Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 14425
MEPA Analyst: Bill Gage
Phone: 617-626-1025

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: 10 Year Comprehensive Maintenance Dredge and Beach Nourishment Permit		
Street:		
Municipality:Edgartown/Oak Bluffs	Watershed: Nantucket Sound/Atlantic Ocean	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: Longitude: See USGS Map for all locations	
Estimated commencement date: 9/2009	Estimated completion date:6/ 2019	
Approximate cost: $2,100,000	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: Town of Edgartown/Town of Oak Bluffs		
Street: 70 Main Street		
Municipality: Edgartown	State: NY	Zip Code: 02539
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Lynne Fraker		
Firm/Agency: Town of Edgartown Dredge	Street: 70 Main Street	
Municipality: Edgartown	State: MA	Zip Code: 0239
Phone: 508-989-5840	Fax: 508-627-6123	E-mail: lfraker@edgartown-ma.u

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
X Yes ☐No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
☐Yes (EOEA No._____) XNo

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
X Yes (EOEA No. **see project list** ☐No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	☐Yes	X No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	☐Yes	X No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	X Yes	☐No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐Yes	X No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): **None**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
X Yes(Specify_**DEP Chp 91, 401WQC, ACOE**,_____) ☐No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **See list of Permits Appendix , Local Orders of Conditions, DEP Chp91, 401 WQC, Army Corps PGP**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

☐ Land	X Rare Species	X Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
☐ Water	☐ Wastewater	☐ Transportation
☐ Energy	☐ Air	☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
☐ ACEC	☐ Regulations	☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				X Order of Conditions ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions X Chapter 91 License X 401 Water Quality Certification ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit ☐ Water Management Act Permit ☐ New Source Approval ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit ☐ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:
Total site acreage	81.9 acres dredge and beach nourishment			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area		0		
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

☐Yes (Specify_____) X No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

☐Yes (Specify_____) X No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

X Yes (Specify_**Estimated and priority habitat piping plover, least terns**_____) ☐No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include **(a)** a description of the project site, **(b)** a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and **(c)** potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The Towns of Edgartown and Oak Bluffs are requesting a waiver from a mandatory EIR. This project proposes the implementation of the Town of Edgartown/Town of Oak Bluffs Ten-Year Maintenance dredging and beach nourishment plan. The Plan is a comprehensive effort to consolidate and manage 29 existing dredge and beach nourishment maintenance permits within Edgartown and Oak Bluffs. Each of these 29 sites has historically completed a full permit and review process with the applicable local, State and Federal Authorities on an individual basis at different times. The project is designed to provide the Towns with more effective ways to manage these ongoing maintenance beach nourishment and dredging activities.

Project Locations:

The maintenance dredging component in Cape Pogue Bay combines 3 maintenance dredge areas, *the Gut, the Narrows, and Dike Bridge Approach.* There are 3 nourishment sites: Cape Pogue Elbow (NSELB) Nourishment site, Dike Bridge (NSDB), Nourishment Site, the Narrows (NSN),

The Edgartown Harbor component combines 7 maintenance dredge areas: *Eel Pond, Lighthouse, Inner Harbor, Collins Beach, Caleb's Pond, Katama Boat Ramp and Channel, and Katama Channe*l. There are 5 Beach nourishment sites: Eel Pond (EPNS), Fuller Beach (FBNS), Nourishment site "E"(NSE), Nourishment sites "A"-"D"(NSA-D), NBNS(Norton Beach).

The Edgartown Great Pond component combines 4 maintenance dredging areas: *Great Pond Ramp (Wilson's Landing), Great Pond Channel, Sluiceway Approach, and Herring Creek Restoration Project.* Nourishment site is South Beach. (SBNS)

Sengecontacket Pond component combines 3 dredging areas *Borrow Area #1, Borrow Area #2, Little Bridge Outside Channel.* 3 Nourishment sites are Sylvia State Beach (SBNS), Bend in the Road (BITRNS) Beach, Cow Bay Dunes(CBNS).

Waiver Request

Maintenance dredging is for a total of 173,570cy, and 39.4 acres at various sites. Beach nourishment will affect 42.5 acres. The cumulative impact of the consolidated projects exceeds a mandatory EIR threshold. The filing of an EIR would result in undue hardship for the proponents. This is maintenance dredging and nourishment project. Further review would not reduce damage to the environment.

This project is not likely to cause damage to the Environment. Each of the project components have been dredged or nourished and historically approved by local, State and federal environmental

permitting process. The proponents will obtain individual comprehensive permits from Mass DEP (cp 91,401 WQC), and NHESP (MESA) review. The permits will include conditions such as time of year restrictions to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and standards

All beach nourishment components have been historically reviewed by NHESP and the proponents will work to address any outstanding issues. The proponents will work with NHESP to address any additional rare species concerns including endangered shorebirds.

The project does not include any new improvement dredging or structures. Any future improvement projects will be reviewed by local State and federal agencies separately, and then added to the comprehensive permit. The Towns will work with the agencies on a reporting protocol for dredging and beach nourishment

The proponents will develop and establish a monitoring program to gauge overall project success.

Ample and unconstrained infrastructure facilities and services exist to support the project. All work will be performed by the Town of Edgartown Dredge. This project is a continuation of ongoing beach nourishment and dredging which are intended to provide safe navigation and enhance beach areas. Dredging in the Great Pond is a continuation of an ongoing project to maintain flushing for fisheries habitat and the overall health of the Pond.

Alternative Analysis

1. **No-Build: No dredging is conducted. Shoaling in the maintenance dredge areas will continue to provide a greater risk to public safety and property due to vessels colliding with each other or running onto shoals. Shoaling represents a threat to public safety by restricting vessels from using the established course; potential vessel damage from avoiding and/or coming in contact with a hazard (such as a shoal or another vessel and jeopardizing safe turning. No dredging in Great Pond and Sengecontacket Pond will reduce water circulation and reduce salinity and water quality and degrade fisheries habitat. Sand would be barged in for needed beach renourishment for road and storm protection at a prohibitive cost.**

2. **Maintenance dredging is conducted with a hydraulic dredge and beach nourishment. This option would cause minimal and temporary amounts of environmental impacts to water quality and/or coastal resource because dredging would be completed during cold seasons when there is less growth and fisheries activity in the nearby resource areas. Hydraulic dredging has the least environmental impact of dredging methods. Maintenance dredging will provide multiple benefits of enhanced marine fisheries habitat by maintaining tidal exchange, navigation for public safety, and access to shellfishing areas. Beneficial reuse of dredged material has the multiple benefits of storm and flood damage protection, improved habitat for state listed endangered species, enhancement of public recreational beaches, and maintenance of public OVL trails.**

3. **Upland De-watering and Disposal of Dredged Material. The proposed areas would be dredged, and then dredge spoils would be de-watered and trucked and disposed at an upland site. The project would then not provide the multiple benefits of storm damage protection, and state-listed endangered species habitat improvement, public OVL trail maintenance, and safe navigation to allow access for commercial and recreational shellfishing.**

Preferred Alternatives:

Alternative No. 2 Maintenance dredging with beneficial reuse of material as beach nourishment.