



FACT SHEET

Wallops Flight Facility Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has identified the need to replenish the shoreline at its Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia to protect important assets that are in danger of being compromised as a result of severe shoreline erosion. NASA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are currently investigating various engineering alternatives for this project which may include beach replenishment and the construction of onshore and offshore hard structures.

To adequately analyze potential effects from this proposed project, NASA has implemented a six-step approach:

- **Cultural Resources Analysis**

This task includes a marine archaeological remote sensing survey of two proposed 2-square-mile sand borrow sites located approximately 5 and 10 nautical miles offshore in Federal waters for the proposed beach replenishment. These sites include portions of Blackfish Bank and an unnamed sand shoal (see Figure 1).

- **Offshore Biological Characterization**

The offshore biological characterization will include the two proposed offshore sand borrow sites, the near-shore sand placement area, and the terminal groin location. Existing information about the benthic habitats and fish communities in the area will be reviewed and synthesized. In addition, a field survey will be conducted. Photographs of the sea bottom will be taken to precisely characterize habitat.

- **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Study**

NASA will engage local fishermen to examine the potential impacts on commercial and recreational fishing in the area.

- **Agency Consultation**

NASA will consult with Federal and state agencies in determining the issues and opportunities associated with the project.

- **EIS Preparation**

The scoping meeting and all of the tasks outlined here are integral parts of the EIS preparation process. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

- **Permitting**

The final step is the acquisition of necessary permits for the various components of the program.

Opportunities for Public Input

NASA will provide opportunities for public involvement as the Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program is developed, including the scoping meeting. Stakeholders and the general public will be engaged throughout the process. Stakeholders include Federal, state, and local governments; business interests; landowners; residents; and environmental organizations.

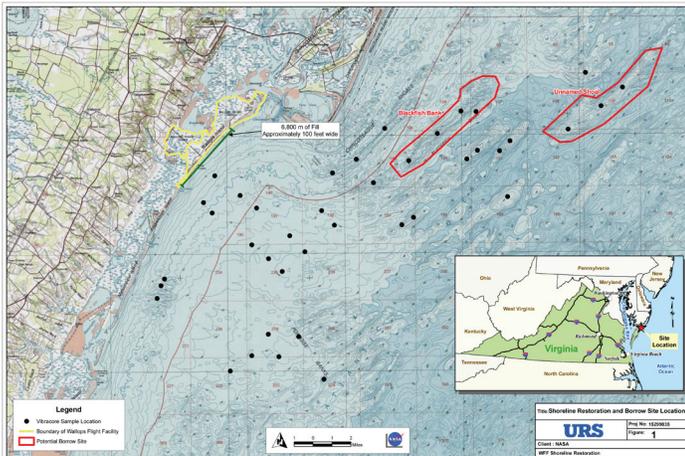


Figure 1

Project Components

As currently proposed, the shoreline restoration and protection effort may include the following project components:

- Initial dredging of approximately 3 million cubic yards of sand from a borrow site located in Federal waters and subsequent sand placement on the Wallops shoreline;
- Maintenance dredging to be performed every five years for the duration of the project's 50-year design life, with approximately 1 million cubic yards of sand per cycle from the same borrow site;
- One terminal groin structure, approximately 100-feet wide by 500-feet long, constructed perpendicular to the shoreline of the south end of Wallops Island; and
- Extension of the existing seawall by approximately 1,500 feet to a maximum of approximately 4,500 feet to the south.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project components as stated above, as well as those from a variety of reasonable alternatives.

About Wallops Flight Facility

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, was established in 1945 by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, as a center for aeronautics research. Wallops is now NASA's principal facility for managing and implementing suborbital research programs.

The Facility's mission includes the following objectives:

- To help achieve NASA's strategic objectives for scientific and educational excellence through cost-efficient integration, launch, and operations of suborbital and small orbital payloads;
- To enable scientific, educational, and economic advancement by providing the facilities and expertise to enable frequent flight opportunities for a diverse customer base;
- To serve as a key facility for operational test, integration, and certification of NASA and commercial next-generation, low-cost orbital launch technologies;
- To pioneer productive and innovative government, industry, and academic partnerships; and
- The research and responsibilities of Wallops Flight Facility are centered on the philosophy of providing a fast, low cost, highly flexible and safe response to meet the needs of the United States' aerospace technology interests and science research.

The over 1,000 full-time Civil Service and contractor NASA Wallops employees act as a team to accomplish the Facility's mission.

For More Information

Additional information on the Wallops Flight Facility and the shoreline restoration program planned for the Wallops area is available on the Web at

http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/shoreline_eis.html

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Figure 2