

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Environmental**  
**Affairs ■ MEPA Office**



**Environmental**  
**Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	
EOEA No.:	<u>14267</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Aisling Eglinton</u>
Phone: 617-626-	<u>X 3024</u>

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: Dredging and Beneficial Reuse of Material for Beach Nourishment at Menauhant Public Beach, Town of Falmouth		
Street: Menauhant Rd.		
Municipality: Falmouth	Watershed: Vineyard Sound	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 41.55 Longitude: -70.56	
Estimated commencement date: 10/01/08	Estimated completion date: 10/15/08	
Approximate cost: \$250,000	Status of project design: 60	%complete
Proponent: Town of Falmouth		
Street: 59 Town Hall Square		
Municipality: Falmouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02540
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Leslie Fields		
Firm/Agency: Woods Hole Group	Street: 81 Technology Park Drive	
Municipality: Falmouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02536
Phone: (508) 540-8080	Fax: (508) 540-1001	E-mail: <a href="mailto:lfields@whgrp.com">lfields@whgrp.com</a>

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

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. 14239)  No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:  
 a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No  
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)  Yes  No  
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No  
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  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): N/A

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify: Con. Commission, DEP – Wetlands, Waterways, Water Quality, Mass. DMF, NHESP, CZM, USACE, US NMF)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions, Chapter 91 Permit, Water Quality Certificate, Programmatic General Permit (all pending)

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

- |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations             | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources       |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit  <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval  <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	9.2 – beach 4.0 – NOAA nearshore borrow area			
New acres of land altered				
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		5.6 acres – beach 4.0 acres – NOAA nearshore borrow area		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	313	-30	283	
<b>WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

**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 \_\_\_\_\_)  No

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

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

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

Yes (Specify: **Piping Plover, Least Tern, Common Tern, Roseate Tern**)  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 \_\_\_\_\_)  No

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

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

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

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  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 project proposes to perform beach nourishment at the Town of Falmouth public beach in Menauhant, East Falmouth using sand provided by a separate project being conducted by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) in Woods Hole, MA. NEFSC is planning to dredge a new entrance channel to Great Harbor in Woods Hole to homeport NOAA's new class of research vessel. The NEFSC project will create approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sand suitable for beach nourishment. The Town of Falmouth has been working with NOAA NEFSC to develop the Menauhant Beach project that proposes to piggyback on NOAA's dredging project by beneficially reusing the sand as beach nourishment. If the Town of Falmouth cannot proceed with beneficial reuse of the dredged sands, NOAA's alternate plan will dispose of the material offshore at the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site (RISDS).

As part of the NEFSC project, the dredged sand will be transported via scow to the Menauhant Beach area and dumped in a nearshore disposal site approximately 2,200 ft off the beach (Appendix A - Figure 11). From this point, the Town of Falmouth will utilize the Barnstable County Dredge to hydraulically remove the sand from the nearshore disposal area and pump it to Menauhant Beach as nourishment. The nearshore disposal area, where the sand will be removed by the County Dredge, is approximately 4 acres in size and 15 to 25 ft deep.

The nourishment site at Menauhant Beach is one of the Town of Falmouth's most heavily used public beaches, open to both residents and non-residents. The entire public beach area is approximately 9.2 acres in size, comprised of two natural surface parking areas and beaches that

provide access to the waters of Vineyard Sound (Appendix A – Maps 9 and 10). Wetland resource areas at Menauhant Beach include barrier beach, coastal beach, coastal dune, and salt marsh. The barrier beach separates Bourne Pond from Vineyard Sound, and also supports Menauhant Rd., which is a major transportation route in East Falmouth. On-going erosion at Menauhant Beach threatens loss of an important public beach resource for the Town of Falmouth, as well as damage to Menauhant Rd. and associated public utilities. As such, Menauhant Beach was recently identified in the Town of Falmouth Beach Management Plan (Woods Hole Group, 2008) as a priority site for dune restoration and beach nourishment.

The proposed project will utilize sand dredged from NEFSC's nearshore disposal site to construct dunes at Menauhant Beach and to perform beach nourishment. Sand will be used to restore and enhance existing dunes on the site, and build new dunes in areas where the parking lots directly abut the coastal beach. Dune crest elevations are expected to reach 11.0 ft NGVD. The remaining sand available from this project will be used as beach nourishment, primarily along the western side of Menauhant Beach.

Alternate beach sites within the Town of Falmouth for beneficial reuse of NEFSC's dredged sand included Nobska Beach, Surf Drive, and Falmouth Heights. Menauhant Beach was selected because of on-going erosion that threatens loss of the public beach and roadway, and because a suitably sized dune restoration and beach nourishment project could be designed for the area. Currently, the only other alternative for NEFSC's dredged sand is offshore disposal at the RISDS.

Potential adverse impacts at the nearshore dredging area include disruption of scallop habitat. However, these impacts will be minimized through coordination with NEFSC to remove the sand as soon as it is placed in the nearshore disposal area. Scallop harvesting and reseedling could also be coordinated by the Town of Falmouth. Potential adverse impacts at Menauhant Beach include increased shoaling at the entrance to Bourne Pond and sediment transport to possible eelgrass habitat. These impacts will be minimized by placing much of the sand within the dune system, outside the active littoral zone, and by continuing the Town of Falmouth maintenance dredging program at the entrance to Bourne Pond.