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Search New England District

ABOUT BUSINESS WITH US MISSIONS CAREERS MEDIA CONTACT

HOME > MEDIA > NEWS RELEASES

News Release Archive

2017 (84)

2016 (118)

2015 (128)

2014 (154)

2013 (128)

2012 (125)

2011 (73)

Public Affairs Menu

News Releases

State Update Reports

Photos/Imagery

Library

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Corps to finish dredging Menemsha Creek Federal navigation project in Chilmark, Aguinnah this fall

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CONCORD, Mass. - A new contractor has been selected to dredge the remaining sandy shoal material in the Menemsha Creek Federal navigation project (FNP) in Aquinnah and Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District terminated the prior dredging company in March 2017 after it did not complete all work last season.

On June 7, 2017, the District signed a take-over agreement with the project's bonding company, U.S. Specialty Insurance Company, of Houston, Texas, to hire a new firm to complete the remaining dredging, and repair those items which were damaged by the previous contractor. The selected dredging firm, H & L Dredging, of Bay Shores, New York, has successfully completed other hydraulic dredging projects of similar size and complexity for the New England District.

Mobilization of equipment is expected to begin in mid-September 2017 and dredging is scheduled to start on or about Oct. 1, 2017 and take about 4-5 weeks to complete.

"The remaining effort to complete the project consists of hydraulically dredging up to approximately 39,000 cubic yards of sandy material in the Federal channel connecting Vineyard Sound to Menemsha Pond," said Project Manager Craig Martin, of the Corps' New England District, Programs/Project Management Division in Concord, Mass. The sandy dredge material will be pumped via pipeline about 1.5 miles west along Lobsterville Beach to the placement site near an area of erosion adjacent to State Road in Aquinnah.

Dredging and disposal will be performed between Oct. 1 and Jan. 15 to minimize impact to natural resources in the area. The project will be managed by the Corps under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements. The Menemsha Creek Federal navigation project is located on the northwestern end of Martha's Vineyard, about 12 miles southwest of Falmouth, Mass.

For details on the Menemsha Creek Federal navigation project visit:

www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/Massachusetts/Menemsha.aspx. A map is available at: www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Navigation/MA/MEN/MENmap.pdf.















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NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Search New England District

ABOUT BUSINESS WITH US MISSIONS CAREERS MEDIA CONTACT

HOME > MISSIONS > CIVIL WORKS > NAVIGATION > MASSACHUSETTS > MENEMSHA

Civil Works Menu

Civil Works Overview

Flood Risk Management

River Basins

Navigation

Shore and Bank Protection

Ecosystem Restoration

Menemsha Creek Navigation Project

Menemsha Creek, located on the Gay Head/Chilmark town line, is a small tidal inlet on the western end of Martha's Vineyard, about 11 miles southwest of Woods Hole. The waterway serves host to a U.S. Coast Guard station and is used by recreational craft, a small fishing fleet, and transient boats.

The project was completed by the Corps in 1950 and consists of:

- · A channel 10 feet deep and 80 feet wide extending from the two jetties at the entrance of Menemsha Creek for a distance of 700 feet:
- · A channel eight feet deep and 80 feet wide that starts at the end of the aforementioned 10-foot-deep channel and continues for 1.2 miles to deep water in Menemsha Pond.
- · An anchorage area, known as Menemsha Basin, located immediately inside the left (east) jetty at the entrance to Menemsha Creek. The anchorage is divided into northern and southern sections; the northern section is 10 feet deep and 250-300 feet wide, while the southern section is six feet deep and narrows as it approaches land.
- · Maintenance of the two existing nonfederal stone jetties at the entrance to Menemsha Creek. Each jetty is about 250 feet long.















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