



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Savannah District

News Release

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Federal channel contributes to erosion on Tybee Island

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The creation and continued maintenance of the Savannah Harbor Federal Navigation Project have caused about 70-80 percent of the erosion on certain areas of the adjoining beach and nearshore region at Tybee Island, Ga., according to a research project released today. Today the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released the draft executive summary of the Tybee Island Impacts Feasibility Study marking for the first time an estimated level of impacts to the beachfront of that coastal community that is attributed to the project.

This technical analysis, begun in January, used the supercomputers at the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Miss., with input from the Savannah District and Wilmington District. The study estimates that for every 100,000 cubic yards of erosion to the Tybee island shelf and shoreline, 70,000 to 80,000 cubic yards could be attributed to the construction and maintenance of the adjacent federal navigation project (channel and jetties).

The full draft report is scheduled to be released by the Savannah District in a week. Officials from the Savannah District provided copies of the executive summary to local Tybee Island officials and to congressional, state and local elected officials today. The entire report, when available, will also be released to these elected officials and to the local sponsor of the study, the City of Tybee Island.

The Savannah District will conduct engineering reviews of the study and seek comments from local officials. Upon the completion of the reviews and receipt of comments, the Savannah District will prepare a final Tybee Island Channel Impact Report.

The completion of this study does not provide any new federal authorization or funding for Tybee Island beaches. Engineers must conduct a feasibility study to formulate a mitigation proposal to recommend to Congress through the Corps Headquarters in Washington. The least costly, environmentally compatible mitigation strategy will likely be the plan recommended to Congress.

There are no federal funds for the continuation of this feasibility study.

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