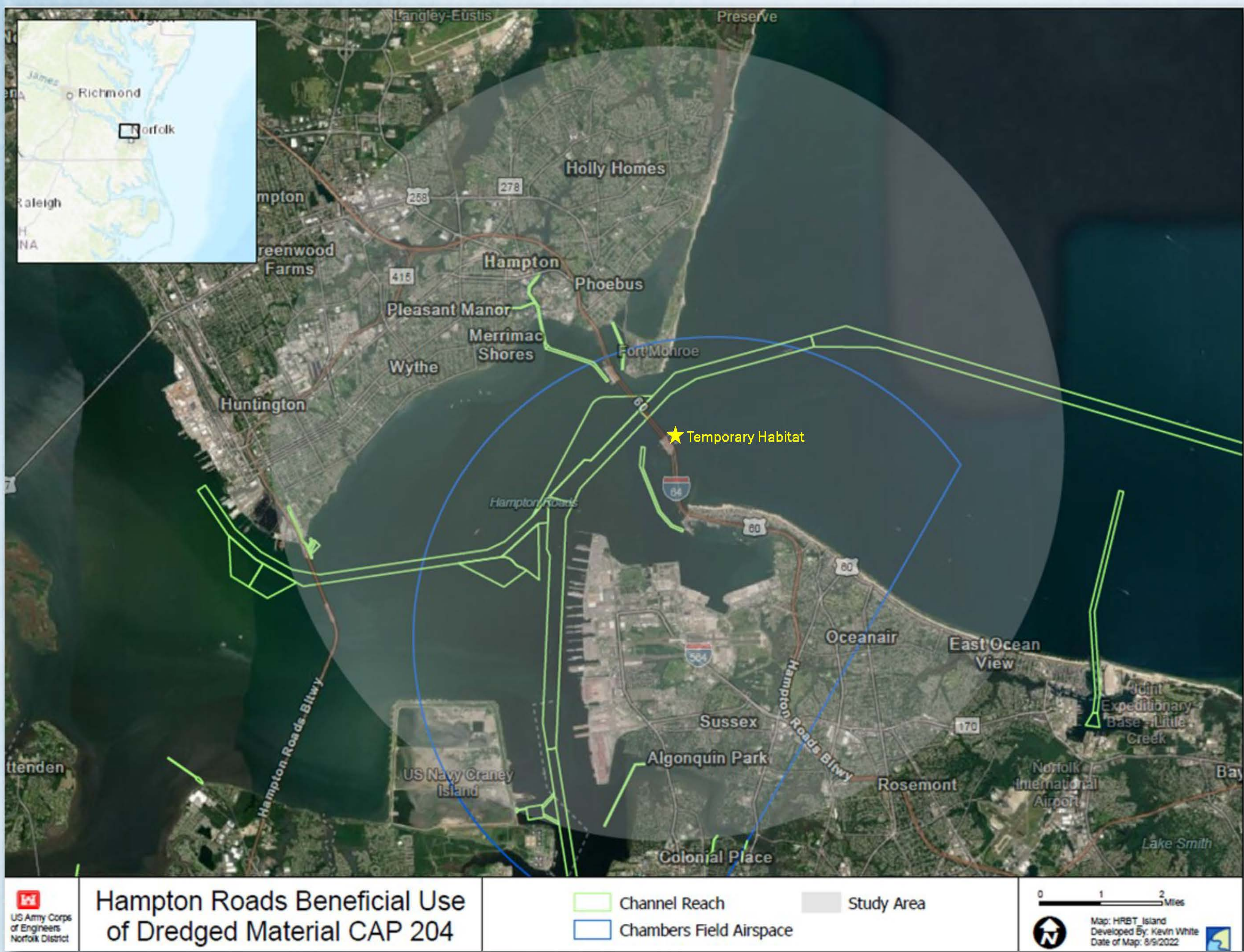


HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

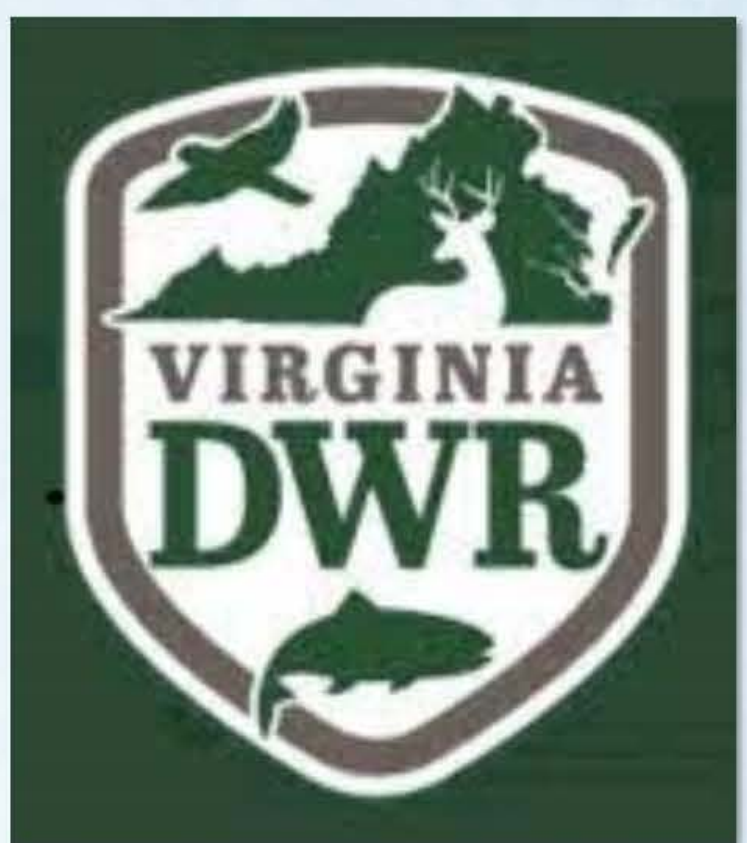


PROJECT AUTHORITY

Continuing Authorities Program (Section 204)
The Water Resources Development Act of 1992, CAP Section 204, provides authority for the USACE to beneficially use material dredged from authorized federal navigation channels for the protection, restoration, and creation of aquatic and related habitats.

SPONSOR

**Virginia Department of
Wildlife Resources**



PURPOSE AND NEED

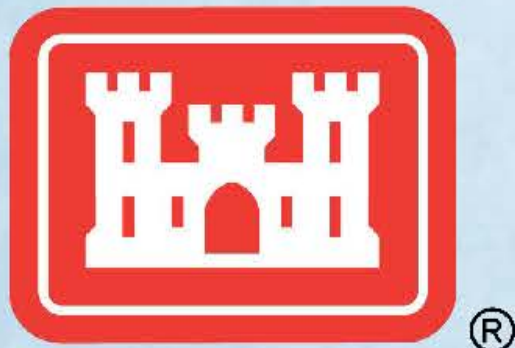
A large multispecies colony and the only one of its kind on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay was displaced from the South Island of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel in 2020.



The project is located within Norfolk Harbor, the southeastern region of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay, midway on the Atlantic Seaboard.

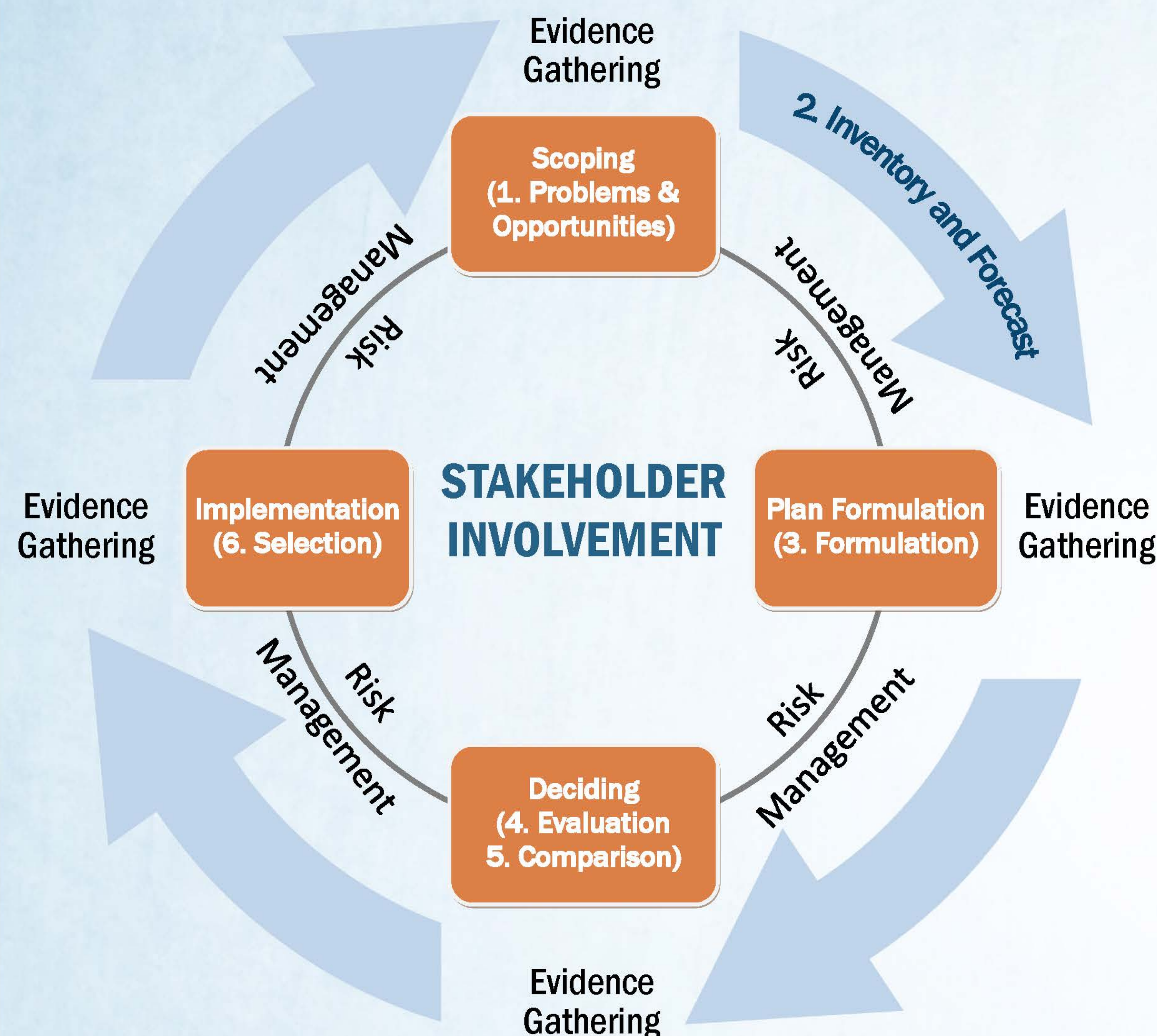


A temporary habitat was created for the seabird colony at Fort Wool by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources but is insufficient in habitat size for the colony's biological needs. The temporary location continues the increased risk of aircraft and vehicular bird strike.



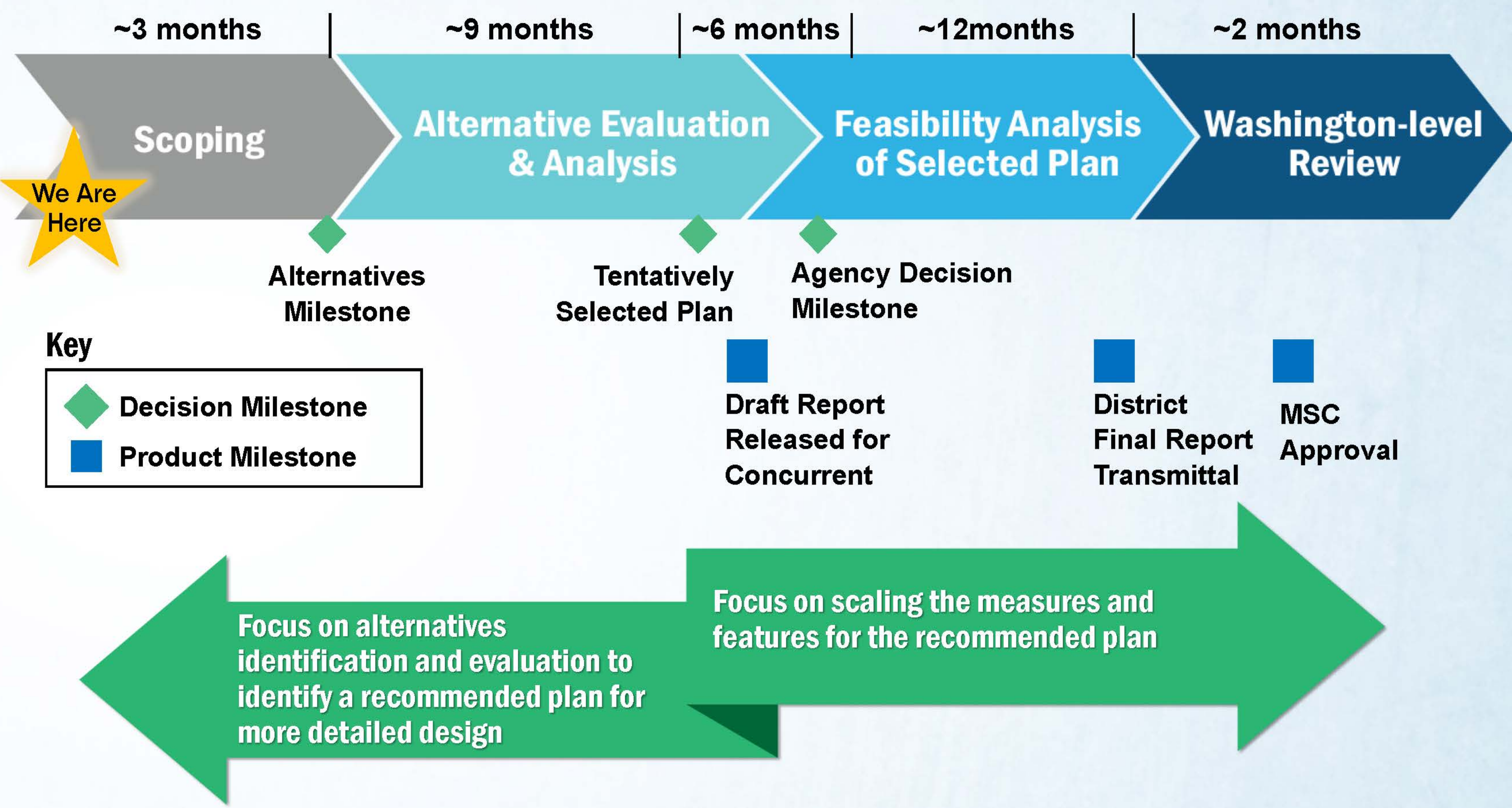
HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

PLANNING PROCESS

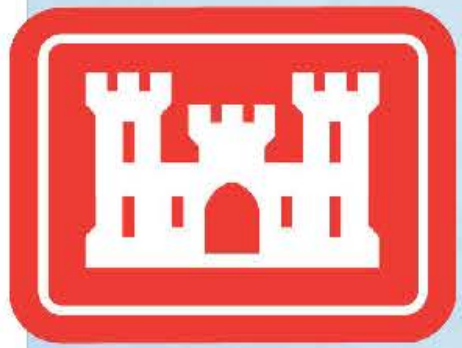


THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS:

Key Decision & Product Milestones



PTD ACTION	DATE
Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)	April 15, 2023
Final NEPA document submittal	January 15, 2024
Final Report Approval by NAD	February 28, 2024
Signature of NEPA decision document	March 28, 2024



HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

PROBLEMS

- Seabird colony displaced after 40-year site fidelity at the South Island of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.
- Temporary habitat is insufficient in size to meet the colony's habitat requirements and has resulted in decreased chick survival.
- Temporary habitat continues the increased risk of bird strike with vehicles and aircraft.

OPPORTUNITIES

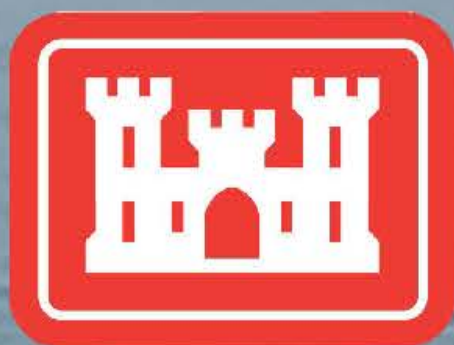
- Incorporate measures into the design of new seabird habitat to provide aquatic habitat benefits for resident and migratory fish species.
- Increased use of island by migratory/wintering shore birds.
- Construction of a permanent habitat will allow historical value of Fort Wool to be restored and preserved.
- Locating the permanent habitat near navigation channels will reduce costs and ensure habitat resilience.

OBJECTIVES

- To create a safe, permanent and suitable seabird habitat in Hampton Roads that is sustainable and resilient from 2025 to 2075 (i.e. the period of analysis).
- To provide ecological benefits to multiple species in Norfolk Harbor from 2025 to 2075.
- To beneficially use dredged material from federal navigation projects in Hampton Roads for aquatic ecosystem restoration from 2025 to 2075.
- To improve safety in Hampton Roads by reducing potential bird strike with vehicles and aircraft from 2025 to 2075.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Avoid areas with significant cultural and/or environmental resources.
- Avoid the Naval Station Norfolk Chambers Field Air Space limits.
- Avoid the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Air Space limits.
- Avoid measures or plans that cause or contribute to the increased risk of predator populations.
- Minimize placement of unsuitable material.
- Avoid the placement of material outside a 2-mile radius from source.
- Avoid activities that impact current navigation channels, operations, and practices.
- Avoid non cost-effective measures and alternatives.



HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Distance from Highway

Depth contours
for quantities

U.S. Navy Air Space/
Joint Base Langley-Eustis
Air Space

Distance from Fort Wool

Public and private shellfish
grounds/leases

Pumping Distance

Current and Velocities

Absence of Submerged
Aquatic Vegetation

BIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Slope/Elevation

allow some washover
but withstand sea level
rise

Habitat Size

10-12 acres to support

Accessibility

Ability to deploy
attractants and do
maintenance

Distance from Mammalian Predators

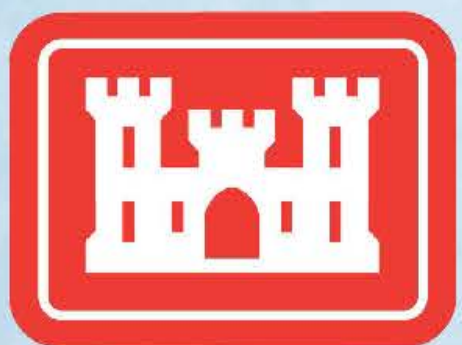
2.5km from shore

Distance from current site

≤21 km due to seabird
site fidelity

Substrate Composition

sand, gravel, shell



HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

POTENTIAL MEASURES



Addition/enhancement to existing habitat



Island creation with armoring



Island creation without armoring



Installation of artificial reef structures



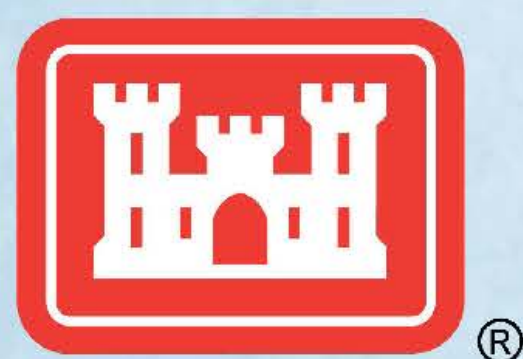
Living shoreline—dune/marsh grasses



Living shoreline—oyster seeding revetment



Living shoreline—SAV



HAMPTON ROADS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROJECT

PUBLIC INPUT DURING SCOPING

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- One of the nation's oldest environmental laws.
- Applies to federal agencies.
- Requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed actions in a public document.
- Encourages federal agencies to make environmentally responsible decisions.

What type of NEPA document will be prepared?

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- An EA would be prepared if there are no anticipated significant impacts. An EIS would be prepared if there are anticipated significant impacts.
- If preparation of an EIS is needed, a Notice of Intent would be published online in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov>) and the NEPA public scoping period would be extended.

What environmental topics may be considered?

- Air Quality
- Climate Change/ Sea Level Rise
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Demographics
- Economics
- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Hazardous, toxic, and radioactive materials
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Navigation
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Protected Species
- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
- Traffic
- Water Quality

How can I provide comments?

You may fill out a written comment form at this meeting and place it in the comment box.

You may e-mail or mail comments to:

Gina Dotolo

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk District
Planning and Policy Branch
803 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone Number:
757-201-7862

Email:
Gina.M.Dotolo@usace.army.mil



What is "scoping"?

"Scoping" is the step in the NEPA process when the public is invited to participate in identifying issues, alternatives, and potentially significant effects to be considered in the analysis. This helps the USACE identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review.

