



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MBNEP: Major Fowl River Project to Begin in July: Public Safety Advisory for Boaters and Recreational Users**

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program is announcing the commencement of the Fowl River Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Stabilization Project, starting mid to late July. This significant initiative aims to conserve the environmental and cultural integrity of Fowl River by protecting these fragile spits from boat wakes and other stressors.

### **Public Safety Advisory:**

As construction begins, the MBNEP advises all river users to be aware of the following safety measures and changes:

- **Increased Activity:** Expect crews, equipment, and new structures on the river Monday through Friday. Significant construction activity will be present throughout the project duration.
- **"No Wake" Zones:** Temporary "No Wake!" signs will be posted to enhance safety. Boaters are urged to reduce speed and exercise caution when navigating through construction zones.
- **Construction Zones:** Construction will occur at multiple locations along the river simultaneously to expedite project completion. Please be vigilant and heed all posted signs and barriers.

### **Importance of the Project:**

The Fowl River Project addresses the severe degradation of marsh spits due to saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, and boat wakes. Key components include:

- **Marsh Restoration:** Thin-layer sediment placement to raise the elevation of marsh spits, combating the effects of severe weather events and saltwater intrusion.
- **Shoreline Protection:** Installation of timber wave screens and limited riprap to protect spits and adjacent seagrass beds, reducing erosion and enhancing habitat.

This investment, funded by the State of Alabama and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, is crucial for preserving Fowl River's ecological integrity and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

### **Visual and Media Resources:**

To complement this announcement, MBNEP is offering to media b-roll and drone footage of the Fowl River project site, providing a comprehensive view of the work being undertaken.

For more information about the project and to access visual materials, please visit our website at [www.mobilebaynep.com](http://www.mobilebaynep.com) or contact Herndon Graddick at [hgraddick@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:hgraddick@mobilebaynep.com).