



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

**Wes Moore**, Governor  
**Aruna Miller**, Lt. Governor

**Serena McIlwain**, Secretary  
**Suzanne E. Dorsey**, Deputy Secretary  
**Adam Ortiz**, Deputy Secretary

July 1, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
Attn: Ms. Kristina May  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Via email: [Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil)

Re: Agency Interest Number: 175659  
Tracking Number: 202560825  
Water Quality Certification Number: 25-WQC-0019EX

Dear Kristina May:

After examination and consideration of the documents received and evidence in the file and record for emergency dredging of the Ocean City Inlet, the Water and Science Administration has determined that the project meets the statutory and regulatory criteria necessary to grant with conditions an individual Water Quality Certification (WQC).

The individual WQC for this project issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (Department) is attached. Please read and review the WQC for this project to ensure that you understand the limits of the certified project and all of the special and general conditions. The attached WQC is a final agency decision. Any person aggrieved by the Department's decision to issue this WQC may appeal such a decision in accordance with COMAR 26.08.02.10F(4). A request for appeal shall be filed with the Department within 30 days of publication of the final decision in the Maryland Register and specify in writing the reason why the final decision should be reconsidered. A request for appeal shall be submitted to: Secretary of the Environment, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. Any request for an appeal does not stay the effectiveness of this WQC.

You should not begin any work until you have obtained all necessary State, local, and federal authorizations. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov](mailto:danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov) or 410-537-4023 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Danielle A. Spendiff, Chief  
Regulatory and Customer Service Division



STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION



WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

25-WQC-0019EX

EFFECTIVE DATE: **July 1, 2025**

EXPIRATION DATE: **August 15, 2025**

CERTIFICATION HOLDER: **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Attn: Ms. Kristina May**

PROJECT LOCATION: **Ocean City Inlet  
(38° 19' 32.3328" N, 75° 5' 33.8928" W)  
Ocean City, MD 21622  
(Worcester County, Maryland)**

**UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AND ITS AMENDMENTS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH §9-313 THROUGH §9-323, INCLUSIVE, OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THE WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION ("ADMINISTRATION") HAS DETERMINED THAT THE REGULATED ACTIVITY DESCRIBED IN THE REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF DREDGING AT THE US COAST GUARD YARD WILL NOT VIOLATE MARYLAND'S WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IF CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CERTIFICATION.**

THIS CERTIFICATION DOES NOT RELIEVE THE APPLICANT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING ANY OTHER APPROVALS, LICENSES, OR PERMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND DOES NOT AUTHORIZE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. A COPY OF THIS REQUIRED CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (CORPS). THE CERTIFICATION HOLDER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS LISTED BELOW.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) proposes emergency side cast dredging of three locations within the existing Ocean City Inlet and one location within the Isle of Wight Bay Channel where the Channel meets the Inlet located in Worcester County, Maryland. Up to 10,000 cubic yards of material consisting primarily of medium/coarse grain sand will be removed using a hydraulic dredge and will be side cast to the sides of the channel. The dredged material will be discharged from an arm that extends about 85' from the dredging site. The Ocean City Inlet will be dredged to its authorized dimensions - 10 feet MLLW with up to 2 feet of allowable overdredge.

This Water Quality Certification (Certification) is issued under authority of Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and its Amendments, Title 9, Subtitle 3 of the Environment Article, and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.08.02.10. The Maryland Department of the Environment (Department) has determined from a review of the request application file that the project activities described in the above will not violate Maryland's water quality standards, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

The Certification Holder shall comply with the following conditions:

### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. Notify the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Program via email to [environmentalreview.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:environmentalreview.dnr@maryland.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the start of any dredging operation and also upon completion of the dredging operation.
2. Provide the Department with a turbidity monitoring plan prior to commencement of dredging. No work authorized in this Certification can commence prior to the Department's approval of the Turbidity Monitoring Plan. The Turbidity Monitoring Plan shall be submitted for review and approval at least 3 days prior to the commencement of any work in this Certification. Unless waived by the Department, the Certification Holder shall implement and comply with the Turbidity Monitoring Plan, which will detail support for the implementation of appropriate practices to protect water quality, marine life, and estuarine habitat, and include testing/monitoring turbidity related to dredging activities. It will provide benchmarks and corrective actions if those benchmarks are exceeded. The Turbidity Monitoring Plan can only be modified upon approval by the Department.
3. Monitor turbidity in the surface water. Levels may not exceed 150 Nephelometer Turbidity Units (NTU) at any time outside the "mixing zone" as established in the monitoring plan.
4. Dredging may not exceed the scope of this Certification in terms of authorized dredge area, volume of material, and authorized depths.
5. All dredging activities shall be conducted in a window of time between July 2025 and August 2025. This Certification provides no justification or assurances for future dredging. All proposed dredging projects shall be evaluated on the biological and physical characteristics of the project site at the time an application is made.
6. In the event of any inadvertent returns resulting from failure of any dredge equipment, the Certification Holder shall cease operations immediately and shall:
  - a. Take steps to stop all dredged material from entering State waters; and

- b. Notify the Compliance Program immediately at 410-537-3510.

### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. Avoid conducting activities that interfere with the movement of aquatic life, fish, or other wildlife.
2. Implement and comply with all final approved plans, permits, and modifications that are approved by the State and/or the Corps, as applicable. The approved plans, permits and modifications by MDE and/or the Corps are incorporated by reference into this Certification.
3. Limit any disturbance of the substrate to the authorized area and prevent sediment transport into adjacent State waters.
4. Avoid placing stockpiles of any material in Waters of the U.S. or waters of the state, unless otherwise authorized by the approving authority.
5. Obtain any other authorizations or approvals that the Department requires, including General Permits, and comply with all conditions of such authorizations or approvals.
6. Obtain any required authorizations or approvals from other State, federal, or local agencies.
7. Refrain from causing any injury to private property, invasion of rights, or infringement of federal, State, or local laws or regulations.
8. Inspection and entry. The Certification Holder shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the Certification Holder's premises where a certified activity or operation is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Certification; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Department, any substances or parameters at any location.
  - e. Allow the Department's authorized representatives access to the Project during normal business hours to conduct inspections and evaluations of operations and records to verify compliance with this Certification.

### **STATEMENTS OF NECESSITY AND CITATIONS**

1. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 1: The condition is necessary to ensure that dredged material does not increase turbidity in violation of general and numeric water quality standards and interfere with designated uses. Environmental Review ensures that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by other agencies do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species.

Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.01; COMAR 26.08.02.07

2. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 2: The condition is necessary to ensure that dredged material does not increase turbidity in violation of general and numeric water quality standards and interfere with designated uses.

Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.03-3A(5); COMAR 26.08.02.03-3C(5)COMAR 26.08.02.03-3C(9)(a); 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); 26.08.02.02B(3); 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); 26.08.02.03B(2)(e); 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03-3C

3. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 3: The condition is necessary to ensure that no discharges would violate water quality standards and designated uses for water clarity, turbidity, growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife; and water contact recreation

Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B; 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.24

4. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 4: The condition is necessary to ensure that water depths and limits on the scope of dredging are appropriate post-dredging to support designated uses of fishing and water contact recreation and growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife; and ensure that no discharges are unsightly, create a nuisance, change to an objectionable color or interfere with designated uses or would violate water quality standards for water clarity and turbidity.

Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.01B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1) COMAR 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B;

5. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 5: The condition is necessary to prevent future additional dredging from resulting in discharges that result in impacts to water quality, clarity, growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, wildlife; and will maintain designated uses for support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and shellfish harvesting.

Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B;

6. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 6: The condition is necessary to ensure that the placement does not interfere with navigational safety and designated uses for water contact recreation and fishing, nor create a nuisance.

Citation: COMAR 26.08.02.01B(1) and B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(a); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(2)(d)

7. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4: The condition is necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained.

Citations: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.01; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

8. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 5, 6: Fill or construction material within or adjacent to regulated resources may cause discharges resulting in turbidity in excess of water quality standards and interfere with designated uses of growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, wildlife; and other designated uses; and fail to meet general water quality criteria that waters not be polluted by substances in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or create a nuisance.

Citations: 26.08.02.03B(1)-B(2); COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

9. Statement of Necessity for General Condition 7, 8: Conditions of certification involve precise actions to comply with water quality standards. Site inspection may be necessary to ensure that limits, methods, and other requirements are met to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained.

Citations: Federal and state laws that authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

This Certification is valid for the Project identified herein and the associated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorization until such time that it expires. Failure to comply with these conditions may subject the Certification Holder to criminal and/or civil penalties or other enforcement action in accordance with applicable law.

CERTIFICATION APPROVED:

DATE:

*Matthew C. Rowe*

Jun 30, 2025

Matthew C. Rowe (Jun 30, 2025 17:53 EDT)

D. Lee Currey, Director  
Water and Science Administration

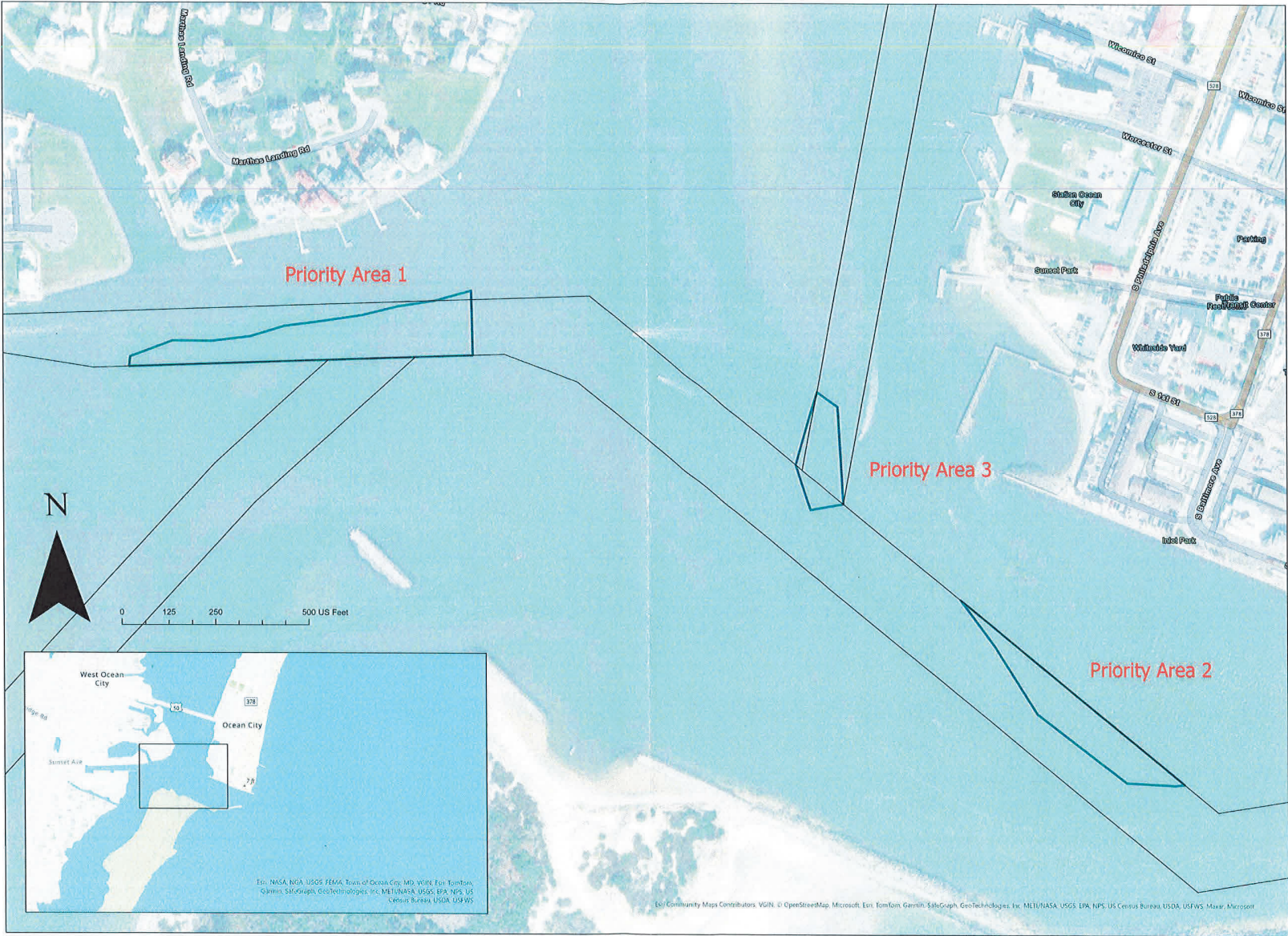
Tracking Number: 202560825  
Agency Interest Number: 175659

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Enclosure: Plan Sheets

cc: WSA Inspection & Compliance Program

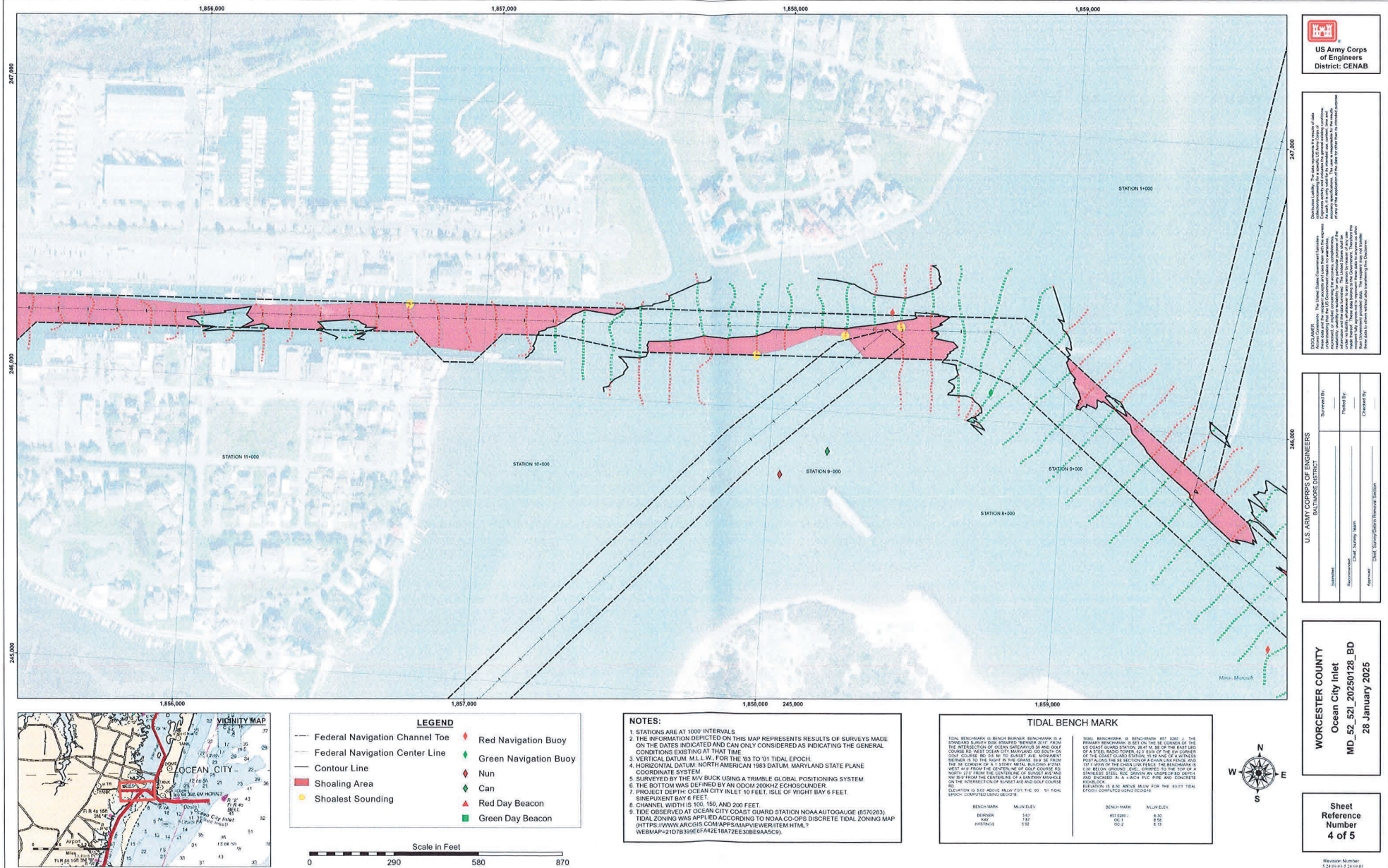




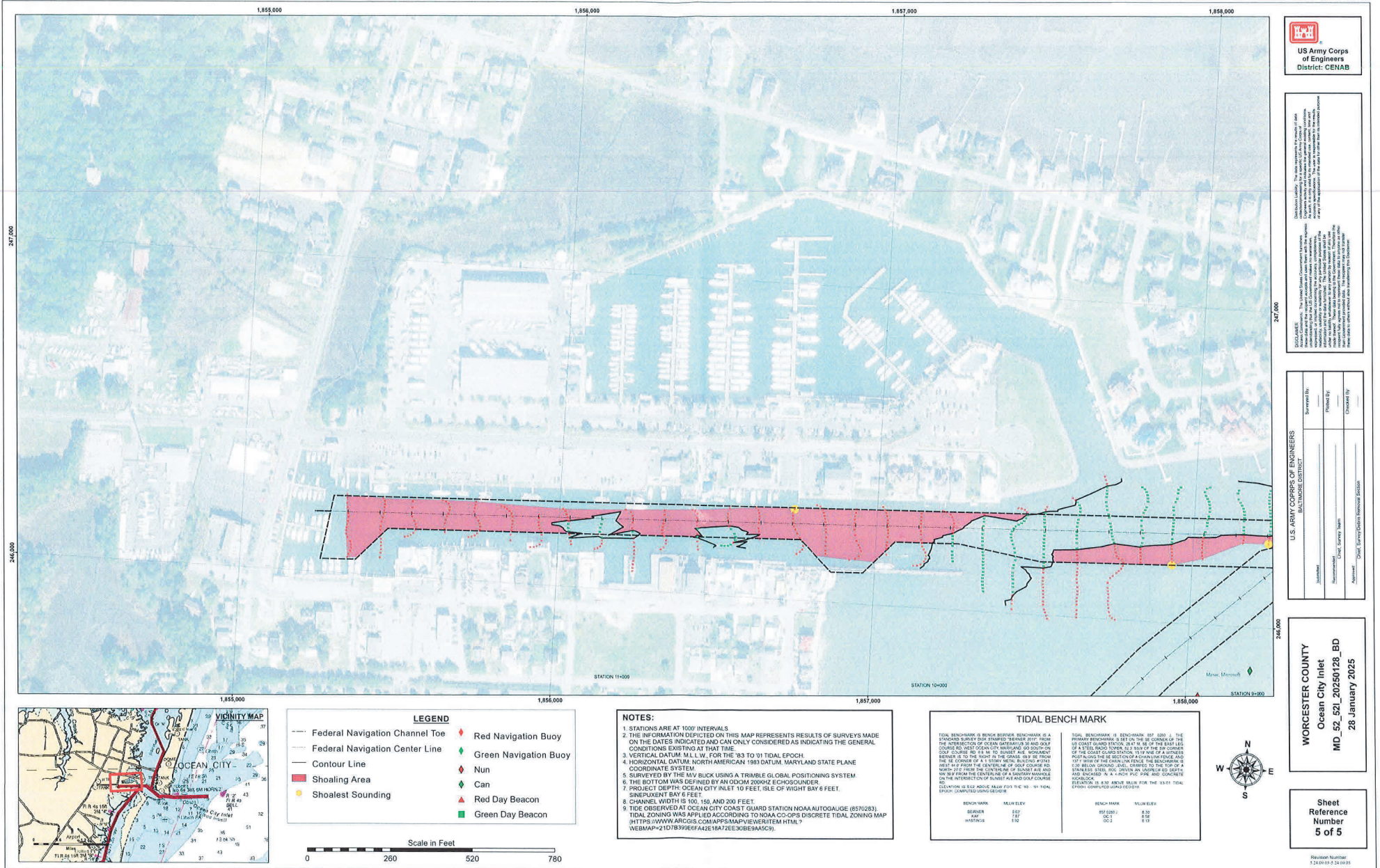












# OCEAN CITY HARBOR AND INLET CHANNEL COORDINATES

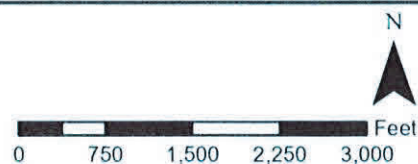
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1855287.50	246241.70	5+714.52	1860995.70	244953.10		1858620.70	246204.50
		6+214.52	1860502.20	244872.80		1857521.30	246167.30
		7+014.59	1859884.50	245381.30		1857259.80	246208.40
		8+474.66	1858757.20	246309.20		1857059.90	246201.70
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

## Ocean City Inlet Worcester County, Maryland









# **\*\*Emergency WQC needed 7/1\*\* 25-WQC-0019EX\_w. plans**

Final Audit Report

2025-06-30

Created:	2025-06-30
By:	Danielle Spendiff (danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA5W8OV5frH1zRLPe4yf3ar9MBp0ULXk2

## **"\*\*Emergency WQC needed 7/1\*\* 25-WQC-0019EX\_w. plans" History**

-  Document created by Danielle Spendiff (danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov)  
2025-06-30 - 5:41:39 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov for signature  
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-  Email viewed by mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov  
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-  Signer mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov entered name at signing as Matthew C. Rowe  
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-  Document e-signed by Matthew C. Rowe (mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov)  
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-  Agreement completed.  
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