To: 'Habel, Mark L NAE'[Mark.L.Habel@usace.army.mil]; Brochi, Jean[Brochi.Jean@epa.gov]
Cc: Salvatore, Joseph R.[Joseph.Salvatore@ct.gov]
From: Wisker, George
Sent: Thur 6/27/2013 1:40:08 PM
Subject: FW: Dredging press clippings

FYI ☺

From: Blatt, David
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 9:11 AM
To: Wisker, George; Francis, Peter; Golembiewski, Brian; Thompson, Brian; Valente, Laurie
Subject: Dredging press clippings
Importance: Low

What, no comments from Adrienne Esposito?

Search is on for dumping site in Long Island Sound for dredge disposal

By Judy Benson

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Groton - Six areas of eastern Long Island Sound will be studied to choose where the sediments that accumulate and clog navigation channels, harbors and marinas will be dumped after 2016.

Currently, there are two dredge disposal sites in the eastern Sound, one at Cornfield Shoals off Old Saybrook, and the other off New London between the mouth of the Thames River and the northwestern tip of Fishers Island. The two areas, which opened in the 1990s, are scheduled to close in December 2016.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates dredge disposal with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update at a meeting Wednesday at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus of its study of possible new sites for the 13.5 million cubic yards of sediments expected to be

dredged in the eastern sound through 2028.

The Army Corps is also studying alternative ways of managing dredge material, such as using uncontaminated material to rebuild shoreline areas, build marshes and created islands for wildlife habitat, said Mark Habel, project manager for the northeastern district of the Army Corps.

The six areas identified for further study emerged after eliminating other areas of the eastern Sound that are too shallow, or that are critical for navigation, shellfishing, have underwater cables or are important for their recreational, biological, archeological and cultural resources, explained Bernward Hay, facilitator with the Louis Berger Group, the firm hired by the EPA to do the study.

Of the six, four are new areas: Clinton Harbor and the nearby Six Mile Reef; an area off Niantic Bay; and another off of Orient Point, Long Island. In addition, the impacts of dredge dumping on the Cornfield Shoals and the New London sites will be evaluated, and, depending on the outcome, one or both areas may be considered for reactivation after 2016, said Jean Brochi, project manager for the EPA.

Brochi said the results of the evaluation of the six sites will be presented at a meeting in the winter, and the public will have a chance to give feedback before one or more areas are selected.

During public comment, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe of Audubon Connecticut urged that uncontaminated dredge spoils be used to create islands for bird habitat. She also suggested material be placed to restore the roseate tern nesting area at Falkner Island in Guilford, part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The nesting area was badly damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

Bill Spicer, owner of Spicer's Marina in Noank, said the needs of the Fishers Island Sound area need to be considered. He is a member of the EPA's stakeholders' committee for the dredge site project.

"If we're working in Fishers Island Sound, we use small, shallow draft equipment," he said. "We need sites that will be accessible to us."

He added that no fewer that two dredge disposal sites should be created to replace the two scheduled to close in 2016.

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