



September 12th, 2016

Update: Mon Louis Restoration Project- Shoreline stabilization and Habitat Creation in conjunction with dredging of the navigational channel

Dear Fowl River Stakeholders,

Below is an update on the Mon Louis Island project as a result of Orion Marine Group's preconstruction meeting with their dredge crew. Please understand this is only a plan and timelines are contingent upon weather and/or mechanical issues. Construction is on schedule and the project is progressing as planned.

The plan developed by Thompson Engineering that will result in restoration of the receding shoreline and creation of approximately four acres of salt marsh habitat on northern Mon Louis Island, south of and adjacent to the mouth of East Fowl River is well underway. The first step in the process is the construction of a rock breakwater positioned roughly along the 1995 footprint of the island- **UPDATE: Orion Marine Group's subcontractor, Greystone, essentially finished the breakwater this weekend. Orion has the post construction breakwater survey lined up for today Monday, September 12th.**

Suitable sandy material (approximately 40,000 cubic yards) will be "borrowed" from the permitted, near shore USACOE Fowl River Open Water Disposal Area and hydraulically pumped over and behind the breakwater above grade to create approximately four acres of marsh substrate- **UPDATE: Orion is on-site at the Steiner property staging and fusing dredge pipe. Orion began the dredge fleet tow from Pascagoula approximately midnight on Friday, September 9th. The trip took about 12 hours. They estimate three to four days of setup and plan to start dredging the marsh fill on or on about Wednesday, September 14th. The marsh fill should take about five working days.**

To mitigate the depression left after borrowing, Sen. Bill Hightower identified a funding source, an Alabama Deepwater Horizon Incident Grant of \$800,000 that was subsequently secured, to finance dredging of the shallow Fowl River Navigation channel. Material dredged from the channel will be beneficially used to replace material borrowed from the disposal area and avoid negative environmental impacts. In this case, only one dredge mobilization and demobilization will be necessary to accomplish marsh creation fill and channel maintenance dredging, representing significant cost savings for accomplishing both tasks- **UPDATE: The Fowl River channel dredging is estimated to take about 19 working days and they hope to finish dredging on or about October 8th.**

For more information, please contact Tom Herder, Watershed Protection Coordinator with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program @ (251) 380-7937 or therder@mobilebaynep.com