

**ENF Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*  
 EOE No.: 13696  
 MEPA Analyst: *Beirny Angus*  
 Phone: 617-626-1029

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: Thompson Island Salt Marsh Restoration Project		
Street: Thompson Island		
Municipality: Boston	Watershed: Atlantic Ocean	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.314154	Longitude: -71.007625 (WGS 84)
Estimated commencement date: 5/1/06	Estimated completion date: 5/5/06	
Approximate cost: \$35,000	Status of project design: 90%	%complete
Proponent: Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center		
Street: P.O. Box 127		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02127
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Kathleen Miller		
Firm/Agency: Northern Ecological Assoc., Inc	Street: 451 Presumpscot Street	
Municipality: Portland	State: ME	Zip Code: 04103
Phone: 207-879-9496 Ext. 242	Fax: 207-879-9481	E-mail: kmiller@neamaine.com

- 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. \_\_\_\_\_)  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 301 CMR 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): **Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management funded an initial feasibility study for this project for approximately \$20,000 through its Wetlands Restoration Program**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify: )  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Notice of Intent in Accordance with Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L.c.131 and 310 CMR 10.00), including Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L.c.131A); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit (Programmatic General Permit, Category 2)**

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

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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	14.3			
New acres of land altered		0.0091 ac (395 sq. ft.)		
Acres of impervious area	N/A	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0.115 ac (5009 sq. ft.)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**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 **The project area is protected under the terms of a Conservation Restriction, however the project is consistent with its goals.**

**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: **The project site is located entirely within Priority Habitat 720 (PH720). See attached Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MA NH&ESP) correspondence.**)  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: **Thompson Island, in its entirety, is listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places as a contributing element of the Boston Harbor Island Archaeological District, for its Native American archaeological sites and land use. See attached Massachusetts Historical Commission [MHC] correspondence.**)  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.*) Thompson Island Outward Bound is proposing to restore a salt marsh/pond on Thompson Island (Figure 1, USGS Quadrangle Map Excerpt). The project involves removing a debris pile that prevents tidal flushing of an existing salt marsh/pond located on the southwest side of the island (Figure 2). Lack of daily tidal exchange has resulted in a stagnant waterbody with severe algae blooms and encroachment by the invasive plant, common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Based on an alternatives analysis, and discussions with Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA Fisheries, and Thompson Island Outward Bound representatives, a Recommended Alternative was developed for the Project. The Project proposes to reestablish the tidal connection between the pond and the ocean along the southeastern shore of the pond where the existing debris pile has eroded and there is evidence of a historic stream channel. The Project would involve partial removal of the existing obstructions between the pond and the ocean, including man-made debris (e.g., rebar, old pipes, bricks, concrete), while minimizing disturbance to existing resources (Figure 3). Removed large rocks and boulders would be side cast onto the adjacent man-made debris pile. The main channel would be approximately 22 feet long (along the northwest-southeast axis), and approximately 4–6 feet wide (along the northeast-southwest axis). The elevation of the channel thread will be lowered to elevation 4 feet NGVD 1929 and will be approximately three feet wide. Approximately 0.7 vertical feet of material would be removed and disposed of in an approved offsite location. The change in water level, resulting in an increase in inter-tidal zone, is shown in Figure 4. The center of the swale would remain native sand/gravel materials and be allowed to erode naturally with the tides and find it's preferred location (thread) and grade. The total estimated limit of work (i.e., square foot area of ground disturbance) associated with this alternative is 395 square feet.

The Project is expected to have positive environmental effects. By opening up the hydrologic connection to the ocean, diurnal tidal flushing will replenish the water in the pond twice daily, during normal high tides, and expose a fringe of mudflat habitat during low tides, while maintaining valuable aquatic habitat (Figure 4). Tidal flushing is expected to improve water quality in the pond, refreshing DO levels and preventing the occurrence of summer die-offs due to low oxygen levels, and also preventing the formation of thick green algal mats over much of the pond's surface during the growing season. Tidal flushing will also help to minimize or reverse the spread of *Phragmites australis*, and provide opportunity for the development of additional salt marsh habitat along the edge of the marsh. Water quality improvements are also expected to improve submerged aquatic vegetation habitat, allowing the continued spread of valuable aquatic species such as *Ruppia maritima*. Improved salt marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation habitat would provide important nursery and feeding habitat, and predator refugia for fish and nekton, while also providing abundant foraging opportunities for wildlife.