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October 2, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

EPA Public Meeting and Comment Period on Proposed Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site for Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts

Please join EPA for a public presentation and discussion on the Proposed Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region.

The feedback provided during the meeting will be considered as part of EPA's public comment process for the Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Assessment.

Light Refreshments will be served.

When:

Next Wednesday October 9, 2019
6pm

Where:

Kittery Maine Community Center
120 Rogers Road
Kittery, ME 03904
Downstairs Meeting Room 2

What:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 has released a Proposed Rule for Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site, Isles of Shoals North (IOSN) for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region, pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, as amended (MPRSA). The Proposed Rule was published in the Federal Register on September 18, 2019 at [84 FR 49075](#). In addition, EPA has released a *Draft Environmental Assessment and Evaluation Study for Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region, August 2019* (Draft EA) for public review and comment. The comment period is open through **October 18, 2019** and comments can be made through the Federal Register website or through [regulations.gov](#), Docket # EPA-R01-OW-2019-0521.

The proposed Isles of Shoals Disposal Site North (IOSN) is located in the Gulf of Maine, approximately 10.8 nautical miles east of Portsmouth, NH. This potential disposal site is currently defined as a 8,500-foot (2590-meter) diameter circle on the seafloor with its center located at 70° 26.995' W and 43° 1.142' N. Water depths at the proposed IOSN vary from 255 feet to 340 feet and gradually slope from approximately 295 feet on the western boundary to 328 feet in the southeastern portion of the site. The area is generally flat soft-bottom.

Section 103(b) of the MPRSA, 33 U.S.C. 1413(b), provides that any ocean disposal of dredged material should occur at EPA-designated sites to the maximum extent feasible. Currently, there are no EPA-designated dredged material disposal sites off the coast of southern Maine, New Hampshire, and northern Massachusetts. There is one USACE-

selected site in this area, the Cape Arundel Disposal Site (CADS), but it will no longer be available after December 31, 2021, when its Congressionally-authorized term of use expires. This proposed action will designate an ODMDS to allow future disposal of suitable dredged material from southern Maine, New Hampshire, and northern Massachusetts to be disposed of at an EPA-designated site.

More information and links to the Proposed Rule and Draft EA can be found on the [EPA Region 1 Ocean Dumping web page](#). We encourage you to share this information with any stakeholders or potentially interested parties. If you have an upcoming meeting and would like a presentation on this project, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Regina Lyons (617-918-1557 or lyons.regina@epa.gov) or Olga Guza-Pabst of my staff at 617-918-1542 or guza-pabst.olga@epa.gov.