

City of Port Wentworth Houlihan Park Boat Ramp Chatham County, Georgia

Project Description:

Background and Justification

The existing docks and ramps serve as public access in the most northern area of the Georgia Coast, Chatham County. This facility needs to be updated to insure safe boating access to the surrounding area. The project is a partnership between Weyerhaeuser, the City of Port Wentworth and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Houlihan Park Boat Ramp Facility

The existing facility is made of two concrete boat ramps, two boating access docks and a paved parking lot with pervious parking for vehicles and boat trailers. There is approximately 7,358 sq. feet of riprap along the shoreline of the project site.

Just above the boat ramp to the north is a timber pile wall that extends out from the bank 10 ft. The wall is made up of approximately 12 in round piles. The wall is approximately 10sq. ft.

The boat ramp to the north is approximately 25ft. x 95ft. with an irregular shape at the terminal end. It is constructed of concrete with center and side curbs. The entire ramp, approximately 2212sq.ft., is located within CMPA jurisdiction.

Just south of this boat ramp is a service dock that consists of an 80ft. x 5- ft. concrete ramp providing access along the upland from the parking lot to an 22ft. x 5ft. aluminum ramp attached to a 7ft. x 10ft. fixed dock. An additional 5 ft. x 35ft. aluminum ramp provides access from the fixed dock to a floating dock structure consisting of a 6 ft. x 6ft. landing float and an 8ft. x 60ft. float. The existing northern service dock extends approximately 40 ft. into the Savannah River at a point that the river is approximately 1,000 ft. wide from Mean Low Water (MLW) to MLW. Existing impacts to CMPA jurisdiction associated with the north service dock total approximately 816 sq.ft.

The boat ramp to the south is approximately 25ft. x 95ft. It is constructed of concrete with center and side curbs. The entire ramp, approximately 2475sq.ft., is located within CMPA jurisdiction.

To the south of the southern ramp is a second boating access dock consisting of a 6ft. x 55ft. concrete walkway with rails providing access along the upland from the parking lot leading to an 8ft. x 46 ft. wood fixed pier with handrails and a 5ft. x 6ft. landing. From the landing, there is a 4 ft. 26 ft. aluminum ramp that provides access to a 10ft. x 30ft. floating dock. The existing southern service dock extends into the waterway approximately 20 ft. at a point that the river is approximately 1,000ft. wide from MLW to MLW. Existing impacts to CMPA jurisdiction associated with the southern service dock total approximately 1132 sq.ft.

Total impacts to CMPA jurisdiction from the existing facility total approximately 14,003 sq.ft. (0.32 acres).

Existing Structures	Impacts to Coastal Marshlands (Sq. Ft.)
Timber Pile wall	10
Rip Rap	7,358
North Ramp	2,212
Service Dock Between Ramps	816
South Ramp	2,475
Older fixed pier and floating dock (south of ramps)	1,132
Total	14,003

The proposed project consists of removing the existing southern service dock, replacing the northern and southern boat ramps, modifying the existing north service dock, and adding additional riprap to the existing riprap at four (4) locations of the shoreline of the project site.

The existing northern boat ramp will be replaced with a regraded ramp that will measure 25' x 115' concrete ramp. The increase of impact to CMPA jurisdiction associated with the north ramp totals 2,875 sq. ft. On the northern edge of this boat ramp 210 S.F. of rip rap will be added. Directly to the south of this boat ramp 162 S.F of rip rap will be added.

The modification to the north service dock will include adding an 8ft. x 20ft. floating dock to the southern end of the exiting 8ft. x 60ft. float. The modification will include an increase of 160 sq. ft. of new impacts within CMPA jurisdiction.

The southern boat ramp will be removed, regraded and replaced with a 25' x 134' concrete ramp. The new ramp will be 3,350 S.F. The impact to CMPA jurisdiction associated with the south ramp totals 2,775S.F. because the entire ramp is not within the jurisdictional area. The upper end of the southern boat ramp will be shifted approximately 18'. This will alleviate issue with the existing building to the east which cause problems when backing a trailer down to the ramp. There will be an area of rip rap added just above this ramp (980 S.F.).

The existing retaining wall just south of this southern ramp and the southern service dock will be removed. In place of this southern service dock there will be approximately 1,269 S.F. of riprap installed.

Total new impacts to CMPA jurisdiction associated with the proposed project total approximately 3,744 S.F. (.085 acres).

Proposed Modifications	Impacts to Coastal Marshlands (Sq. Ft.)
Rip Rap	9,979
North Ramp	2875
Service Dock Between Ramps	976
South Ramp	2775
Total	16,605

Project Drawings:

SEE ATTACHED

Sire Plans and Verified Jurisdiction Line:

SEE ATTACHED

Deed:

SEE ATTACHED

Adjoining Land Owners

Georgia Ports Authority, P O BOX 2406, Savannah, GA 31402

International Paper Company, 6400 Poplar Ave, Tower IV, 7th Floor, 7-045, Memphis, TN, 38197

Zoning Letter and Signed Drawings from Local Government:

A letter with the proposed project drawings has been provided to the Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services requesting a review and a letter stating the proposed project is non-violative of current local ordinances and/or zoning.

Non-refundable Application Fee:

The applicant is an entity of the State of Georgia, an application fee is not required

Alternative Analysis:

The proposed modifications to the Houlihan Park Boat Ramp are water dependent and it is a partnership between Georgia Department of Natural Resources, City of Port Wentworth, and Weyerhaeuser. There is not another location that would provide public access to this portion of the Savannah River and to this community. These modifications are necessary to make the boat ramps more compatible with larger trucks and boat trailer. These improvements are public safety related. A different location was not considered.

The existing boat ramps need modification because of the age of the structures and the types of users that are frequenting these ramps.

Landfill or Hazardous Waste Statement:

The project location is not located on or over a landfill or hazardous waste site according to the State Hazardous Site Response Program's website

Water Quality Certification:

A Water Quality Certification is not required for this proposed project

Erosion and Sedimentation Statement:

The proposed project will be conducted in compliance with all erosion and sediment control responsibilities.

Public Interest Statement:

1. The design of the project is such that no unreasonable harmful obstructions or alteration of the natural flow of navigational water within the affected area will arise as a result of the proposal.

The proposed modifications of the existing facilities include two new poured concrete boat ramps and the addition of a floating dock and riprap. In this area the Savannah river is more than 1,000 feet wide from MLW to MLW. The modified northern pile-supported service dock will extend less than 40 feet into the waterway at MLW. The proposed project will not cause an obstruction or alteration of the natural flow.

2. The design of the project is such that no unreasonably harmful or increased erosion, shoaling of the channels, or stagnant areas of water will be created.

The poured concrete boat ramps will be abutted with rip rap and this will be done to address harmful or increased erosion. The addition to the floating dock will be pile-supported. This pile supported portion will not increase erosion.

3. The proposal will not unreasonably interfere with the conservation of fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, and clams or any marine life or wildlife or other natural resources including but not limited to water and oxygen supply.

The proposed modification will be done in accordance to all federal and state mitigating conditions and requirements associated with the protection of marine life and endangered species. The proposed project is not expected to unreasonably interfere with the conservation of fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, and clams or any marine life or wildlife or other natural resources including but not limited to water and oxygen supply.

Marshland Component:

The proposed marshland component consists of the modifications to the Houlihan Park Boat Ramp Facility.

Upland Component:

There is no upland component associated with the proposed project.



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

305 South Coastal Highway | Port Wentworth, Georgia 31407

Phone (912) 964-4379 | Fax (912) 966-7429

www.cityofportwentworth.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Gary Norton

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Johnson, Mayor
Pro Tem, District 3
Thomas Barbee, At-Large
Shari Dyal, District 1
Bill Herrin, District 4
Linda Smith, At-Large
Mark Stephens, District 2

INTERIM CITY

ADMINISTRATOR
Phil Jones

30 April, 2019

Paul Medders

Coastal Resources Division

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

1 Conservation Way

Brunswick, GA 31520

RE: Houlihan Landing Project

Dear Mr. Medders,

I am unaware of any reason that the current zoning of the Houlihan Landing would prevent the proposed improvements of the Houlihan Landing Project.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Harvey, CBO, CFM

Director of Development Services

City of Port Wentworth, Georgia

305 S. Coastal Highway

Port Wentworth, GA 31407

(912) 999-2084



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

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

May 6, 2019

Marsh and Shore Management program
Coastal Resources Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520

Dear Sir/Madame:

The Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the City of Port Wentworth Georgia and the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to replace the two existing boat ramps at Houlihan Park in Port Wentworth Georgia. These two ramps are used a lot by both freshwater and saltwater anglers.

The ramps are more than 20 years old and are nearing the end of their service life. The plan for the new ramps also includes re grading which will allow larger vessels to be launched. The project will also include the addition of dedicated handicap parking.

Thank you for your consideration of the attached proposal and permit package. We look forward to providing any supplemental materials needed to complete the application process.

Respectfully,

Paul Medders
Artificial Reefs, Oyster Habitat Restoration
and Pubic Access

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019
GA DNR / HMP