



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

October 9, 2015

Programs and Project Management Division
Civil Works / IIS Project Management Branch

Board of Selectmen
Town of Chilmark
41 Highland Ave.
Chilmark, MA 02025

Board of Selectmen Mayhew, Doty, and Rossi:

I received your letter dated August 24, 2015 requesting the Corps refrain from dredging two areas in the 6 foot anchorage in the upcoming maintenance of the Menemsha Creek Federal Navigation Project (FNP). Your letter suggests that dredging these areas would not advance public navigation nor provide benefit to the public. Instead, you suggest completing maintenance to these areas would cause significant economic hardship on the Town and/or individual property owners which would be required to have pilings/structures removed prior to construction activities.

When the Corps undertakes a maintenance dredging event at a FNP it attempts to remove all material to the projects authorized dimensions in order to prolong the usability of the project and reduce overall costs of maintain the project. In the case of the Menemsha Creek FNP sensitive submerged habitat prevented the Corps from dredging the 10 foot anchorage due to environmental and funding constraints associated with mitigation. The 6 foot anchorage areas you have identified remained in the project design because no sensitive habitat prevented its removal.

However, upon further review and consideration of the Town's statement of hardship to itself and/or on behalf of individual property owners the Corps has elected not to dredge two small shoals at the toe of slope on the east and west side of the 6 foot anchorage in the Menemsha Creek basin. These areas consist of approximately 250 cubic yards of material (or less than 0.5% of the total project) and leaving them in place will still allow unencumbered transit by vessels throughout the rest of the FNP.

This letter serves to inform the Town (and individual property owners adjacent to this portion of the project) that pilings/decking will not be required to be removed for this year's maintenance event. It does not eliminate the requirement of removal of structures for future maintenance events, if necessary.

If you have any questions or would to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me at (978) 318-8638, or my Navigation Section Chief, Ed O'Donnell at (978) 318-8375.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Martin".

CRAIG MARTIN
Project Manager
Navigation Section