CESAS Form 19 Support Documentation Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Main Dock Upgrades Chatham County, Georgia

The following information is submitted as support documentation in association with the attached application requesting authorization to impact waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970 pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Part 12-5-286 (OCGA).

1.0 Project Description

The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (applicant) is proposing mooring improvements and general repairs to the existing dock located at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SKIO) in Chatham County, Georgia. The project area is located at latitude 31.989867 longitude -81.022856 northwest of McWhorter Drive on the Skidaway River.

1.1 Existing Structures in Jurisdiction

SKIO is a training and research institution of the University of Georgia that conducts all manner of scientific research in the field of oceanography. The institute campus is fully developed with offices, research buildings, and various other facilities needed to carry out the SKIO mission. The existing dock consists of an approximately 12' x 145' (1,740 sq. ft.) walkway leading to a 36' x 36' (1,296 sq. ft.) pierhead. An approximately 10' x 20' platform on the southeastern corner of the pier head supports three ramps. One ramp extends north to a 10' x 20' floating dock. The ramp extending to the east connects to an approximate 10' x 160' (1,600 sq. ft.) concrete floating dock. The ramp that extends south connects to a 10' x 32' (320 sq. ft.) concrete floating dock. A pendant controlled overhead monorail boat hoist extends from upland 135 feet into the waterway to provide launching and retrieval of research and law enforcement vessels at all tides. The dock contains fresh water and electrical systems. In all, the existing dock structure totals approximately 5,356 square feet. The existing structure extends approximately 135 feet into the waterway from mean low water (MLW).

1.2 Proposed Site Development Plans

The proposed project will remove 12 existing timber pile dolphins totaling 40 square feet. The proposed project will install six new 24" pipe pile dolphins with each pile being 70 feet long. The total impact for the pipe pile dolphins is 20 square feet. General repairs will be made to the concrete pierhead and concrete floating dock. Maintenance and repair will be conducted on the existing floating dock by replacing all missing or damaged through rods, walers, or facia rub boards. Four stainless steel pile guide frames for the 14" piling with HDPE rollers and stainless-steel shafts will be installed, and all rollers on the existing pile guides will be replaced. A gray fender will be attached on the end of dock for mooring across the end of the floating dock. Spalling on the concrete floating dock and pier deck will be patched using an epoxy grout. Electrical upgrades will be completed on the existing floating dock and pier. Attachment hardware will be replaced on all existing cleats (24 total) and 4 cleats will be replaced using 18" galvanized

cleats at the north end of the dock. Two aluminum safety ladders will be installed at each end of the floating dock. All work will occur within open water by waterborne crane and barge or from the existing dock. The proposed structures will extend no further channelward than the existing fenderline of the concrete pierhead.

2.0 Upland Component:

It is the applicant's opinion that the project does not contain an upland component. The project consists of improvements to the existing mooring system and maintenance and repair of the existing dock. All proposed structures are water dependent and are necessary for vessel docking.

3.0 Project Justification

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, access, efficiency, and operations for the main dock at SKIO. The new dolphins will better secure vessels during dockage making the facility safer for research and support staff.

4.0 Alternatives Analysis

The project is water dependent as it is needed to accommodate vessel docking. As such, there are no alternative sites with less jurisdictional impact that would satisfy the project purpose. The proposed project will improve the safety, efficiency, and operations at the SKIO dock.

5.0 Avoidance and Minimization

In order to minimize the effects of the proposed project, all development activities will be performed using best management practices to further avoid and minimize impacts to upstream and downstream waters.

6.0 Threatened and Endangered Species

SECI completed a threatened and endangered species survey within the project area where plant communities and habitats were observed and noted to determine if they match the habitat types where the listed species have potential to occur. The upland area consists of fully developed institutional facilities which do not support any protected species. The Skidaway River is tidal and may support the shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, and west Indian manatee. The applicant will comply with the USACE Savannah District's standard manatee conditions so that the project does not adversely affect the manatee during construction.

With respect to sturgeon, the project requires the driving of six pipe pile mooring structures (6 piles total). All piles will be 24" pipe piles will be installed by vibratory hammer which is not known to cause injurious effects to sturgeon. In addition, the project is located in a saline environment which may support Atlantic sturgeon but is highly unlikely to support shortnose sturgeon. Therefore, it was determined that the installation of such a low quantity of piles in a waterway that is 1,050 feet wide will not affect sturgeon.

7.0 Essential Fish Habitat

The proposed waterside activities are located on the Skidaway River which has been identified as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The project does not require any fill or dredge activities, and would not result in the shading, filling, or dredging of vegetated marsh or shallow water habitat. The only proposed activities in EFH³ consist of installing mooring dolphins. It was therefore concluded that the project would not adversely affect EFH.

8.0 Impaired Waters

The only proposed activities in tidal waters consist of installing mooring dolphins to aid in mooring operations. No fill, dredging, or other waterway disturbance is necessary. It was therefore concluded that the project would not adversely affect water quality.

9.0 Supplemental Information

This additional information is provided for compliance with the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970 information requirements:

OCGA 12-5-286. Permits to fill, drain, etc., marshlands.

(b) Each application for such permit shall be, properly executed, filed with the department on forms as prescribed by the department, and shall include:

(1) The name and address of the applicant-

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Mr. Chuck Hartman 10 Ocean Science Circle Savannah, Georgia 31411

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(2) A plan or drawing showing the applicant's proposal and the manner or method by which such proposal shall be accomplished. Such plan shall identify the coastal marshlands affected-

See attached permit exhibits

(3) A plat of the area in which the proposed work will take place-

N/A – see below.

(4) A copy of the deed or other instrument under which the applicant claims title to the property or, if the applicant is not the owner, then a copy of the deed or other instrument under which the owner claims title together with written permission from the owner to carry out the project on his land. In lieu of a deed or other instrument referred to in this paragraph, the committee may accept some other reasonable evidence of ownership of the property in question or other lawful authority to make use of the property; The committee will not adjudicate title disputes concerning the property which is the subject of the application; provided, however, the committee may decline to process an application when submitted documents show conflicting deeds-

The property is owned by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. For CMPA Permit #602, the applicant provided a deed from 1934 as requested by DNR. Attached is that deed and an email from DNR legal staff approving the project. A title search was also conducted about that same time. Due to the size of the title search document, only the cover page is attached showing that the owner is the Board of Regents. Based on this information, is the applicant's opinion that the legal review and ownership issues have been adequately addressed.

(5) A list of all adjoining landowners together with such owners' addresses, provided that if the names or addresses of adjoining landowners cannot be determined, the applicant shall file in lieu thereof a sworn affidavit that a diligent search, including, without limitation, a search of the records of the county tax assessor's office, has been made but that the applicant was not able to ascertain the names or addresses, as the case may be, of adjoining landowners-

> The Spindrift Trust U/A Dated October 27 C/O Benjamin and Jenny Farmer, Co- Truste 109 Modena Island Drive Savannah, GA 31411

(6) A letter from the local governing authority of the political subdivision in which the property is located, stating that the applicant's proposal is not violate of any zoning law;

See attached

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(7) A non-refundable application fee to be set by the board in an amount necessary to defray the administrative cost of issuing such permit. Renewal fees shall be equal to application fees, which shall not exceed \$1,000.00 for any one proposal and shall be paid to the department.

The appropriate application fee as determined by CRD will be provided upon request.

(8) A description from the applicant of alternative sites and why they are not feasible and a discussion of why the permit should be granted-

See above project description

(9) A statement from the applicant that he has made inquiry to the appropriate authorities that the proposed project is not over a landfill or hazardous waste site and that the site is otherwise suitable for the proposed project-

A review of the Hazardous Site Index for Chatham County, Georgia indicates that the subject property does not contain hazardous waste sites or landfills.

(10) A copy of the water quality certification issued by the department if required for the proposed project-

The project will be authorized by a Letter of Permission from the Army Corps of Engineers, and no 401 Certification will be required.

(11) Certification by the applicant of adherence to soil and erosion control responsibilities if required for the proposed project-

The project will conform to all required land disturbing and stormwater management permits as required by Chatham County, Georgia.

(12) Such additional information as is required by the committee to properly evaluate the application.

This application has been prepared with consideration for the interests of the general public of the State of Georgia as defined in OCGA 12-5-286(g).

OCGA 12-5-286. Permits to fill, drain, etc., marshlands.

(g) In passing upon the application for permit, the committee shall consider the public interest, which, for purposes of this part, shall be deemed to be the following considerations:

(1) Whether or not unreasonably harmful obstruction to or alteration of the natural flow of navigational water within the affected area will arise as a result of the proposal-

The proposed project will not alter natural flow of navigable waters nor will it obstruct public navigation. The proposed structures will extend no further than the fender line of the existing dock. The fender line is located approximately 135 feet into the river from MLW where the waterway is approximately 1,090 feet wide.

(2) Whether or not unreasonably harmful or increased erosion, shoaling of channels, or stagnant areas of water will be created-

The proposed project will not increase erosion, shoaling of channels, or create stagnant areas of water. All work will occur within open water subtidal areas.

(3) Whether or not the granting of a permit and the completion of the applicant's proposal will unreasonably interfere with the conservation of fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, clams, or other marine life, or wildlife, or other resources, including but not limited to water and oxygen supply-

The proposed project will not interfere with the conservation of fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, clams, or other marine life, or wildlife, or other resources, nor affect water and oxygen supply.



Prepared By:

sligh environmental consultants, inc. 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B Savannah, Georgia 31405 phone (912) 232-0451 fax (912) 232-0453 US Geological Survey SKIO Main Dock Upgrades Chatham County, Georgia

4,000	Feet
Exhibit Date: 8/16/23	
Drawn By: TCT	
Reviewed By: BWW	
Job Number : 01-23-122	



Prepared By:

sligh environmental consultants, inc. 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 2008 Savannah, Georgia 31405 phone (912) 232-0451 fax (912) 232-0453 2021 Aerial Photograph SKIO Main Dock Upgrades Chatham County, Georgia

	80	Feet
Exhibit Date: 8/16/23		9
Drawn By: TCT		
Reviewed By: BWW		
Job Number : 01-23-12	22	
	-	



CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFTEY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

1117 EISENHOWER DRIVE, SAVANNAH, GA 31406 P.O. Box 8161, Savannah, GA. 31412-8161 912 201 4300 – Fax 912 201 4301

August 18, 2023

Tristan C. Turner Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200 B Savannah, GA 31405

RE: Mooring Improvements Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Main Dock - Ocean Science Drive

Dear Mr. Turner,

The above referenced facility is located within the C-M/EO, Marsh Conservation / Environmental / Overlay. The proposed project does not represent a violation to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance.

If there are questions, I can be reached at 912 201 4315.

Sincerely, a

Marcus Lotson Assistant Director, Building Safety and Regulatory Services.

Attachments



P+22-1012 SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE FUEL DOCK600 CADD'SHEETSIPERMIT - MAIN DOCK22-1012 - P04 - PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS DWG 🗢 Photha: 80/2023 11:35 AM By: JASON BALL JOB#: Date: County: Applicant: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MAIN DOCK UPGRADES **PROPOSED CONDITIONS** 1,327' MLW TO MLW CHATNAM 22-1012 1" = 40' 08-03-23 135' TO MLW DATUM: SNEET: PROPOSED 24"Ø PIPE PILE DOLPHINS, TYP OF 6 (20SF TOTAL, 70' LONG EA) NJVD88 GENERAL REPAIRS TO CONCRETE PIERHEAD SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE MAIN DOCK UPGRADES SIDAWAY ISLAND, GEORGIA 20' GENERAL NOTES: Q 0 SCALE: 1"=40" 207 38 8 Ģ 0 0 (IN FEET) 8 42 PROPOSED 24"Ø PIPE PILE DOLPHINS, TYP OF 6 (20SF TOTAL, 70' LONG EA) 6 Ball Maritime Group, LLC 4 Cedar View Court | Savannah, Georgia | 31410 | (912) 662-2914 www.ballmaniume.com Zonins ONX 8/18/23 **GENERAL REPAIRS TO** CONCRETE FLOATING DOCK