



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 MICHIGAN AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550

January 26, 2026

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination for the Nearshore Placement of Dredged Material from the Saxon Harbor Federal Navigation Channel, Iron County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Kate Angel:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District, will be conducting nearshore placement of dredged material removed from the Saxon Harbor federal navigation channel, Iron County, Wisconsin, under our operations and maintenance authority. The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA; 16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.) requires Federal agency activities that have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use or resource to be undertaken in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's Federally approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) 15 C.F.R. §930 et seq. This letter constitutes the USACE Detroit District's federal consistency determination for the proposed federal action described below.

Proposed Federal Action

The proposed action includes maintenance dredging of the Saxon Harbor federal navigation channel, with placement of up to 17,000 cubic yards (CY) starting 600 feet west of the western harbor breakwater and extending for an additional 1,900 feet from the ordinary high water mark to the -8' underwater contour (Figures 1 and 2). As such, water quality certification or waiver thereof will be required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (1977). The USACE submitted a pre-application water quality certification request to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 12, 2025, for placement of fill into the waters of the U.S.

Relevant Enforceable Coastal Policies Consistency Evaluation

The proposed work is located within the Coastal Zone Management Boundary as indicated by the Coastal Zone Boundary Map for Iron County, Wisconsin. The USACE reviewed the coastal policies from the State of Wisconsin's Coastal Management Program that appear applicable to the proposed project. The USACE compiled a list of those policies being Policies 1.2; 1.4; 1.15.1; 4.11; 4.11.1; and 4.11.2. Upon confirmation of that list by the state on January 14, 2026, the USACE has prepared the following evaluation of the proposed federal action for consistency with the State of Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (CMP).

POLICY 1.2: An interim goal is the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife and the maintenance of water quality to allow recreation in and on the water to be achieved. (See Wis. Stats. § 283.001(1)(b))

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The proposed placement of the sandy, dredged material has been tested and determined suitable for beach nourishment or in water placement. As beach nourishment, the sandy material would provide feeding habitat for migratory shore birds, including state-listed species and federally listed piping plover. This project is intended to raise the elevation and width of the beach from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to the -8' underwater contour. The additional sand provides shore bird feeding habitat in the wave washed swash zone. Construction activities are timed so that there is no disruption of migratory bird nesting and rearing periods and to avoid periods of sensitive fishery life stages.

POLICY 1.4) Disposal in the waters of the state of the following defined pollutants shall be restricted: dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, refuse, oil, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive substance, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal and agricultural waste discharged into water. (See Wis. Stats. §§ 283.01(13), 283.31(1) and 29.601. See also managed uses #8 and #9)

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The proposed placement of the dredged material has been characterized per the Great Lakes Testing Manual evaluation criteria and determined suitable for in water placement.

POLICY 1.15.1) No person may conduct an activity for which the Wisconsin department of natural resources denies a required water quality certification. No person may violate a condition imposed by the department in a water quality certification. (See Wis. Stats. § 281.17(10))

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The proposed placement project will receive the required water quality certification (WQC) through Section 401 of the Clean Water Act or the Chapter 30 permit process. The WQC pre-application request was submitted on December 12, 2025. The dredged material to be placed nearshore is suitable for open water placement and is expected to produce minimal turbidity during placement operations. Placement of sand for beach nourishment is not expected to adversely impact the physical or biological character of the nearshore placement area.

POLICY 4.11) Unless an individual or a general permit has been issued or authorization has been granted by the legislature, no person may deposit any material or place any structure upon the bed of any navigable water where no bulkhead line has been established or beyond a lawfully established bulkhead line. Exemptions from permit requirements for the placement of a structure or the deposit of

material only apply where the structure or material is located in an area other than an area of special natural resource interest and does not interfere with the riparian rights of any other riparian owners. (See Wis. Stats. §§ 30.12 and 30.11. See also SCA #2, and managed use #1, 2, 6, and 7)

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The pre-application permit for the required WQC authorization for in water placement was submitted on December 12, 2025.

POLICY 4.11.1) For a structure or deposit that is not exempt and that is not subject to a general permit, a riparian owner may apply to the Wisconsin department of natural resources for the individual permit that is required in order to place a structure for the owners' use or to deposit the material. The department shall issue an individual permit if the department finds that the structure or deposit will not materially obstruct navigation, the structure or deposit will not be detrimental to the public interest, and the structure or deposit will not materially reduce the flood flow capacity of a stream. (See Wis. Stats. § 30.12(3m))

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The WQC request is in process for the proposed nearshore placement of the dredged material. The project is not detrimental to the public interest but will enhance the public interest by providing beach nourishment to an eroding shoreline. The project would not result in adverse effects on flood levels and there is no practicable alternative to beach nourishment as a beneficial reuse of dredged materials. The project would not impede river flows. The project represents the minimal impact solution with respect to reasonable alternatives for beach nourishment.

POLICY 4.11.2) Unless a contract has been entered into with the Wisconsin department of natural resources or authorization has been granted by the legislature, no person may remove any material from the bed of a natural navigable lake or from the bed of any outlying waters. Unless an individual or a general permit has been issued by the department or authorization has been granted by the legislature, no person may remove any materials from the bed of any lake or any navigable stream. (See Wis. Stats. § 30.20(1))

Consistency of Proposed Federal Action: The USACE is maintaining by dredging the Congressionally authorized federal navigation channel at Saxon Harbor. The nearshore in-water placement of the dredged material for beach nourishment will be consistent with the WQC authorizing conditions.

CZMA Federal Consistency Determination

The proposed project is located within the Wisconsin Coastal Zone. The USACE has determined that the proposed project would be undertaken in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the

approved State of Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. This is in accordance with 15 C.F.R Part 930.36(a).

We request your concurrence with (or objection to) this determination within 60 days in accordance with the CZMA. The State of Wisconsin's concurrence will be presumed if its response is not received by the USACE within 60 days plus any extension, if requested as applicable, pursuant to 15 CFR 930.41, from the State's receipt of this determination. Please contact Mr. Hal Harrington at Hal.F.Harrington@usace.army.mil or 810-623-1006 or me at Charles.A.Uhlarik@usace.army.mil or 313-226-2476 if you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this USACE CZMA federal consistency determination.

Sincerely,

Hal F. Harrington for

Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section

Enclosures

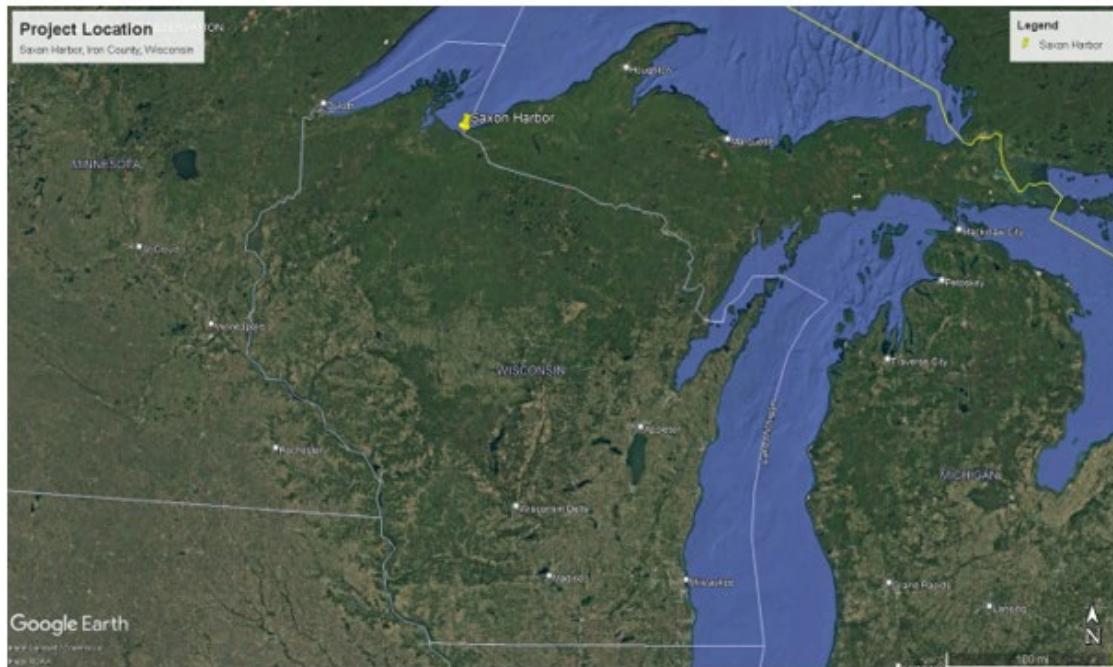


Figure 1: Project Location

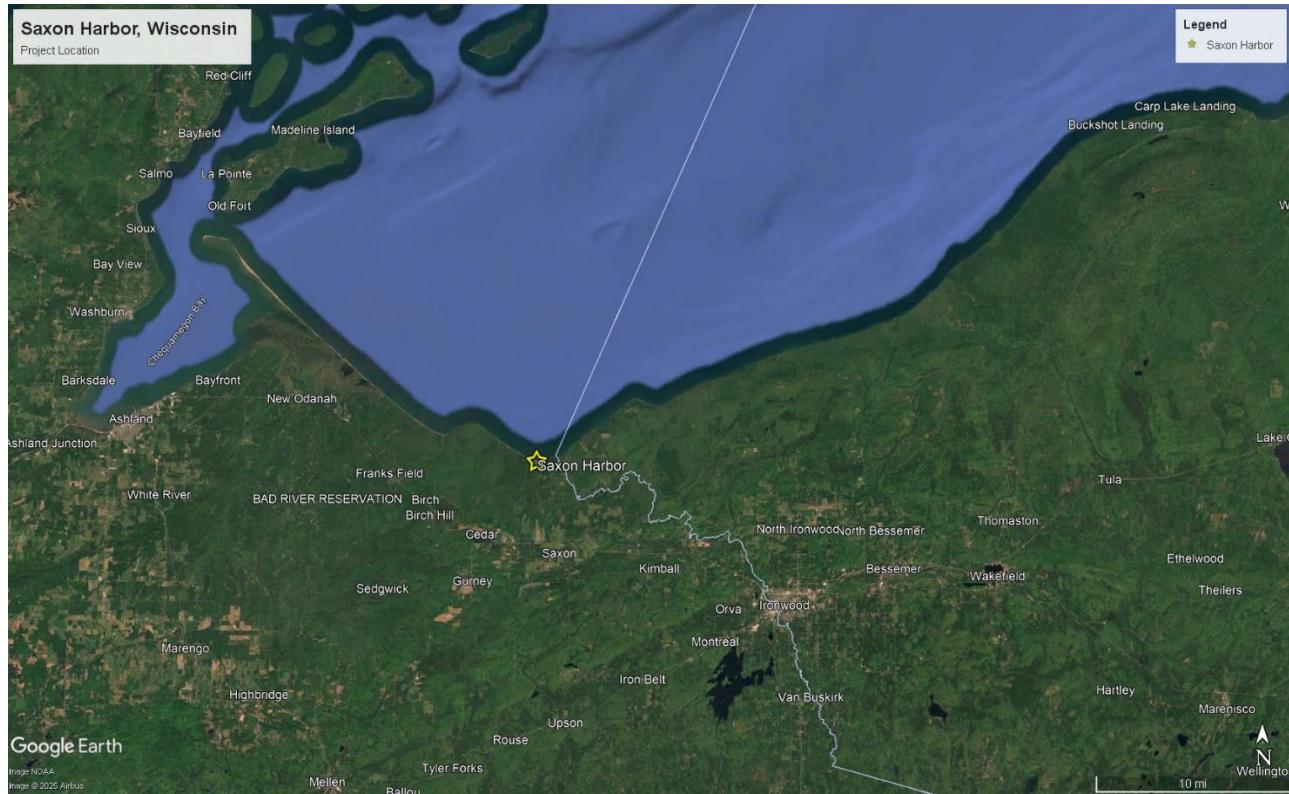


Figure 2: Harbor Dredging and Placement Area

2025 USACE Dredging and Beach Nourishment at Saxon Harbor, Saxon, WI

(a) Name of waterbody and location of project

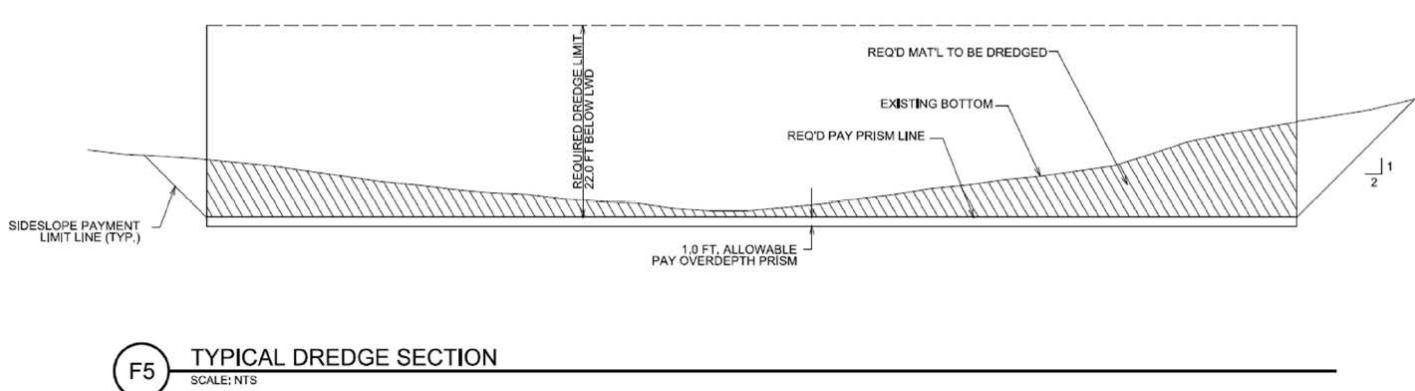
Waterbody is Saxon Harbor, Iron County, WI which is within federal navigation authority.
See map below for harbor location.



(b) Volume of material to be dredged

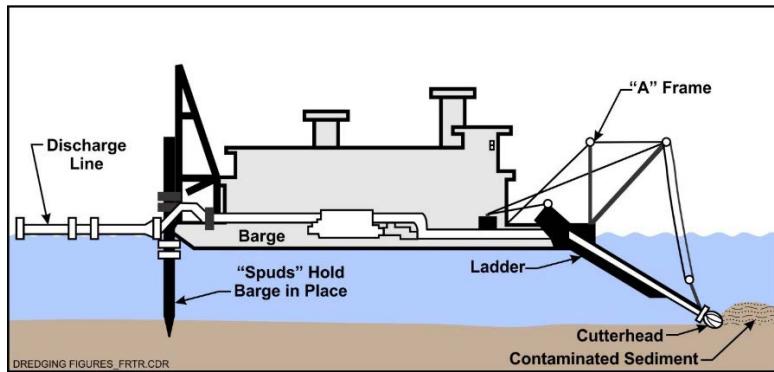
Target volume is approximately 17,000 CYs

3,000-5,000 CYs of material in Spring/Summer 2026
10,000-12,000 CYs in Spring/Summer 2027



(c) Brief description of dredging method and equipment

Dredging/Placing at Nearshore Placement Area: Hydraulic dredging with discharge pipeline routed around breakwater to submerged nearshore placement area starting 600ft west of the western breakwater extending 1900 ft between ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) and 8ft contour is the most likely method to be employed.



Potential Alternative: Mechanical dredging with small barge-mounted backhoe, material will be placed directly onto a placement barge. The dredging and placement barges will move to the placement area and offload material in the nearshore placement area starting 600ft west of the western breakwater extending 1900 ft between ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) and 8ft contour.



(d) Brief description of proposed disposal method and location and, if a disposal facility is to be used, size of the disposal facility.

Dredging with Placement to Nearshore Placement Site: Dredging will be staged such that beach nourishment material will be dredged first, moving from the inner harbor to the outer harbor. This material (within 15% fines of neighboring beach) will be hydraulically pumped directly from the dredge to the nearshore placement area, between the OHWM and 8' depth contour (see map).

(e) Any previous sediment sampling (including field observations) and analysis data from the area to be dredged or from the proposed disposal site.

Sediment sampling was conducted by USACE contractors in April of 2025. Included below is final Sediment Sampling and Analysis Report.

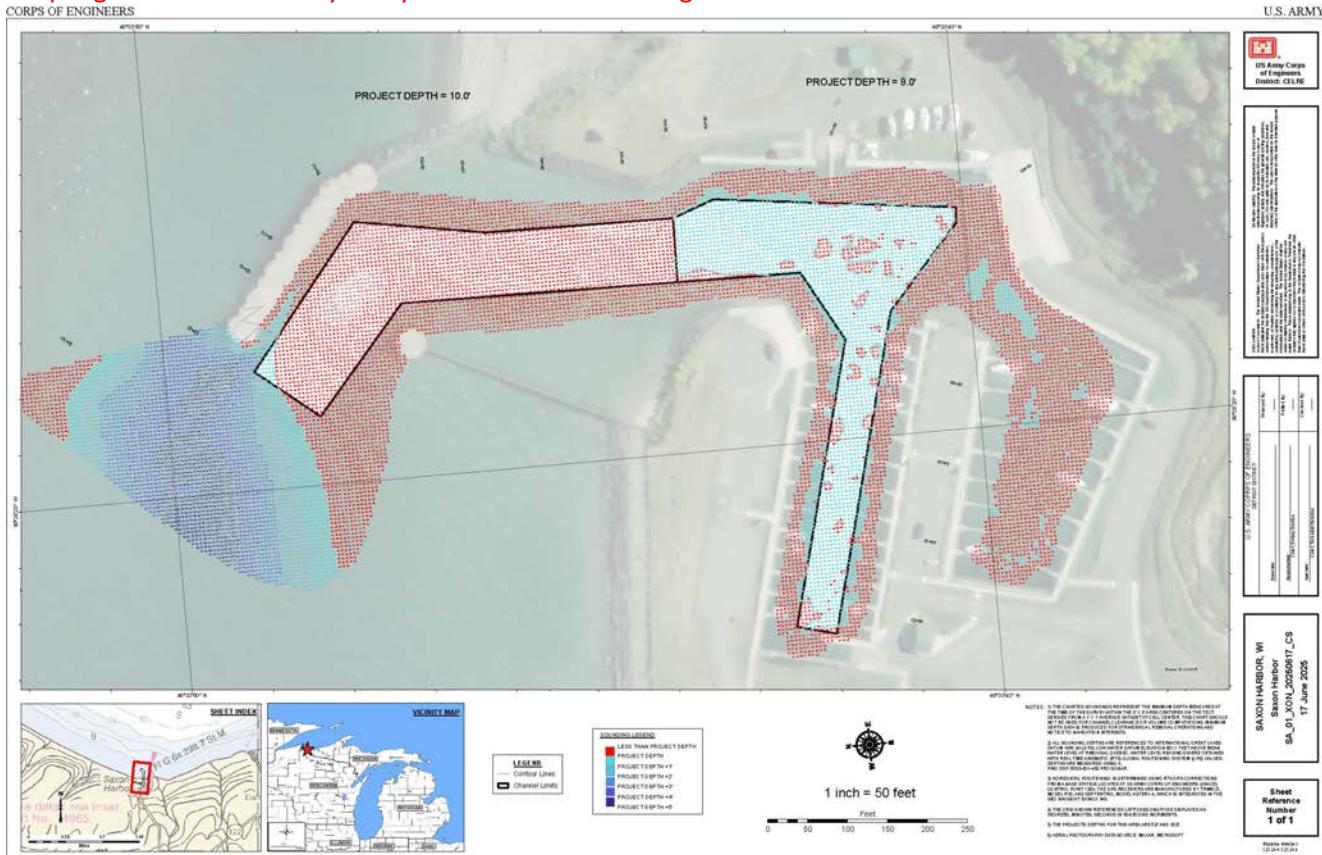


2025 Saxon Harbor
Final Report comple

Physical and Chemical Summary

Physical analysis shows material in the outer harbor to be primarily fine sand with increasing fine content further into the harbor. Sequential dredging of the inner and outer harbor material will result in a range of approximately 70% to 98% sand being placed for beach nourishment, with an average of approximately 86% sand content. The receiving beach at nearshore placement area is 99% sand. The dredge material is free of contaminants of concern, with detectable metals registering below DNR consensus guideline threshold values. Total PAHs are likewise well below threshold aquatic risk values, and PCB's and pesticides were non-detectable.

(f) Copy of a map showing the area to be dredged, the depth of cut, the specific location of the proposed sediment sampling sites and the bathymetry of the area to be dredged.



- Cut depths will average 4' across harbor shoals. See map for dredge areas.

The most recent dredging in this navigation channel occurred in 2017 (record table below)



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

As of: 08-Jun-2023

CONTRACT DREDGING REPORT, DETROIT DISTRICT, OPERATIONS OFFICE

FY	START	COMPLETION	CUBIC YARDS	CONTRACT AMOUNT	CONTRACTOR CONTRACT NUMBER	DREDGE AREA	PLACEMENT AREA
Saxon Harbor							
2017	10/30/2017	11/15/2018	20,843	\$1,097,784	ROEN W911XK-16-D-0004	1.0 foot of available over depth (OD) below Low Water Datum (0.0 LWD = 601.1 Feet IGLD85)	Constructed berms to place dredge material
2008	10/9/2008	10/15/2008	4,500	\$0	ROEN W911XK-08-D-0002	STA 0+00 to 9+00	Placement site located approx. 1/2 mile from Harbor (local county prepped)
2001	6/2/2001	6/27/2001	6,589	\$133,167	MCM MARINE DACPW35-01-C-0001	CRITICAL SHOALS	UPLAND 1.5 ACRE SITE PROVIDED BY IRON COUNTY (SAME SITE USED IN 1989)
1989	5/29/1990	6/22/1990	7,644	\$85,906	NELSON DACPW35-89-C-0044	5+70W-11+00N	UNCONFINED UPLAND 1.5 ACRE SITE
1981			4,646	\$36,851	KING DACPW35-81-C-0035		UPLAND
1974			2,000	\$12,045	GOVT/NO.20		
1973			875	\$4,042	GOVT/NO.20		
1972			3,875	\$22,188	GOVT/NO.20		
1971			8,000	\$19,435	GOVT/NO.20		
1967			2,650	\$0	GOVT/NO.20		

(g) Anticipated starting and completion dates of the proposed project

USACE Duluth Floating Plant to dredge critical shoaling Spring/Summer of 2026

Contract to be bid potentially in Winter 2026 via work plan funding – if received. Work to be conducted in accordance with environmental windows most likely in spring 2027. These are subject to change dependent on funding received for maintenance dredging.