

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

JAN 7 2022

Brent Vendola
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL) for the Placement of a Temporary Ramp, Dean Creek Nature Trail, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia (GPS: 31.394652N, -81.270022W)

Dear Mr. Vendola,

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request, received December 1, 2021, on behalf of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, for a time extension and continued placement of a temporary ramp for safer access to the Dean Creek gangway/bridge, at the location specified in the request. The construction of a temporary ramp was previously permitted and completed under LOP20210084 but a time extension is being requested while design for a permanent ramp and other nature trail improvements are finalized pursuant to a Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) permit application. The entirety of the project area falls under the jurisdiction of the CMPA. The area where the existing 120ft. aluminum gangway spans Dean Creek has experienced significant erosion along the northern bank approach and has created a gap that serves as a safety risk for the many students and visitors that use the trail crossing. The continued placement of a preconstructed 12ft. x 6ft. (72 sq.ft.) ramp bolted to the existing gangway will temporarily make the approach safer until a finalized plan for a permanent ramp is completed. This Letter of Permission will expire six months from the date of issuance.

The Department authorizes the placement of the ramp as described in the attached description and has no objection to the action. Any debris must be disposed of at an appropriate upland location. No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.

Please find enclosed a fully executed Revocable License (RL) for the project described above. This license serves as an authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the related structures. Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands controlled by the State, except for such lands where a validated Crown Grant or State Grant exists.

This authorization does not relieve you from obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this or any other projects, please feel free to contact Beth Byrnes at (912) 264-7218.

Sincerely,



Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description, Photos, and Drawings
File: LOP20210178

STATE OF GEORGIA


REVOCABLE LICENSE FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

APPLICANT NAME(S): Georgia Department of Natural Resources
MAILING ADDRESS: 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1352 E, Atlanta, GA 30334
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: Sapelo Island, Dean Creek Nature Trail
COUNTY: McIntosh WATERWAY: Dean Creek
LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: Sapelo Island

The State of Georgia hereby grants you a revocable license not coupled with an interest¹. This area may now or in the future be utilized by boats employing power drawn nets under the provisions for commercial or sport bait shrimping. In its occupancy and use of the premises, licensee shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This covenant by licensee may be enforced by termination of this license, by injunction, and/or by any other remedy available at law to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Attached hereto as Attachments A and B and made a part of this license are the project description, drawing(s), and terms and conditions that are the subject of this license. The project approved for this license must be constructed and completed within the specified timeframe noted in the terms and conditions and must be maintained in serviceable condition. Otherwise, action will be initiated to revoke this license and all structures must be removed immediately at the licensee's expense.

STATE OF GEORGIA
Office of the Governor

By: 
For: Mark Williams
Commissioner-DNR

Date: JAN 7 2022

Enclosures: Attachment A: Project Description, Terms and Conditions
Attachment B: Project Drawing(s)

¹ Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands owned by the State, except where ownership of such lands is demonstrated through an unbroken chain of title to a valid Crown or State Grant, which explicitly conveys the beds of such tidewaters. The Revocable License authorizes use of lands presumed to be owned by the State of Georgia, and which are under control of the State. This Revocable License is issued with the understanding and condition that it could be rendered invalid should another person demonstrate ownership to such lands pursuant to a valid Crown Grant or State Grant. This Revocable License is issued with the understanding that such lands are subject to the public trust doctrine.

Byrnes, Elizabeth

From: Vendola, Brent
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Byrnes, Elizabeth
Cc: Tobler, Paul; Griffin, Joel; Samson, Doug
Subject: LOP 20210084 - Extension Request
Attachments: LOP20210084 Dean Creek Nature Trail.pdf

Ms. Byrnes,

The subject LOP, also attached, is set to expire on 12/16/2021. Please allow this email to serve as a formal request to extend the LOP for an additional six (6) months to allow the temporary ramp to remain in place while we finalize design for a permanent ramp along with other work/structures proposed which are within the areas that fall under the jurisdiction of the Costal Marshland Protection Act (CMPA). Once documents are finalized related to this work proposed we will formally submit a CMPA Permit Application accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration. Please advise if you need anything further.

Regards,

Brent Vendola
Chief of Engineering & Construction
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
(O) 404.656.6532
(C) 404.323.6214



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY • BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 • 912.264.7218
COASTALGADNR.ORG

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

JUN 16 2021

Suzanne VanParreren, Stewardship Coordinator
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
1 Longtabby Lane
Sapelo Island, GA 31305

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL) for the Construction of a Temporary Ramp, Dean Creek Nature Trail, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia (GPS: 31.394652N, -81.270022W)

Dear Ms. VanParreren,

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request, received April 19, 2021, on behalf of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR), for the construction of a temporary ramp for safer access to the Dean Creek gangway/bridge, at the location specified in the request. The entirety of the project area falls under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA). The area where the existing 120ft. aluminum gangway spans Dean Creek has experienced significant erosion along the northern bank approach and has created a gap that serves as a safety risk for the many students and visitors that use the trail crossing. In order to temporarily make the approach safer SINERR has proposed placement of a preconstructed 12ft. x 6ft. (72 sq.ft.) ramp that will be bolted to the existing gangway. Work will be done using hand tools and materials will be delivered to the site by an all-terrain vehicle via the existing trailway through coastal marshlands. The project may begin within 15 days of the date of this letter and must be completed within six (6) months.

The Department authorizes the placement of the ramp within jurisdiction of the CMPA as described in the attached description and has no objection to the action. All debris must be disposed of at an appropriate upland location. No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.

Please find enclosed a fully executed Revocable License (RL) for the project described above. This license serves as an authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the related structures. Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands controlled by the State, except for such lands where a validated Crown Grant or State Grant exists.

This authorization does not relieve you from obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this or any other projects, please feel free to contact Paul Tobler at (912) 262-3134.

Sincerely,

Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description, Photos, and Drawings
File: LOP20210084

STATE OF GEORGIA



REVOCABLE LICENSE REQUEST FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

APPLICANTS NAME(S): GA DNR Sapelo Island NERR
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1 Longtabby Lane Sapelo Island, GA 31305-
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
 PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: Sapelo Island
 COUNTY: Mc Intosh WATERWAY: Dean Creek DATE: 6.10.21
 LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: on file

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 Coastal Resources Division
 One Conservation Way
 Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687

I am requesting that I be granted a revocable license from the State of Georgia to encroach on the beds of tidewaters, which are state owned property. Attached hereto and made a part of this request is a copy of the plans and description of the project that will be the subject of such a license. I certify that all information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understand that willful misrepresentation or falsification is punishable by law.

I understand that if permission from the State is granted, it will be a revocable license and will not constitute a license coupled with an interest. I acknowledge that this revocable license does not resolve any actual or potential disputes regarding the ownership of, or rights in, or over the property upon which the subject project is proposed, and shall not be construed as recognizing or denying any such rights or interests. I acknowledge that such a license would relate only to the property interests of the State and would not obviate the necessity of obtaining any other State license, permit or authorization required by State law. I recognize that I waive my right of expectation of privacy and I do not have the permission of the State of Georgia to proceed with such project until the Commissioner of DNR or his/her designee has signed a copy of this request.

Sincerely, 
 By _____
 (Applicant), title if applicable
 By 
 (Applicant), title if applicable

The State of Georgia hereby grants you a revocable license not coupled with an interest as provided in your request. This area may now or in the future be utilized by boats employing power drawn nets under the provisions for commercial or sport bait shrimping. In its occupancy and use of the premises, licensee shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This covenant by licensee may be enforced by termination of this license, by injunction, and by any other remedy available at law to the Department. The project proposed for this license must be constructed and completed within the specified timeframe associated with the authorization and/or transmittal letter associated with this revocable license and must be maintained in serviceable condition. Otherwise, action will be initiated to revoke this license and all structures must be removed immediately at the licensee's expense.

STATE OF GEORGIA
 Office of the Governor
 By: 
 For: Mark Williams, Commissioner-DNR
 Date: JUN 16 2021

Temporary gangway approach for nature trail on Sapelo Island

Suzanne VanParreren

Stewardship Program Coordinator

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve build a new interpretive nature trail system on the south end of the island. The nature trail is 1.93 miles in length and encompasses five barrier island ecological systems, including upland maritime forest, tidal salt marsh, oak and cedar hammock zones, ancient and primary dunes, and beach systems. The trail includes a 120 feet aluminum gangway over a tidal creek, named Dean Creek. The flow of the tidal waters of this creek has increased over the past 10 years after a narrow culvert was replaced by a 50 feet expansion bridge, approximately 1000 feet down the creek. This increased flow has significantly influenced the sediment accretion rate in the surrounding marsh as well as the erosion rate along the north bank of the creek underneath the gangway.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The north bend of the creek has eroded significantly, and the creek is considerably wider than when the initial gangway was placed. Four sets of the cross-brace members between the pilings were rotten and have been replaced in 2019. The gangway approach has also settled creating a gap between the trail and aluminum gangway, creating a significant public safety hazard. The gangway houses one of our system wide monitoring sondes and this trail is used often by many visitors and students and their safety is our immediate concern when stepping on to the gangway.

METHODS

The Reserve will place a preconstructed approach (see Appendix A) temporarily in front of the gangway for public safety of the trail users such as recreationists, researchers and students. The temporary approach will be secured with bolts to the existing gangway and the contractor will follow the engineered plan (Appendix A) for the construction of the access approach. We will omit the installation of the posts for this temporary approach and install them after the proper CMP has been obtained. Wood for the project will be cut off site. The wood will be brought on site with a side by side cart (mule). We will post appropriate safety notices during the preparation and installation phases of the project. We have received assessments and estimates for the repair and would like to start the work this spring.

POTENTIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Listed species

ESA USFWS Threatened (T) or Endangered (E) species that might overlap in the range of our study include:

- T Knot, red (*Calidris canutus rufa*)
- T Manatee, West Indian (*Trichechus manatus*)
- T Plover, piping (*Charadrius melodus*)
- T Salamander, frosted flatwoods (*Ambystoma cingulatum*)
- E Sawfish, smalltooth (*Pristis pectinata*)
- E Sea turtle, hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- E Sea turtle, Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- E Sea turtle, leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- T Sea turtle, loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- T Snake, eastern indigo (*Drymarchon corais couperi*)
- T Stork, wood (*Mycteria americana*)
- E Sturgeon, shortnose (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)
- E Whale, finback (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

- E Whale, North Atlantic Right (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
- E Woodpecker, red-cockaded (*Picoides borealis*)

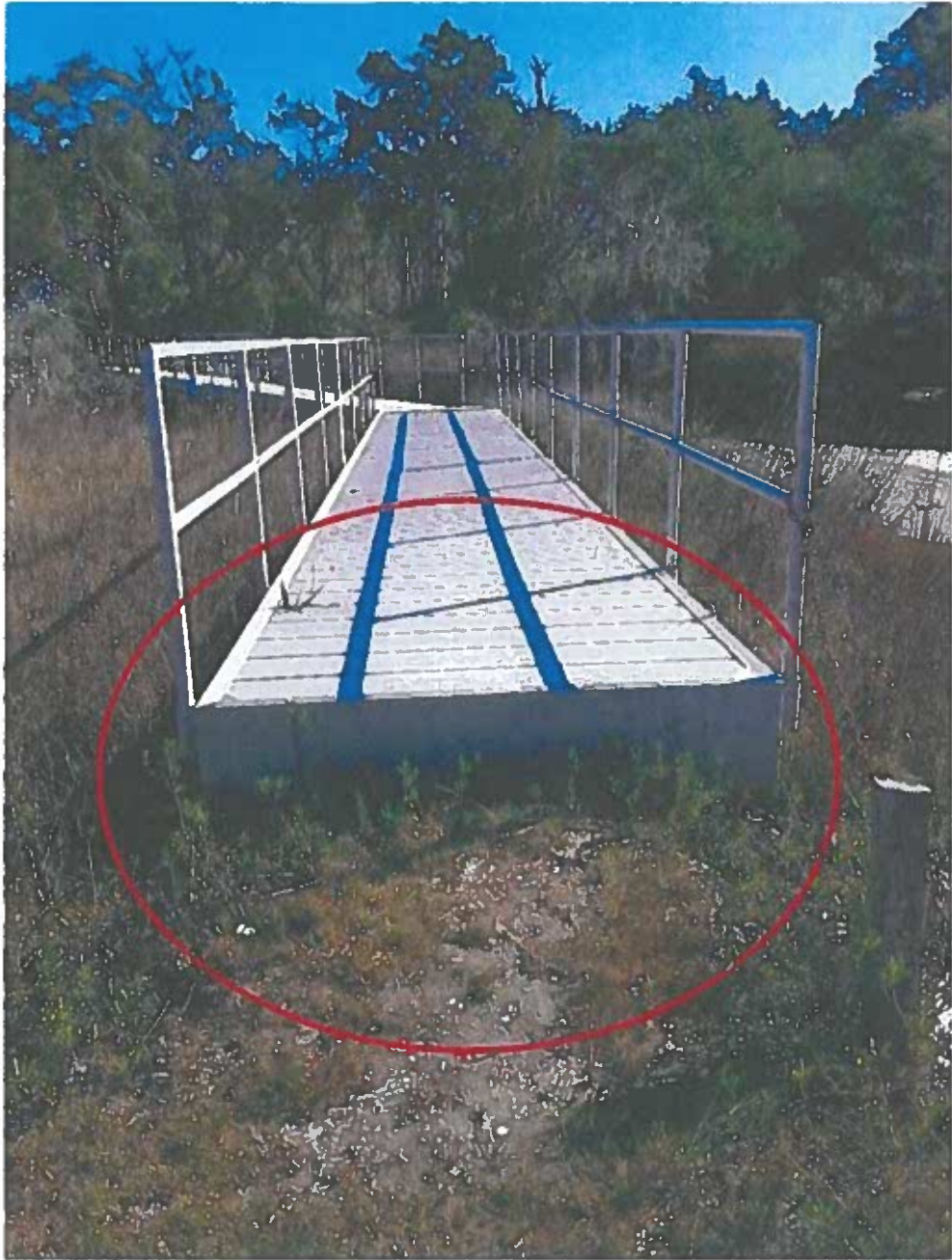
This project will take place in the original area without expansions. It will have no anticipated effects on USFWS Threatened and Endangered species as listed on the Federal Register under the Endangered Species Act. The project will neither occur in nesting habitat nor during breeding or fledging season of the red knot, red-cockaded woodpecker, piping plover, or wood stork. There are no records of eastern indigo snake on the barrier islands of Georgia, and our project sites will not occur in their preferred habitat. The marine and estuarine species will not be found in this area at this time either and no sightings have been documented.

IMAGES OF NATURE TRAIL, DEAN CREEK AND REPAIRS NEEDED.



 Gangway

 Trailhead

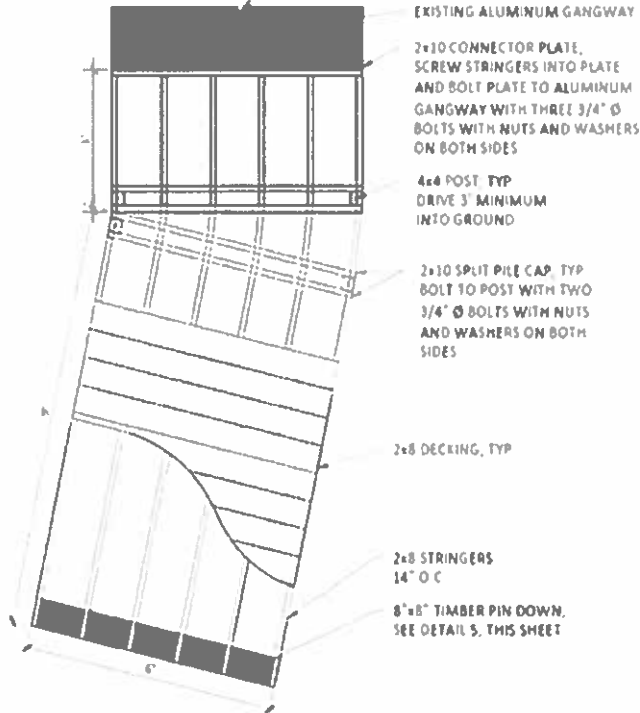




Appendix A

**SAPELO ISLAN
NATURE TRAIL UPG**
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURA
#2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE
ATLANTA, GA 30334

NOTE
CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY
ALL DIMENSIONS



EVEL

Revisions

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION

Sheet Title
**CONSTRUCTION
DETAILS**

6 GANGWAY APPROACH DETAIL
1" = 1'-0"

Sheet No
C-8