
APPENDIX B: AGENCY COORDINATION

BDR Runway 11/29 EA
Early Agency Coordination Contact List

FEDERAL

Mr. Timothy Timmermann
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Review, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
timmermann.timothy@epa.gov

Ms. Nancy Ferlow
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Connecticut State Office
344 Merrow Road, Suite A
Tolland, Connecticut 06084
nancy.ferlow@ct.usda.gov

Mr. David Simmons
Assistant Supervisor, Endangered Species
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087
David_Simmons@fws.gov

Mr. Shaun Roche
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge
733 Old Clinton Road
Westbrook, Connecticut 06498
shaun_roche@fws.gov

Ms. Ashleigh McCord, NEPA Review & Oversight
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-2276
ashleigh.mccord@noaa.gov

STATE

Connecticut Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources &
Wildlife Division (NDDDB)
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Connecticut Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Connecticut Department of Economic &
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Attn: Environmental Review
450 Columbus Blvd. Suite 5
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

LOCAL

Ms. Gail Liscio, President
Stratford Historical Society
967 Academy Hill
Stratford, Connecticut 06615
judsonhousestfd@aol.com

Mr. Chad Esposito
Parks Superintendent
Town of Stratford
2725 Main Street
Stratford, Connecticut, 06615
cesposito@townofstratford.com

Mr. Jay Habansky
Planning & Zoning Administrator
Town of Stratford
2725 Main Street
Stratford, Connecticut, 06615
jhabansky@townofstratford.com

Honorable Mayor Laura R. Hoydick
Town of Stratford
2725 Main Street
Stratford, Connecticut, 06615
mayor@townofstratford.com

Mr. Matthew Fulda
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of
Governments
Executive Director
1000 Lafayette Boulevard
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
mfulda@ctmetro.org



June 8, 2021

Mr. Timothy Timmermann
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Review, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Re: **Early Agency Scoping for Runway 11/29 Improvements Environmental Assessment
Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR)
Stratford, Connecticut**

Dear Mr. Timmermann:

This early agency scoping letter is being sent to inform you that the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed short-term improvements to Runway 11/29 at the Igor Sikorsky Airport (BDR). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead Federal agency that is funding the environmental study and will ultimately issue an environmental finding on the Proposed Action. The EA process will analyze alternatives, undertake studies, and disclose the potential for environmental impacts that could be directly (or indirectly) caused by the Proposed Action.

BDR, owned and operated by the City of Bridgeport, is located in the Town of Stratford, approximately three miles southeast of Bridgeport. The Proposed Action includes multiple short-term projects to improve safety for Runway 11/29. The Proposed Action would shift Runway 11/29 by 150 feet towards the west to improve safety for operations. Specifically, this alternative will convert 150 feet of the eastern runway end into Runway Safety Area (RSA), install an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) bed, and construct a 150-foot extension of the western end of the runway, also with an EMAS bed. The runway length remains unchanged, but displaced thresholds are would be used to provide additional RSA for landings, while providing a minimum landing distance of 4,550 feet. The following project elements, which are depicted on the attached exhibits, are included in the Proposed Action:

- Construct 150 feet of new runway pavement on the Runway 11 end
- Install a 150-foot EMAS beyond the Runway 11 end
- Convert 150 feet of existing usable runway pavement on the Runway 29 end to RSA
- Install a 260-foot EMAS bed beyond the Runway 29 end
- Adjust the Runway 29 end profile by raising and reconstructing approximately 730 feet of pavement
- Miscellaneous drainage improvements north of Runway 11/29 to alleviate flooding problems
- Construct new runway end turnarounds
- Remove pavement
- Grading within the Runway Safety Area (RSA)
- Clear/remove tree obstructions in each of the approaches for Runway 11/29

The Proposed Action is mainly located within the environs of Runway 11/29 and its safety and object free areas. The project area interior to and surrounding the runways and taxiways are comprised of mowed/maintained grasslands. Along the southern and western perimeter of the airport, and to a much lesser extent on the east of the airport

property, are extensive vegetated tidal wetland systems with ditches and areas of open water. A small partially undeveloped upland vegetated area is located north of the Runway 11 end and south of Access Road. There will be several biological studies undertaken as part of this EA process, including wetland delineations and a biological survey for threatened and endangered species.

The EA document will be prepared in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures* and FAA Order 5050.4B, *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions*. As part of our early coordination effort for the referenced project, you are asked to study the enclosed information and provide a written evaluation of the potential impacts upon resources that are under your jurisdiction. You are asked to return a reply within 30-days of receipt of this packet. If no reply has been received within 30-days, it will be indicated in the environmental document that your agency has no comment on the project. If you would like additional information on this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 273-8638 or email at mheckroth@chacompanies.com. Please send any written comments to the following address:

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP
Senior Project Manager
CHA Consulting, Inc,
1501 North Marginal Road, Suite 200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

We appreciate your interest in the project.

Sincerely,



Mark Heckroth, ENV SP
Senior Project Manager

Cc: Mr. Richard Doucette, Federal Aviation Administration
Ms. Michelle Muoio, City of Bridgeport – Airport Manager



Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Keefe, Daniel <Keefe.Daniel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Laura Hoydick; Heckroth, Mark; mayor
Cc: Andrea Boissevain; Mary Dean; Raynae Serra; KKerrigan@townofstratford.com; Jay Habansky; Saunders, Jeffry; Kilborn, John
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: RE: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut
Categories: MSGFILE_067655.000

Thanks Mayor Hoydick,

I've shared with OU9 Project Manager, Jeff Saunders, and case attorney John Kilborn.

We have somewhat regular (every ~6 months) meetings with Sikorsky, the FAA, and others.

These changes were previously contemplated and (actually) they likely further mitigate some concerns folks have in light of the future presumptive remedy at this location (i.e., capping).

Jeff Saunders... do we have another meeting on the calendar?

Dan

Daniel Keefe
U.S. EPA Region 1
Section Chief – ME/VT/CT Superfund
keefe.daniel@epa.gov
617-918-1327

From: Laura Hoydick <lloydick@townofstratford.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>; mayor <mayor@townofstratford.com>; Keefe, Daniel <Keefe.Daniel@epa.gov>
Cc: Andrea Boissevain <aboissevain@townofstratford.com>; Mary Dean <mdean@townofstratford.com>; Raynae Serra <rserra@townofstratford.com>; KKerrigan@townofstratford.com; Jay Habansky <jhabansky@townofstratford.com>
Subject: Re: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Mark, I've copied Dan Keefe who is managing the Raymark superfund project for EPA. Area 7 may be of interest to the EPA.

Laura R. Hoydick
Mayor
Town of Stratford



2725 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615
203.385.4001
mayor@townofstratford.com

From: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:17 AM
To: mayor <mayor@townofstratford.com>
Subject: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Please see attached. Thank you.

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP
Senior Project Manager
Aviation Planning and Programming
CHA
Office: (216) 273-8638
Cell: (216) 904-6283
mheckroth@chacompanies.com
www.chacompanies.com



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Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Potvin, Richard <richard_potvin@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Heckroth, Mark; Roche, Shaun; Mayer, Audrey L
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: EA Scoping Sikorsky airport runway
Categories: MSGFILE_067655.000

Mr. Heckroth

The email you sent Shaun Roche (cc here) Visitor Services Manager (of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (SBMNWR)) concerning the EA for the runway extension of Silkorsky Airport was forward to me.

I am the Refuge Manager. Normally comments concerning NEPA process by other Federal Agencies that effect the USFWS resources are handled by the Services Ecological Field Stations. The New England Ecological field office would cover the area of this project.

I have cc Audrey Mayer the Supervisor of that office, please contact her office.

Rick Potvin

Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Corsair, Cynthia L <Cynthia_Corsair@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Heckroth, Mark
Subject: Re: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: [EXTERNAL] EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Categories: MSGFILE_067655.000

Hi Mark,

Thank you for your early coordination on this project. After reviewing the information you provided I would like to offer the following comments:

1. As a non-Federal representative, CHA should provide this designation in writing from the lead Federal agency prior to requesting consultation on the agency's behalf, if necessary.
2. Please visit our website at <https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/index.html> for step-by-step guidance on completing the consultation process. You will be able to use our [Information for Planning and Consultation](#) tool to determine if any federally listed species are known to occur in the project area, and if so, if the project activities have the potential to affect these species. You will arrive at one of the following determinations:
 - a. If you find that there are no species present OR if you determine the project will have **no effect** on listed species, you will simply need to document your determination and further consultation with our office will not be required.
 - b. If you determine that listed species or critical habitat may be present and the project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect** these species, please follow the instructions on the website to submit the required information and request for our concurrence with your determination.
 - c. If you determine that the project **may affect and is likely to adversely affect** listed species or critical habitat, please contact us before submitting your project package, as your project may require formal review.

If you need technical assistance or have questions at any point in this process, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!
Cindy

Cindy Corsair
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
50 Bend Rd. Charlestown, RI 02813
cell: 401-338-8132
office: 401-213-4416
fax: 401-364-0170

Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Corsair, Cynthia L <Cynthia_Corsair@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: [EXTERNAL] EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Thank you Cindy

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP
Office: (216) 273-8638
Cell: (216) 904-6283

From: Corsair, Cynthia L <Cynthia_Corsair@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: [EXTERNAL] EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Hi Mark,
I wanted to send a quick note to let you know that your request has been received and I will be your POC for this project moving forward. Once I have had a chance to review the incoming materials, I will reach out with any questions/concerns.

Thanks!
Cindy

Cindy Corsair
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
50 Bend Rd. Charlestown, RI 02813
cell: 401-338-8132
office: 401-213-4416
fax: 401-364-0170
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Simmons, David <david_simmons@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Please see attached. Thank you.

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP

Senior Project Manager
Aviation Planning and Programming

CHA

Office: (216) 273-8638

Cell: (216) 904-6283

mheckroth@chacompanies.com

www.chacompanies.com



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Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Sabrina Pereira - NOAA Federal <sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Heckroth, Mark
Subject: Re: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut
Categories: MSGFILE_067655.000

Thank you Mark! I will let you know if we have any additional questions in the coming days.

Best wishes,

Sabrina Pereira

Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, MA
Pronouns: she/her/hers
(978)-675-2178
Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 1:23 PM Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com> wrote:

Hi Sabrina,

Thanks for getting back to me. The project is in its infancy stages, so field studies are just beginning.

1. At this time, the extension/EMAS work on the west end will not impact the waterway on the western side of the airport
2. A wetland delineation will be completed for the entire hatched study area (sent with your letter). There is a known wetland near the Runway 29 end that may/may not be impacted by grading. To be determined at this point
3. There has not been previous coordination with NMFS on this particular project.
4. The early coordination letter only went to Ashleigh since she was listed as the NEPA person for your agency. Yes, we can send this to Roosevelt and Megan.

Thank you

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP

Office: (216) 273-8638

Cell: (216) 904-6283

From: Sabrina Pereira - NOAA Federal <sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Hi Mr. Heckroth,

I am the essential fish habitat consultant with NMFS reviewing the Sikorski airport improvements letter you sent on June 8th. I have a few questions for you about the project. Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated as it may impact our EFH guidance and/or concerns.

1. Is any in-water work proposed for the project?
2. Will construction work occur in any wetlands and/or will wetlands be filled?
3. Has there been any previous consultation or early coordination with NMFS on this project?
4. Have you sent this project to our Protected Resources division (they handle Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations)? If not, you can contact Roosevelt Mesa and Meagan Riley at roosevelt.mesa@noaa.gov and meagan.riley@noaa.gov .

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best wishes,

Sabrina Pereira
Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, MA
Pronouns: she/her/hers
(978)-675-2178
Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

In Reply Refer To:

July 01, 2021

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-3996

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2021-E-12090

Project Name: Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>;

<http://www.towerkill.com>; and

<http://>

www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300

Concord, NH 03301-5094

(603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E1NE00-2021-SLI-3996

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2021-E-12090

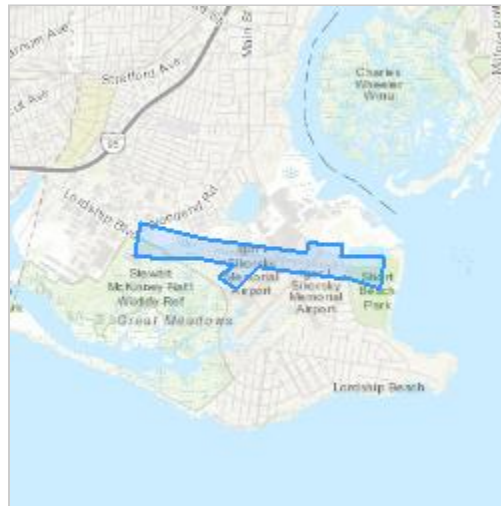
Project Name: Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Proposed Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvements for Runway 11/29, select tree removal, and pavement rehabilitation.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.1656031,-73.13123027252928,14z>



Counties: Fairfield County, Connecticut

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> Population: Northeast U.S. nesting population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Sabrina Pereira - NOAA Federal <sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Heckroth, Mark
Cc: Christopher Boelke - NOAA Federal
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

Categories: MSGFILE_067655.000

Dear Mr. Heckroth:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the June 8, 2021 request for information regarding fisheries resources for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding the revised Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvements at the Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR) in Stratford, Connecticut. The proposed RSA improvements include shifting the eastern end of Runway 11/29 by 150 feet towards the west into RSA to improve safety for operations. This alternative also proposes installing an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) bed, and constructing a 150-foot extension of the western end of the runway, also with an EMAS bed. The following project elements are also proposed: adjusting the Runway 29 end profile by raising and reconstructing approximately 730 feet of pavement, miscellaneous drainage improvements north of Runway 11/29 to alleviate flooding problems, constructing new runway end turnarounds, removing pavement, grading within the RSA, clearing/removing tree obstructions in each of the approaches for Runway 11/29.

NMFS has not been involved with this project prior to the June 8th request, but NMFS previously provided information on fisheries resources for the Reevaluation of the Environmental Impact Statement regarding Runway 6/24 improvements in 2011. That letter identified and addressed potential adverse impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH) for public trust resources. The letter identified winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) as a species of concern because they utilize shallow areas near the shore for spawning and feeding as adults. Larvae, eggs and juveniles also use such areas for development in their early stages of life. Tidal wetlands were also identified as an important habitat for foraging species, such as winter flounder. NMFS emphasizes that these previously-identified priorities are still relevant, and the following comments on the newly proposed runway improvements are intended to help identify and address potential adverse impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH) for public trust resources.

NMFS requested additional information on this project on June 16th. We were informed that at this time no in-water work is proposed, the extension/EMAS work on the west end will not impact the waterway on the western side of the airport and that a wetland delineation will be completed for the entire hatched study area. At this point, it is uncertain whether the wetland adjacent to Runway 29 will be impacted by grading.

Essential Fish Habitat

EFH has been designated for 16 federally managed species adjacent to the proposed work area. A complete list of species and life stages that have been designated for the proposed project location can be found on the NMFS Habitat Conservation Division's Essential Fish Habitat mapper at <https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/application/efhmapper/index.html>. Although no in-water work is proposed at this time, we provide the following considerations in the event that the project might impact wetlands and other essential fish habitat.

Among those species listed, particular attention should be focused on winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) habitat that may be adversely affected by this project. Adult winter flounder utilize shallow near shore areas such as the marine basin for spawning and feeding, while eggs, larvae, and juveniles use the area for early life stage development. Stock assessments for winter flounder indicate that recruitment continues at record low levels and spawning stock biomass is less than sustainable levels despite commercial harvest controls (Northeast Fisheries Science Center 2008). This resource status of an ecologically and commercially important species accentuates the critical need to protect winter flounder habitat for spawning and egg life stages. We advise you to consider the sensitive time frame from February 1 to May 31 for any turbidity and/or noise producing, in-water work in order to avoid adverse impacts to winter flounder spawning and juvenile development.

Inland and tidal wetlands are located adjacent to the project site and could be impacted as a result of the proposed construction. Wetlands are designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as “special aquatic sites” under the Section 404(b)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act, due to their important role in the marine ecosystem for foraging species, including winter flounder. Impacts to such habitats would result in negative consequences for fisheries resources, as these environments are particularly valuable in exporting nutrients, filtering runoff from upland sources, and providing spawning, nursery, and shelter habitat for most of the species utilizing the area, including those managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The grading of wetlands leads to the physical loss of habitat, loss or impairment of wetland functions and changes in hydrologic patterns.

Given the potential for impacts to wetlands and critical winter flounder habitat, at this time we would anticipate advising the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to consider the sensitive time of year window for winter flounder above if conducting any in-water work, and we would appreciate receipt of a thorough wetlands delineation and assessment, including the type, density, and elevation of vegetation, as part of an EFH consultation. Once the Environmental Assessment is conducted and alternatives are selected, the FAA will determine whether the final project will require an EFH consultation.

EFH Assessment

The MSA and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act require Federal agencies to consult with one another on projects such as this. Insofar as a project involves EFH, as this project does, this process is guided by the requirements of our EFH regulation at 50 CFR 600.905, which mandates the preparation of EFH assessments and generally outlines each agency’s obligations in this consultation procedure.

The required contents of an EFH assessment includes: 1) a description of the action; 2) an analysis of the potential adverse effects of the action on EFH and the managed species; 3) conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH; and 4) proposed mitigation, if applicable. Other information that should be contained in the EFH assessment, if appropriate, includes: 1) the results of on-site inspections to evaluate the habitat and site-specific effects; 2) the views of recognized experts on the habitat or the species that may be affected; 3) a review of pertinent literature and related information; and 4) an analysis of alternatives to the action that could avoid or minimize the adverse effects on EFH. Upon submittal of an EFH assessment, NMFS will provide conservation recommendations for the proposed project.

We look forward to your continued coordination on this important project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me via email or phone at (978) 675-2178.

Thank you,

Sabrina Pereira

Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, MA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

(978)-675-2178

Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 11:58 AM Sabrina Pereira - NOAA Federal <sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi Mr. Heckroth,

I am the essential fish habitat consultant with NMFS reviewing the Sikorski airport improvements letter you sent on June 8th. I have a few questions for you about the project. Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated as it may impact our EFH guidance and/or concerns.

1. Is any in-water work proposed for the project?
2. Will construction work occur in any wetlands and/or will wetlands be filled?
3. Has there been any previous consultation or early coordination with NMFS on this project?

4. Have you sent this project to our Protected Resources division (they handle Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations)? If not, you can contact Roosevelt Mesa and Meagan Riley at roosevelt.mesa@noaa.gov and meagan.riley@noaa.gov .

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best wishes,

Sabrina Pereira

Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, MA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

(978)-675-2178

Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Christopher Boelke - NOAA Federal <christopher.boelke@noaa.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Timothy Cardiasmenos - NOAA Federal** <timothy.cardiasmenos@noaa.gov>

Date: Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:03 AM

Subject: Fwd: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

To: Christopher Boelke - NOAA Federal <christopher.boelke@noaa.gov>, Ashleigh McCord - NOAA Federal <ashleigh.mccord@noaa.gov>

Hey Chris - I think this is for your shop?

Thanks!

Tim

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashleigh McCord - NOAA Federal** <ashleigh.mccord@noaa.gov>

Date: Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Fwd: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

To: Timothy Cardiasmenos - NOAA Federal <timothy.cardiasmenos@noaa.gov>

No idea what this is or how he picked me, and seems like something we wouldn't have any need to respond to, but just passing along anyway?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heckroth, Mark** <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 9:18 AM

Subject: EA Scoping - Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Connecticut

To: ashleigh.mccord@noaa.gov <ashleigh.mccord@noaa.gov>

Please see attached. Thank you

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP

Senior Project Manager

Aviation Planning and Programming

CHA

Office: (216) 273-8638

Cell: (216) 904-6283

mheckroth@chacompanies.com

www.chacompanies.com



Responsibly Improving the World We Live In



--

Ashleigh McCord (she / her)

NEPA Policy Analyst

National Marine Fisheries Service

Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

978.281.9222

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Timothy A. Cardiasmenos

NEPA Coordinator, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

NOAA Fisheries Service

Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
NEPA Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
Ph: (978) 281-9204
Fx: (978) 281-9207



Find us online

www.fisheries.noaa.gov



--

Christopher Boelke
Chief, New England Branch
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA Fisheries
U.S. Department of Commerce

978-281-9131



BDR Runway 11/29 EA
Right of Entry Letter Contact List

Burns Family Limited Partnership
240 Rosebrook Dr.
Stratford, CT 06614-2450

Carpenter Technology Corporation
PO Box 14662
Reading, PA 19612-4662

Lindquist Steels Incorporated
1050 Woodend Rd.
Stratford, CT 06615-7344

Honorable Mayor Laura R. Hoydick
Town of Stratford
2725 Main St.
Stratford CT, 06615



August 9, 2021

Mr. Thomas Badowski
Town of Berlin
Assistant Town Administrator
108 Shed Road
Berlin, VT 05602

Re: **Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC)
Right-of-Entry for Environmental Field Work**

Dear Mr. Badowski:

Please be informed that the Monroe County Airport Authority (MCAA) has initiated an Environmental Assessment study to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of trees that obstruct the airspace at Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC). Since you are an owner of real property that lies within the affected area of the study, we would like to inform you on an initiative that will be undertaken in the near future.

MCAA has hired CHA Consulting, Inc. to conduct an Environmental Assessment study, and representatives of this firm may seek to visually inspect your premises for the presence of regulated ecological conditions (i.e. wetlands, endangered species, etc...). At that time, the representatives would provide proper credentials for your review. We would like to thank you for anticipated cooperation in these efforts, and if you should have any questions, please feel free to contact (TBD)

Sincerely,

Mark Heckroth
Senior Project Manager

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Project information

NAME

BDR Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements EA

LOCATION

Fairfield County, Connecticut



DESCRIPTION

None

Local office

New England Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (603) 223-2541

📅 (603) 223-0104

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094

<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Log in to IPaC.
2. Go to your My Projects list.
3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME

STATUS

Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*

Threatened

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>

Birds

NAME

STATUS

Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*

Threatened

Wherever found

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864>

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083>

Insects

NAME

STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

Candidate

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743>

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.

2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the [FAQ below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME

BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935>

<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</p>	Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31
<p>Black Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234</p>	Breeds May 20 to Sep 15
<p>Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399</p>	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
<p>Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Blue-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora pinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds May 1 to Jun 30
<p>Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
<p>Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Jan 15 to Sep 30
<p>Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10

<p>Common Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Jun 1 to Sep 30
<p>Common Loon <i>gavia immer</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4464</p>	Breeds Apr 15 to Oct 31
<p>Double-crested Cormorant <i>phalacrocorax auritus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3478</p>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 31
<p>Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501</p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
<p>Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Kentucky Warbler <i>Oporornis formosus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631</p>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7238>

Breeds elsewhere

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds Apr 15 to Oct 31

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds elsewhere

Razorbill *Alca torda*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Breeds elsewhere

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Breeds elsewhere

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Breeds elsewhere

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Breeds elsewhere

<p>Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31
<p>Royal Tern <i>Thalasseus maximus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31
<p>Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Mar 10 to Jul 31
<p>Surf Scoter <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>White-winged Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Breeds elsewhere

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

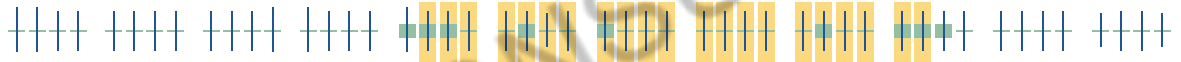
Black Scoter
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is
not a Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC) in
this area, but
warrants attention
because of the
Eagle Act or for
potential
susceptibilities in
offshore areas
from certain types
of development or
activities.)



Black Skimmer
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)

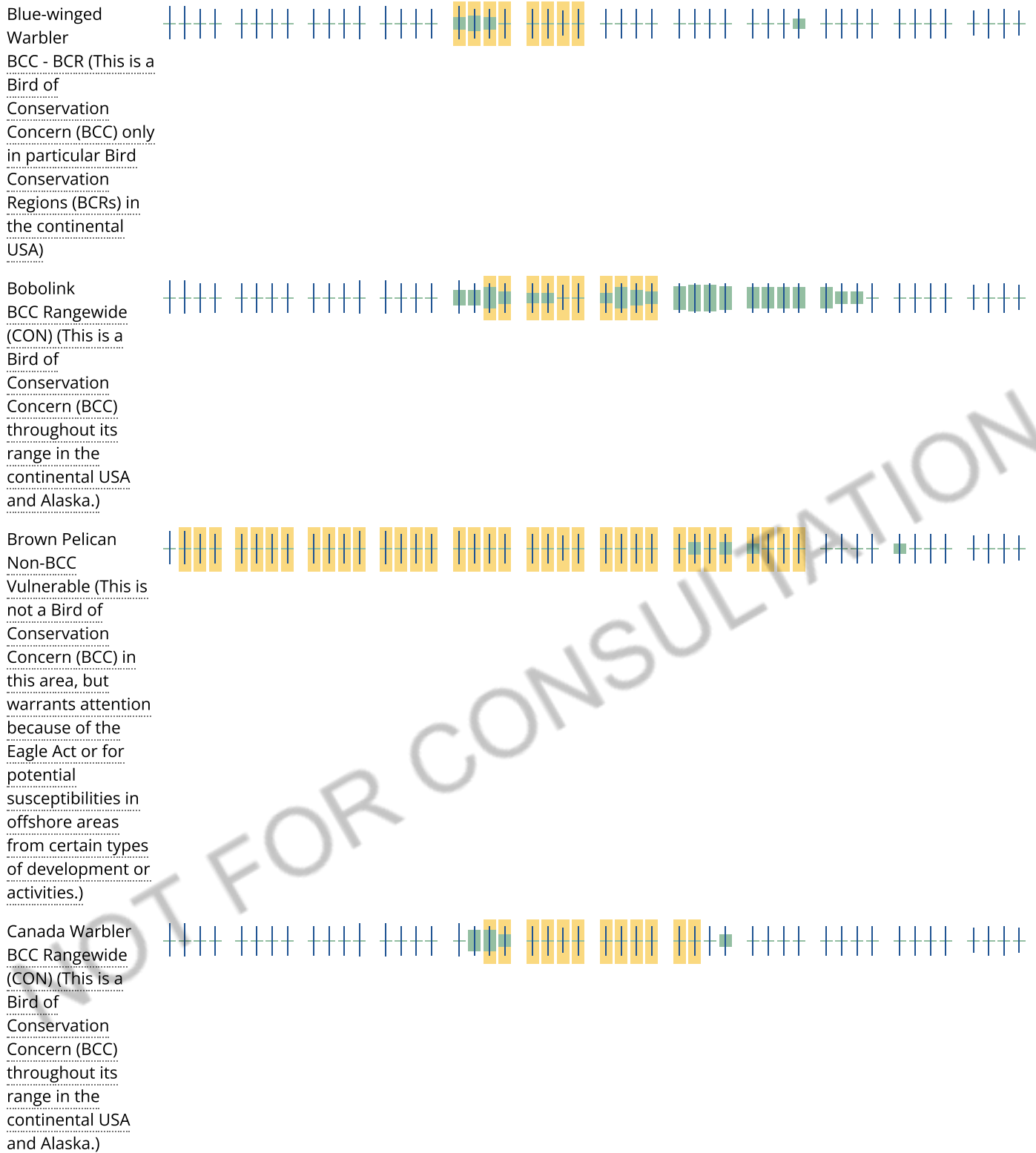


Black-billed
Cuckoo
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)

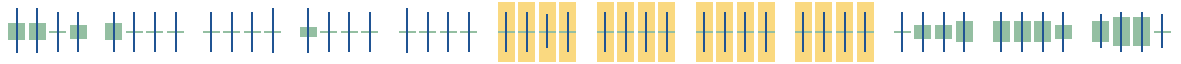


Black-legged
Kittiwake
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is
not a Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC) in
this area, but
warrants attention
because of the
Eagle Act or for
potential
susceptibilities in
offshore areas
from certain types
of development or
activities.)





Common Eider
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



Common Loon
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



SPECIES

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Double-crested Cormorant
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



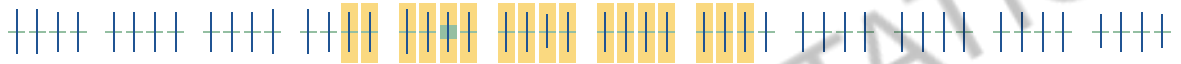
Gull-billed Tern
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



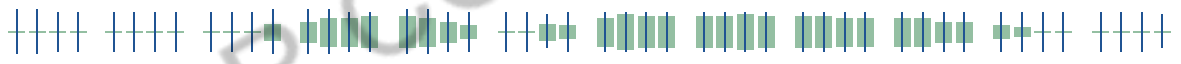
Hudsonian Godwit
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



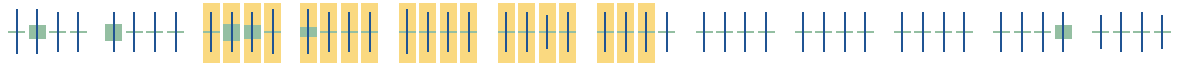
Kentucky Warbler
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



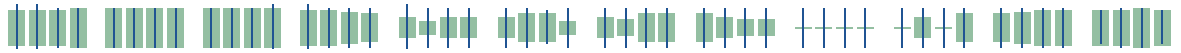
Lesser Yellowlegs
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



Long-eared Owl
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



Long-tailed Duck
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is
not a Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC) in
this area, but
warrants attention
because of the
Eagle Act or for
potential
susceptibilities in
offshore areas
from certain types
of development or
activities.)



Manx Shearwater
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



Prairie Warbler
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



Purple Sandpiper
BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)



NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Razorbill
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



Red Phalarope
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



SPECIES JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Red-breasted Merganser
 Non-BCC
 Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Red-necked Phalarope



Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)

Red-throated Loon



Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)

Ring-billed Gull



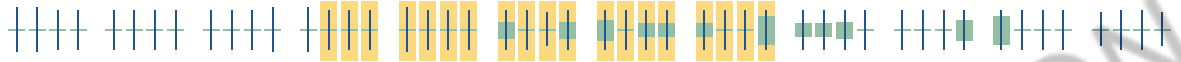
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Roseate Tern
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



Royal Tern
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



Ruddy Turnstone
BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)

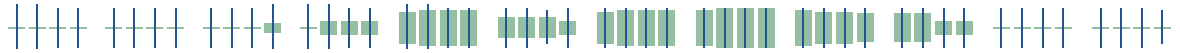


Rusty Blackbird
BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)



DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Short-billed
Dowitcher



BCC Rangewide
(CON) (This is a
Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC)
throughout its
range in the
continental USA
and Alaska.)

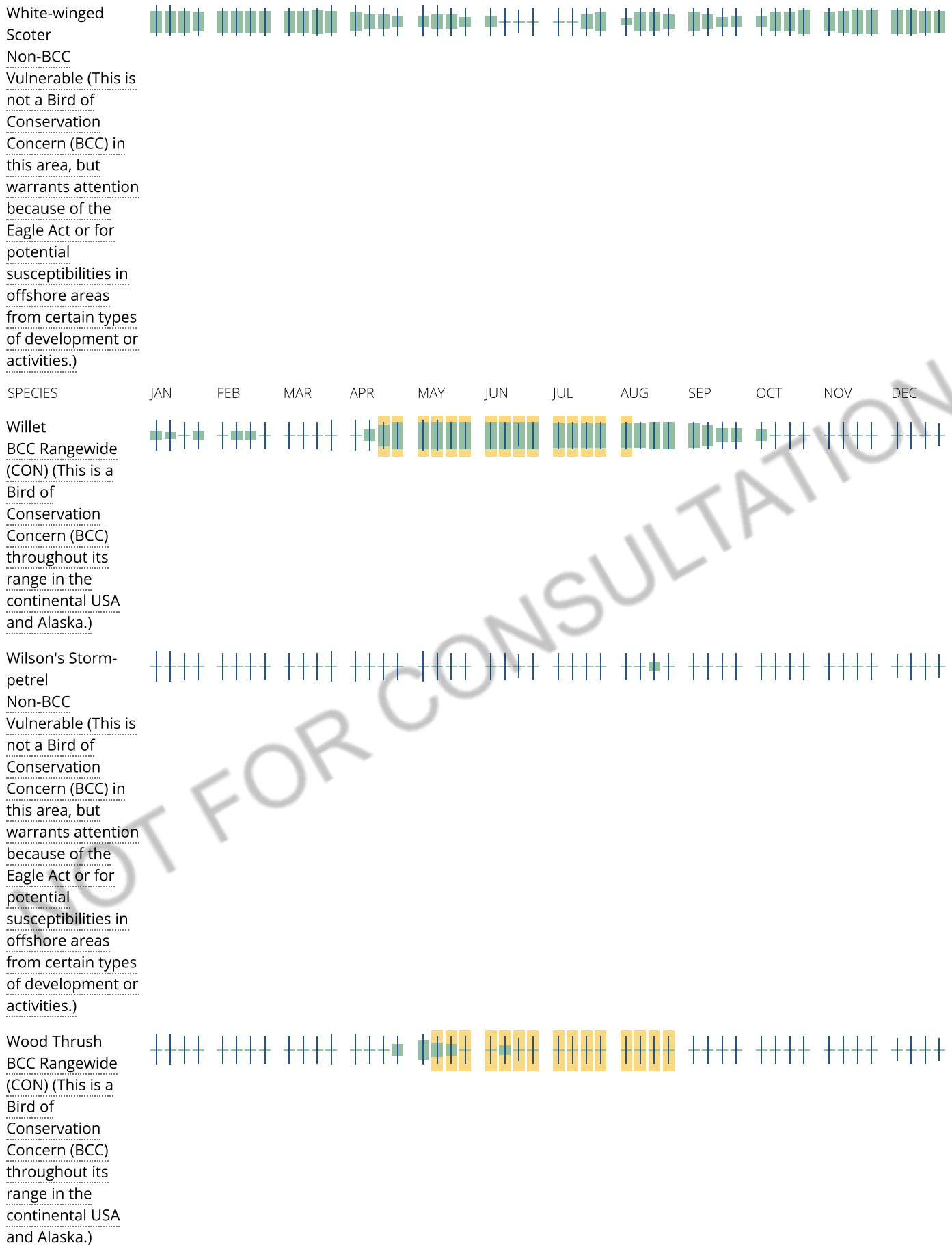
Sooty Tern
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is
not a Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC) in
this area, but
warrants attention
because of the
Eagle Act or for
potential
susceptibilities in
offshore areas
from certain types
of development or
activities.)



Surf Scoter
Non-BCC
Vulnerable (This is
not a Bird of
Conservation
Concern (BCC) in
this area, but
warrants attention
because of the
Eagle Act or for
potential
susceptibilities in
offshore areas
from certain types
of development or
activities.)



NOT FOR CONSULTATION



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

This location overlaps the following National Wildlife Refuge lands:

LAND	ACRES
STEWART B. MCKINNEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	433.14 acres

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

ESTUARINE AND MARINE DEEPWATER

[E1UBL](#)

[E1UBLx](#)

ESTUARINE AND MARINE WETLAND

[E2EM1P](#)

[E2EM5P](#)

[E2EM1N](#)

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

[PEM1/5C](#)

[PEM1A](#)

[PEM5Ad](#)

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

[PSS1A](#)

FRESHWATER POND

[PUBHx](#)

[PUBF](#)

RIVERINE

[R5UBFx](#)

[R5UBH](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

From: McKay, Dawn <Dawn.McKay@ct.gov> **On Behalf Of** DEEP Nddbrequest
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Dan Hageman <dhageman@fhistudio.com>
Subject: Fw: Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport - NEPA EA - CTDEEP NDDB Request

Dan,
I have attached our NDDB preliminary assessment (comments) for this project at Igor Sikorsky Airport. Let us know if you have any questions.
Take care,
Dawn

Dawn M. McKay

Wildlife Division

Bureau of Natural Resources

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
P: 860.424.3592 | E: dawn.mckay@ct.gov

From: Paul Stanton <pstanton@fhistudio.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 10:44 AM
To: DEEP Nddbrequest <DEEP.Nddbrequest@ct.gov>
Cc: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>; Dan Hageman <dhageman@fhistudio.com>; Stephanie Dyer-Carroll <sdyer-carroll@fhistudio.com>
Subject: Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport - NEPA EA - CTDEEP NDDB Request

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am pleased to submit the attached CT DEEP NDDB Request application for the following project:

Igor. I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) for Short Term Projects: Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off-Airport Obstruction (Tree) Removal; and Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Please note that in 2013 as part of work at the airport involving Safety Area Improvements to Runway 6/24 and the Relocation of State Route 113 there were a series of biological surveys for several listed species. We have included a listing of those survey reports and the principal investigators as part of Attachment C but did not include the reports in their entirety with this emailed application due to their size. If CTDEEP NDDB requires those 2013 survey reports to support this application, kindly notify me and I will transmit those separately.

Thank you. We look forward to receiving the NDDB Response for this project.



Paul M. Stanton

Environmental Documentation Manager

pstanton@fhistudio.com | 860-267-5982

fhistudio.com

Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) is now FHI Studio!

To learn more, view our announcement [video](#).



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

December 9, 2021

Mr. Daniel Hagman
FHI Studio
416 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-1901
dhageman@fhistudio.com

Project: Federal Environmental Assessment for Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements including Off Airport Tree Removal and Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation at Sikorsky Memorial Airport Located at 1000 Great Meadow Road in Stratford, Connecticut
NDDDB Preliminary Assessment No.: 202107564

Dear Daniel Hagman,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided for the Federal Environmental Assessment for Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements including off airport tree removal and airfield pavement rehabilitation at Sikorsky Memorial Airport located at 1000 Great Meadows Road in Stratford, Connecticut. Please be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review will be necessary to move forward with any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed project. **This preliminary assessment letter cannot be used or submitted with your permit applications or registration at DEEP.** This letter is valid for one year.

According to our NDDDB information the following state listed plant species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) species are known to occur, or to have occurred, in or near the work areas of this airport:

State Endangered

Aristida tuberculosa (Beach needle grass)
Leptochloa fusca ssp. *fascicularis* (Saltpond Grass)
Sabatia stellaris (Marsh pink)
Viola brittoniana (Coast violet)

State Threatened

Paspalum laeve (Field paspalum)
Sporobolus cryptandrus (Sand dropseed)

State Special Concern

Aristida longespica var. *geniculata* (Needlegrass)
Atriplex glabriuscula (Bracted orache)
Bolboschoenus novae-angliae (Salt marsh bulrush)
Opuntia humifusa (Eastern prickly pear)
Plantago virginica (Hoary plantain)

I also reviewed the Executive Summary of the Incidental Take Report prepared by Fitzgerald and Halliday dated March of 2013 that you submitted as part of the NDDDB Review Request application Form. This report was provided for a different project at the airport and is out of date. However, it is important

in that this report illustrates the important mitigation work and protective strategies that have occurred at this airport to conserve state listed plants. It is imperative that a qualified botanist be hired to oversee this work. The NDDDB biologists will work closely with your qualified botanist to help understand the precise locations of these state listed plant species at this airport. If you are unable to find a qualified botanist you should contact The Native Plant Trust for a recommendation.

In order to protect state listed plants from adverse impacts of this project:

- Field surveys of the site should be performed by a qualified botanist when these target species are detectable and identifiable. Note that one of the target plants, *Plantago virginica*, is a spring and early summer ephemeral that is not reliably detectable by the beginning of July. Plant surveys **MUST BE DONE** on an **annual basis** until the work associated with the project is completed. Prior to each annual survey, the qualified biologist shall contact the NDDDB to obtain the most up-to-date information on listed plants at the site and an updated list of target plants. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include:

1. Survey date(s) and duration
2. Site descriptions and photographs
3. List of component species within the survey area (including scientific binomials)
4. Data regarding population numbers and/or area occupied by State-listed species
5. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of State-listed species
6. Habitat descriptions of the area surveyed.
7. Survey results and all observed state listed plant species must reported to the NDDDB Program using an NDDDB form at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Endangered-Species/Contributing-Data>
8. A discussion the identifying characters of the survey target species.
9. The extent of all the populations of all state listed species in and near project work areas, including staging areas and equipment and supply storage areas, must be flagged with visible flagging. A qualified botanist must oversee all project activities in and near these flagged populations and be present during all work there. The qualified botanist may and should consult with the biologist assigned in the NDDDB Program to this project.
9. The qualified botanist must provide the NDDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) with a plant protection plan before any work can be started. The protection plan should include maps, photos and a timeline of work to prevent impacts to state listed plant species.

The conservation/protection plan should include the following elements:

- a. Anticipated impacts to these state-listed species from this project.
- b. Any planned mitigation or management practices that will be employed to protect or avoid impacts to state listed species.
- c. Habitat descriptions of the area surveyed.
- d. A Statement, CV or Resume of the qualified biologist's qualifications to work with these species.

Please note that insufficient surveys and mitigation plans may not be accepted.

There are also many state-listed animal that occur at the airport. The animal species include:

State Endangered

Bartramia longicauda (Upland sandpiper)

Eremophila alpestris (Horned lark)
Botaurus lentiginosus (American bittern)
Podilymbus podiceps (Pied-billed grebe)
Tyto alba (Barn owl)

State Threatened

Ixobrychus exilis (Least bittern)

State Special Concern

Ammodramus caudacutus (Saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow)
Passerculus sandwichensis (Savannah sparrow)
Passerculus sandwichensis ssp.princeps (Ipswich sparrow)
Cicindela marginata (Saltmarsh tiger beetle)
Malaclemys terrapin (Diamondback terrapin)

Please provide a plan of conservation and protection for the above state listed animal species and how you plan to protect them from project impacts. These protection plans should include a time of year restriction on work in most cases and should be specific about resources used to keep the animal species safe during pre-construction, during construction, and post construction monitoring efforts. These plans must be developed by taxonomic experts.

The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

This NDDDB preliminary review is valid for one year. Please re-submit an NDDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by December 09, 2022.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 876-9393, or william.moorhead@ct.gov. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.



Sincerely,



William Moorhead
Botanist/Community Ecologist

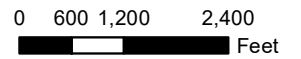
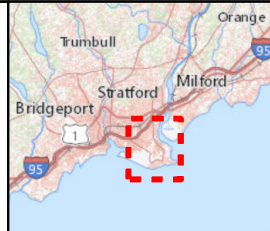


Legend

-  Airport Property Boundary
-  Generalized Study Area

Generalized Study Area

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport
Short-Term Projects EA





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

In Reply Refer To:

January 17, 2022

Consultation code: 05E1NE00-2021-TA-3996

Event Code: 05E1NE00-2022-E-04286

Project Name: Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects

Subject: Verification letter for the 'Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects' project under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions.

Dear Ron Gautreau:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on January 17, 2022 your effects determination for the 'Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a Federal action is consistent with the activities analyzed in the Service's January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). The PBO addresses activities excepted from "take"^[1] prohibitions applicable to the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, the Action is consistent with activities analyzed in the PBO. The Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the PBO satisfies and concludes your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you submitted in IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation. If the Action is not completed within one year of the date of this letter, you must update and resubmit the information required in the IPaC key.

This IPaC-assisted determination allows you to rely on the PBO for compliance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) only for the northern long-eared bat. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Endangered

If the Action may affect other federally listed species besides the northern long-eared bat, a proposed species, and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between you and this Service office is required. If the Action may disturb bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is recommended.

[1]Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

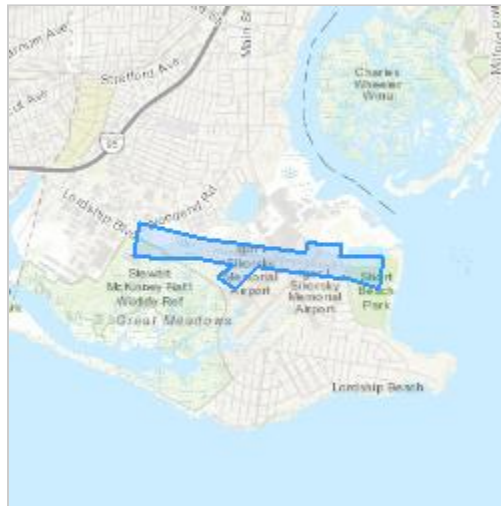
Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport Short-Term Projects':

Proposed Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvements for Runway 11/29, select tree removal, and pavement rehabilitation.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.1656031,-73.13123027252928,14z>

**Determination Key Result**

This Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner consistent with the description of activities addressed by the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016. Any taking that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Therefore, the PBO satisfies your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) relative to the northern long-eared bat.

Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on May 15, 2017. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are consistent with those analyzed in the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016.

Federal actions that may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats, affect ESA-listed species other than the northern long-eared bat, or affect any designated critical habitat, require

ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation in addition to the use of this key. Federal actions that may affect species proposed for listing or critical habitat proposed for designation may require a conference under ESA Section 7(a)(4).

Determination Key Result

This project may affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat; therefore, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required. However, based on the information you provided, this project may rely on the Service's January 5, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions* to fulfill its Section 7(a)(2) consultation obligation.

Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?
Yes
2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have "no effect" on the northern long-eared bat? (If you are unsure select "No")
No
3. Will your activity purposefully **Take** northern long-eared bats?
No
4. [Semantic] Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?
Automatically answered
No
5. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your project is near a known hibernaculum or maternity roost tree?

Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases – the availability of this data varies state-by-state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited. A web page with links to state Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roost trees and hibernacula is available at www.fws.gov/midwest/angered/mammals/nleb/nhisites.html.

Yes

6. Will the action affect a cave or mine where northern long-eared bats are known to hibernate (i.e., hibernaculum) or could it alter the entrance or the environment (physical or other alteration) of a hibernaculum?
No
 7. Will the action involve Tree Removal?
Yes
-

8. Will the action only remove hazardous trees for the protection of human life or property?
Yes

Project Questionnaire

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

13

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?

0

EFH Mapper Report

EFH Data Notice

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined by textual descriptions contained in the fishery management plans developed by the regional fishery management councils. In most cases mapping data can not fully represent the complexity of the habitats that make up EFH. This report should be used for general interest queries only and should not be interpreted as a definitive evaluation of EFH at this location. A location-specific evaluation of EFH for any official purposes must be performed by a regional expert. Please refer to the following links for the appropriate regional resources.

[Greater Atlantic Regional Office](#)
[Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division](#)

Query Results



Degrees, Minutes, Seconds: Latitude = 41° 9' 54" N, Longitude = 74° 52' 53" W
Decimal Degrees: Latitude = 41.165, Longitude = -73.119

The query location intersects with spatial data representing EFH and/or HAPCs for the following species/management units.

*** WARNING ***

Please note under "Life Stage(s) Found at Location" the category "ALL" indicates that all life stages of that species share the same map and are designated at the queried location.

EFH

Link	Data Caveats	Species/Management Unit	Lifestage(s) Found at Location	Management Council	FMP
		Winter Flounder	Eggs Juvenile Larvae/Adult	New England	Amendment 14 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
		Little Skate	Juvenile Adult	New England	Amendment 2 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP
		Atlantic Herring	Juvenile Adult	New England	Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

Link	Data Caveats	Species/Management Unit	Lifestage(s) Found at Location	Management Council	FMP
		Pollock	Adult Juvenile	New England	Amendment 14 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
		Red Hake	Adult Eggs/Larvae/Juvenile	New England	Amendment 14 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
		Silver Hake	Eggs/Larvae Adult	New England	Amendment 14 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
		Monkfish	Juvenile	New England	Amendment 4 to the Monkfish FMP
		Windowpane Flounder	Adult Larvae Eggs Juvenile	New England	Amendment 14 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
		Winter Skate	Adult Juvenile	New England	Amendment 2 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP
		Scup	Larvae Eggs Juvenile Adult	Mid-Atlantic	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
		Longfin Inshore Squid	Juvenile Adult Eggs	Mid-Atlantic	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid,& Butterfish Amendment 11
		Atlantic Mackerel	Eggs Larvae Juvenile Adult	Mid-Atlantic	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid,& Butterfish Amendment 11
		Bluefish	Adult Juvenile	Mid-Atlantic	Bluefish
		Atlantic Butterfish	Eggs Larvae Adult	Mid-Atlantic	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid,& Butterfish Amendment 11
		Summer Flounder	Juvenile Adult	Mid-Atlantic	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
		Black Sea Bass	Juvenile	Mid-Atlantic	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

Salmon EFH

No Pacific Salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) were identified at the report location.

HAPCs

No Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) were identified at the report location.

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing

No EFH Areas Protected from Fishing (EFHA) were identified at the report location.

Spatial data does not currently exist for all the managed species in this area. The following is a list of species or management units for which there is no spatial data.

****For links to all EFH text descriptions see the complete data inventory: [open data inventory -->](#)**

All spatial data is currently available for the Mid-Atlantic and New England councils,

Secretarial EFH,

Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark,

Bigeye Sixgill Shark,

Caribbean Sharpnose Shark,

Galapagos Shark,

Narrowtooth Shark,

Sevengill Shark,

Sixgill Shark,

Smooth Hammerhead Shark,

Smalltail Shark



February 3, 2022

Ms. Sabrina Pereira
Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat & Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Re: **Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements Environmental Assessment
Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR)
Stratford, Connecticut**

Dear Ms. Pereira:

In July 2021, CHA completed informal consultation with your office regarding potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) from proposed safety improvements to Runway 11-29 at Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR). At that time, your office indicated concern with potential impacts to tidal wetlands, and in particular, EFH for the winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*). Since that early coordination, we have completed the wetland delineation (which is attached) and are currently preparing the Draft Environmental Assessment. On behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), we are seeking additional consultation in regard to EFH. A more detailed project description with preliminary impacts is discussed below.

Description of the Action

The City of Bridgeport's (Sponsor) Proposed Action would shift Runway 11-29 to the west 150 feet, install EMAS on both ends of the runway and correct the non-standard lateral RSA conditions (non-standard grading, wetlands). To maintain existing runway length, the safety improvement project would convert 150 feet of the eastern runway end into RSA, install a 260-foot EMAS bed (with a 35-foot setback), replace the eliminated runway length with a 150-foot of new pavement on the western end of the runway and install a 150-foot EMAS bed with a 35-foot setback from end of runway (see attached figure). The eastern end of Runway 11-29 would be raised approximately 4.5 feet to mitigate the on-going flooding issues on that end of the runway. To adhere to FAA standards for longitudinal and transverse grades within the RSA, approximately 2,100 feet of the runway would be reconstructed. Finally, existing surplus pavement that is deteriorated and/or causing non-standard conditions would be removed. In total, approximately 352,560 square feet of impervious area would be removed, and 77,336 square feet of new impervious pavement will be added. This alternative would impact 2.14 acres of tidal wetlands that are immediately adjacent to the runway pavement causing non-standard conditions and wildlife attractants within the lateral RSA.

Wetland 8, as described in the Wetland Delineation report and depicted on the attached figure, is a natural spartina-dominated wetland system. A tide gate was installed on the east side of Route 113 as part of the Runway 6-24 project in 2015. Although the presence of a tide gate downstream of a wetland would normally eliminate the area as EFH, this tide gate was designed and constructed with an open orifice which does allow a certain amount of incoming tide to flow through the tide gate and into Wetland 8. This daily flow of high saline water transformed Wetland 8 from a phragmites-dominated wetland with little tidal vegetation in 2015 to what it is today. The habitat within Wetland 8 is not ideal for EFH above the tide gate as it is clearly

diminished/limited due to the tide gate. As currently designed, about half of this spartina wetland would be impacted by the proposed project (approximately 1.29 acres). As mitigation to any potential impact to EFH, we are proposing no work within Wetland 8 from February 1 to May 31 to avoid adverse impacts to winter flounder spawning and/or juvenile development, assuming winter flounder or other federally managed species even utilize this wetland.

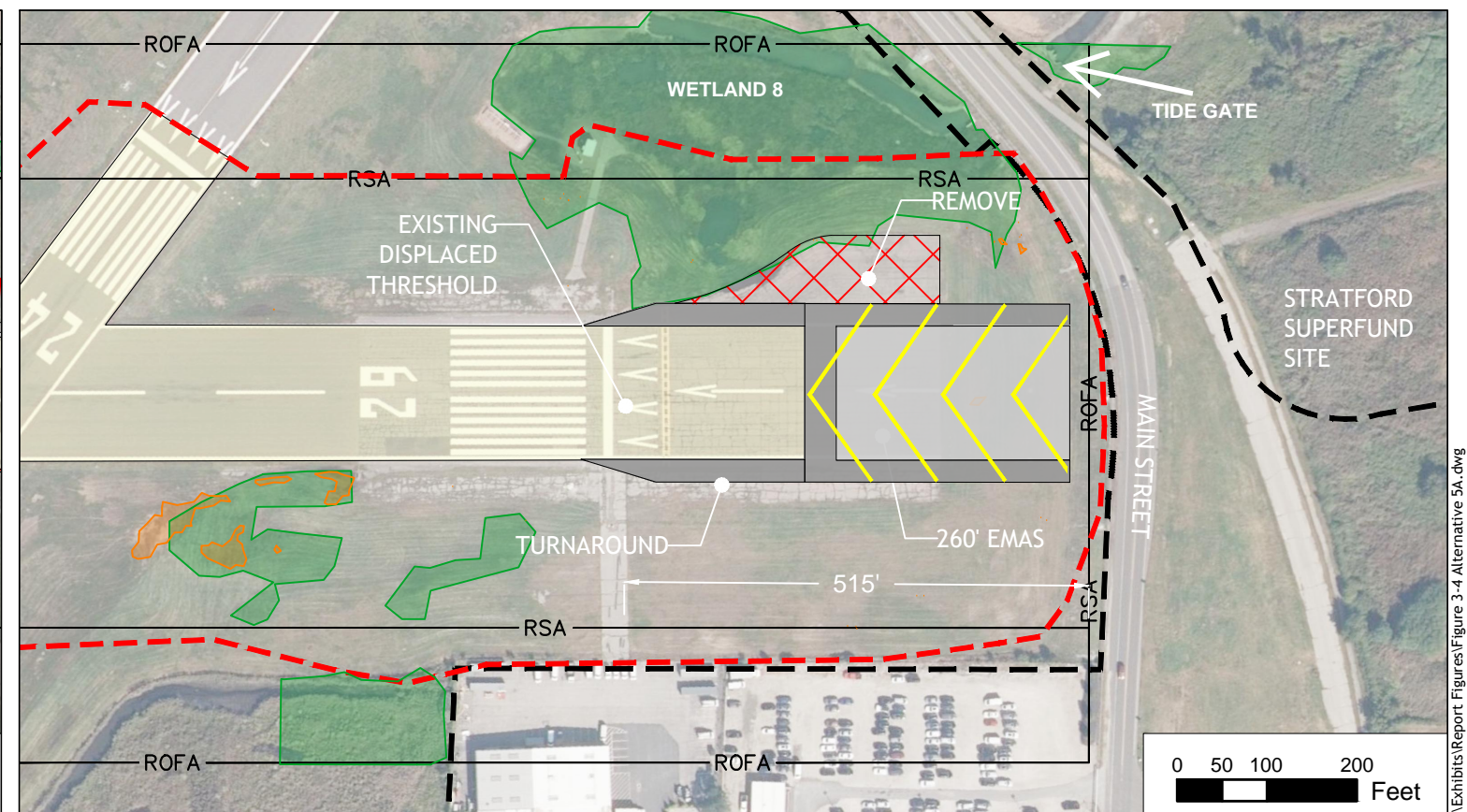
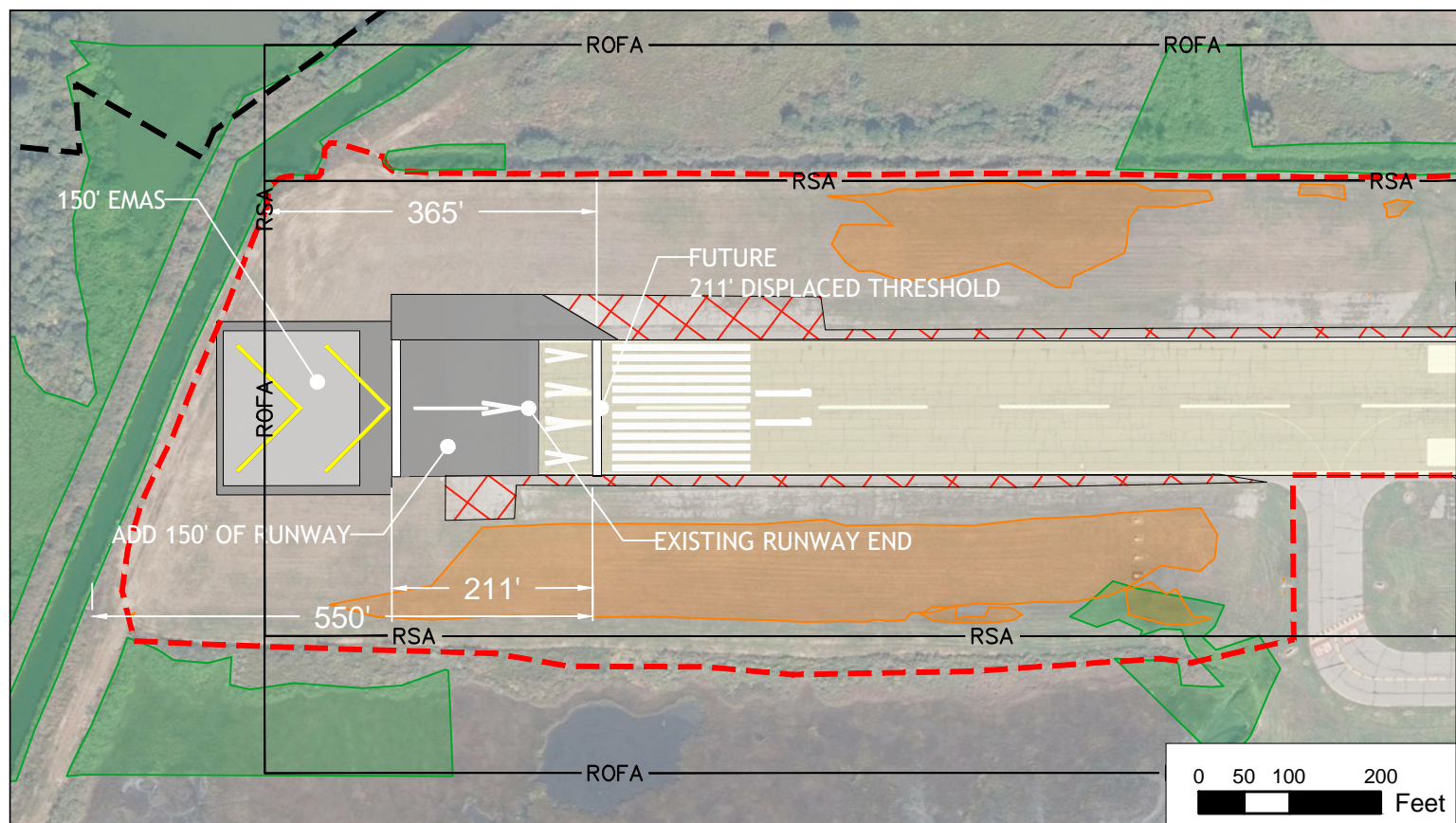
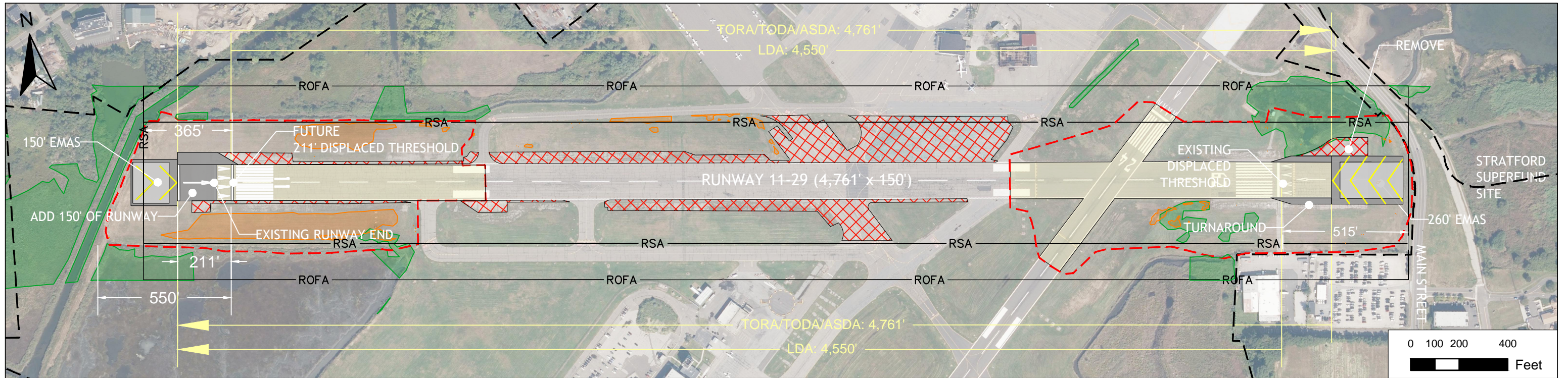
With this letter, the FAA is inviting the NOAA to consult on the proposed project as it relates to EFH within Wetland 8. We anticipate a Draft Environmental Assessment to be distributed to regulatory agencies and the general public in April 2022. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me (216) 904-6283 or mheckroth@chacompanies.com. You can also reach Richard Doucette, FAA Environmental Protection Specialist at richard.doucette@faa.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark Heckroth, ENV SP
Senior Project Manager



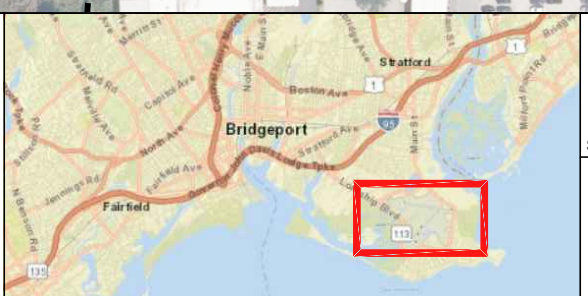
Cc: Mr. Richard Doucette, Federal Aviation Administration
Ms. Michelle Muoio, City of Bridgeport – Airport Manager



Legend

	New Pavement		Wetland (2.01 acres impacted)
	New EMAS Bed		Threatened & Endangered Plant Species (2.82 acres impacted)
	Existing Pavement Removal		Project Limits of Disturbance
	Pavement Reconstruction		Airport Property Line

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

See Insert for Scale

Sources: Imagery (esri/State of CT., 2019)

Figure 3-4
Alternative 5A

Wetland Delineation Report



Runway 11-29 Safety Improvements, Off Airport Tree Removal
and Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation Projects

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport
Stratford, Connecticut

November 2021

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- Appendix B USACE Wetland Function and Value Assessment Forms
- Appendix C Photographs

INTRODUCTION

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (the Airport) is a public airport in the Town of Stratford owned and operated by the City of Bridgeport (see **Figure 1, Project Overview Map** and **Figure 2, USGS Map in Appendix A**). The City of Bridgeport is proposing safety improvements to the existing crosswinds runway known as Runway 11-29.

The Airport has two asphalt runways, Runway 11-29 which is 4,761 feet long by 150 feet wide and Runway 6-24 which is 4,677 feet long by 100 feet wide. Taxiways, aprons, parking lots and access driveways comprise the other paved areas on the airport property. Buildings include a terminal and hangars housing planes and offices for private air carriers and other airport related businesses along with airport maintenance and operations structures including a fire and rescue building. Areas interior to and surrounding the runways and taxiways are comprised of mowed/maintained grasslands. Along the southern and western perimeter of the airport, and to a much lesser extent on the east of the airport property, are extensive vegetated tidal wetland systems with constructed channels and areas of open water. A small partially undeveloped upland vegetated area is located north of the Runway 11 end and south of Access Road. Residential areas in the Lordship neighborhood are south of the airport property and commercial land uses are to the north.

As neither end of Runway 11-29 currently satisfies Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards, several improvement alternatives have been identified to address its non-standard conditions. Specifically, the proposed project would undertake the following:

- At Runway 29, convert approximately 150 feet of the eastern end into a Runway Safety Area (RSA), and install a departure end Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS);
- Extend Runway 11 by 150 feet, and install a 260 foot departure end EMAS.

The runway length would remain unchanged, but displaced thresholds would be implemented to provide additional RSA while providing a minimum of 4,550 feet of available landing distance. Other runway improvements include the replacement or addition of the runway turnarounds on both ends of Runway 11-29, grading within the RSA, pavement removal and drainage improvements. The removal of tree obstructions located both on off-Airport property within the runway end approach zones is also included in the proposed project.

METHODOLOGY

Inland and tidal wetlands were delineated by FHI Studio soil scientists and wetland biologists in accordance with State and federal definitions and guidelines.

Tidal wetland limits were delineated in accordance with the State of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 22a-29 (Tidal Wetlands) and Section 22a-359 (Tidal, Coastal or Navigable Waters). Tidal wetlands are "...those areas which border on or lie beneath tidal waters, such as,

but not limited to banks, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other low lands subject to tidal action, including those areas now or formerly connected to tidal waters, and whose surface is at or below an elevation of one foot above local extreme high water; and upon which may grow or be capable of growing..." tidal vegetation.

In 2012, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act No. 12-101, which included a revision to the State's regulatory jurisdiction under CGS Section 22a-359. This revision changed the regulatory jurisdiction limit from the "high tide line" to the area up to and including the elevation of the "coastal jurisdiction line" (CJL) as determined for the State's major tidal waterbodies. The CJL is not delineated in the field, but is a set elevation for each municipality. It also states under CGS Section 22a-359, "For any tidal, coastal or navigable waters of the state located upstream of a tide gate, weir, or other device that modifies the flow of tidal waters, the coastal jurisdiction line for such tidal, coastal or navigable waters shall be the elevation of mean high water as found at the downstream location of such device".

The identification of Connecticut-regulated inland wetlands is determined by the limit of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, or floodplain by the National Cooperative Soils Survey, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (§22a-38-15). NRCS soil surveys were consulted to compare observed soil types to those mapped in the project area. The *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England Version 4* (2018) and *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2* (2018) were used to identify hydric soils, which include both poorly and very poorly drained soils.

Federal wetlands, as defined in the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 1987 *Wetland Delineation Manual* and the USACE 2012 *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region – Version 2.0*, were also assessed. Federal wetland boundaries were determined by the presence of dominant hydrophytic vegetation, presence of hydric soils, and evidence of wetland hydrology. In tidally influenced areas, the USACE regulates up to the high tide line (HTL) elevation. USACE Field Documentation Forms were not completed for the delineation, since the wetlands are tidal, and jurisdiction is defined by the HTL elevation.

The limit of the wetland delineation fieldwork differs from the study area. The limit of the wetland delineation fieldwork only includes areas where activities are proposed at, and adjacent to, the Airport, along with the tree obstruction removal areas in the runway end approach zones. The field work was conducted over several site visits between August and October, 2021. The wetland/upland boundary was marked in the field using consecutively numbered flags, and the locations of the flags were recorded by FHI Studio using a GPS unit capable of achieving sub-meter accuracy (note that FHI Studio is not a licensed surveyor). Wetland functions and values were documented in accordance with the USACE *Highway Methodology Supplement* (1999)

guidelines (see **Appendix B**). Photographs were taken at representative locations in the wetlands and adjacent uplands and are included in **Appendix C**.

RESULTS

The delineated wetland systems are numbered 1 to 9 from west to east (see **Figure 3, Wetland Map in Appendix A**). All of the wetlands on the site are tidal wetlands, most of which have been disturbed by past and present disturbance. Wetland systems 1, 2 and 3 drain to the west and are within the Southwest Coast major basin, Southwest Eastern regional basin, Lewis Gut subregional basin and Local Basin Number 7102-00 (CT Environmental Conditions Online, Advanced Viewer, 2021). Wetlands 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 drain to the east and are within the Southwest Coast major basin, Southwest Eastern regional basin, Housatonic River subregional basin and Local Basin Number 6000-90. The CJL elevation for the site is 4.8 feet NAVD88. General descriptions of these nine wetlands are provided below, with additional detailed information for each wetland in **Table 1**.

Wetland 1 and Wetland 2 are extensive tidal marshes in the western portion of the project area where tree obstruction removal is proposed. These wetlands have been altered by past practices of filling and channelization. Typically, these wetlands contain mosquito ditches and upland dikes comprised of side cast dredge spoils adjacent to the excavated tidal creeks. Wetland 1 is located off the Airport property, and although shown as inland wetland by the NWI (see **Figure 4**), it is actually tidally connected via a culvert under Access Road. The tidal creek flows under Access Road from Wetland 1, just east of the intersection with Lordship Boulevard to Wetland 2. The smaller tidal creeks within Wetland 2 all ultimately drain to a larger tidal creek that flows under Lordship Boulevard, draining south to a large tidal marsh adjacent to Lewis Gut. Wetland 2 includes the excavated channel on the north side of the west end of Runway 11-29.

Wetland 3 is adjacent to the mowed areas south of the west end of Runway 11-29. Wetland 3 is part of a larger wetland complex that extends south to Lordship Boulevard. Wetland 3 ultimately drains to the southwest to a tidal creek that flows under Lordship Boulevard ultimately to Lewis Gut. Wetland 3 contains the State-special concern plant species Needlegrass (*Aristida longespica*).

Wetland 4 is a relatively narrow, *Phragmites*-dominated, excavated channel to the north of the intersection of Runway 11-29 and Runway 9-24. The channel was constructed in 2015 to convey drainage from the airport mowed areas off site. Wetland 4 is tidally influenced, and fish were observed during field work. Wetland 5 and Wetland 7 are isolated wetlands entirely within the mowed area south of the east end of Runway 9-24. Wetland 5 contains the State-endangered plant Salt Pond Grass (*Leptochloa fusca*), and Wetland 7 contains the State-special concern plant Needlegrass (*Aristida longespica*). Wetland 6 is a *Phragmites*-dominated wetland located south of the east end of Runway 11-29.

Wetland 8 is located adjacent to the north side of the east end of Runway 11-29. Wetland 8 is an emergent tidal wetland with an excavated creek that flows to the east under Stratford Road (Route 113) to Wetland 9. Portions of Wetland 8 are actively mowed. Wetland 8 contains the State-special concern plant Seaside Orach (*Atriplex glabriuscula*).

Wetland 9 is located on the east side of Stratford Road, off Airport property, where tree obstruction removal is proposed. A tidal creek flows from under Stratford Road to Marine Basin. Tide gates have been installed on the east side of Stratford Road. Wetland 9 includes a narrow strip of tidal vegetation on the south side of a cove along the Housatonic River known on topographic maps as the “Marine Basin” and a tidal channel along the east side of the limit of wetland fieldwork. Marine Basin is connected to the Housatonic River via a tidal creek, with a tide gate on the east side of Route 113.

The wetland ID/flagging sequence, wetland type, soil type and characteristic vegetation of each of the nine wetlands is summarized in **Table 1**. Additionally, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain map are included as **Figure 4** and **Figure 5**, respectively, in **Appendix A**. Most of the project area is located within the 100-year floodplain limits.

Table 1: Wetlands Within the Limit of Wetland Delineation Fieldwork

Wetland ID (flagging sequence)	Wetland Type ^(a)	General Description	Soil Type (drainage class)	Characteristic Vegetation (indicator status) ^(b)
Wetland 1 (L1 to L102, M1 to M23, N1 to N51)	E2EM5Pd and E1UBLx	Tidal marsh partially dominated by <i>Phragmites australis</i> that has been channelized/diked	Walpole sandy loam (poorly drained), Westbrook mucky peat (very poorly drained) and Aquent (poorly drained)	<i>Acer rubrum</i> (FAC) <i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (OBL) <i>Spartina patens</i> (FACW) <i>Rosa multiflora</i> (FACU) <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> (FACW) <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> (FAC) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW)
Wetland 2 (A1 to A78, AA1 to AA10)	E2EM5Pd and E1UBLx	Tidal marsh partially dominated by <i>Phragmites australis</i> that has been channelized/diked	Walpole sandy loam (poorly drained), Westbrook mucky peat (very poorly drained) and Aquent (poorly drained)	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (OBL) <i>Spartina patens</i> (FACW) <i>Rosa multiflora</i> (FACU) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW)
Wetland 3 (D1 to D56, D91 to D91)	E2EM5Pd and E1UBLx	Tidal marsh partially dominated by <i>Phragmites australis</i>	Scarborough muck and Aquent	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (OBL) <i>Spartina patens</i> (FACW)

Engage | Design | Advance

Wetland ID (flagging sequence)	Wetland Type ^(a)	General Description	Soil Type (drainage class)	Characteristic Vegetation (indicator status) ^(b)
D100, E1 to E19, F1 to F26, J1 to J8)		including excavated channels	(poorly and very poorly drained)	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i> (FACW) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (FAC) <i>Aristida longespica</i> (UPL) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW)
Wetland 4 (K1 to K18)	E2EM5x	<i>Phragmites australis</i> -dominated recently excavated channel within the mowed areas adjacent to the runway	Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Typha latifolia</i> (OBL) <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (OBL) <i>Juncus effusus</i> (OBL) <i>Cyperus strigosus</i> (FACW) <i>Rumex crispus</i> (FAC) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW)
Wetland 5 (I1 to I25)	E2EM2	Mowed tidal wetland vegetation adjacent to the south side of the east end of Runway 11-29	Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Juncus effusus</i> (OBL) <i>Cyperus strigosus</i> (FACW) <i>Leptochloa fusca</i> (NI) <i>Juncus gerardii</i> (OBL)
Wetland 6 (O1 to O13)	E2EM5Pd	<i>Phragmites australis</i> -dominated tidal wetland	Walpole sandy loam (poorly drained) and Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Impatiens capensis</i> (FACW) <i>Euthamia graminifolia</i> (FAC) <i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> (OBL) <i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i> (FACW) <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (FACW)
Wetland 7 (H1 to H12)	E2EM2	Mowed tidal wetland vegetation adjacent to the south side of the east end of Runway 11-29	Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Cyperus strigosus</i> (FACW) <i>Juncus effusus</i> (OBL) <i>Juncus gerardii</i> (OBL) <i>Aristida longespica</i> (UPL)
Wetland 8 (G1 to G43)	E2EM and E1UBLx	Partially mowed tidal wetland and excavated tidal creek adjacent to the north side of the east end of Runway 11-29	Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (OBL) <i>Spartina patens</i> (FACW) <i>Distichlis spicata</i> (FACW) <i>Juncus gerardii</i> (OBL) <i>Salicornia sp.</i> (OBL) <i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i> (UPL) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW) <i>Iva frutescens</i> (FACW)

Wetland ID (flagging sequence)	Wetland Type ^(a)	General Description	Soil Type (drainage class)	Characteristic Vegetation (indicator status) ^(b)
Wetland 9 (B1 to B49, C1 to C4)	E2EM, E1UBL and E1UBLx	Narrow area of tidal vegetation adjacent to the south side of Marine Basin and a tidal channel	Aquents (poorly drained)	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (OBL) <i>Spartina patens</i> (FACW) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (FAC) <i>Phragmites australis</i> (FACW) <i>Solidago sempervirens</i> (FACW) <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (FACW) <i>Iva frutescens</i> (FACW) <i>Acer rubrum</i> (FAC)
<p>Notes:</p> <p>(a) Wetland Type (Cowardin, et. al., 1979 and Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2013) E2EM2 – Estuarine intertidal emergent, non-persistent E2EMx - Estuarine intertidal emergent, excavated E2EM5Pd – Estuarine intertidal emergent, <i>Phragmites australis</i>, Irregularly flooded, partly drained/ditched E1UBL – Estuarine subtidal, Unconsolidated bottom, Subtidal E1UBLx – Estuarine subtidal, Unconsolidated bottom, Subtidal, Excavated</p> <p>(b) Wetland Indicator Status: OBL (Obligate): Almost always occur in wetland FACW (Facultative Wetland): Usually occur in wetland, but may occur in non-wetland FAC (Facultative): Occur in wetland or non-wetland FACU (Facultative upland): Usually occur in non-wetland, but may occur in wetland UPL (Upland): Almost never occur in wetland NI: no indicator status</p> <p>Bold text = State listed plant species</p>				

NRCS MAPPED AND OBSERVED SOILS

The mapped NRCS soils and observed soils on, and in the vicinity of, the study area are depicted by their soil number on **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**. The mapped NRCS soils and observed soils within the study area are listed in **Table 2** along with their drainage class and NRCS official soil series description.

Table 2: NRCS Mapped Soils in the Vicinity of the Project Area

Soil ID	Soil Name	Drainage Class	Official NRCS Soil Series Description
12	Raypol silt loam	Poorly drained	The Raypol series consists of very deep soils formed in loamy over sandy and gravelly outwash. They are nearly level to gently sloping soils in shallow drainageways and low-lying positions on terraces and plains. Slope ranges from 0 to 5 percent. The soils have a water table at or near the surface much of the year.
13	Walpole sandy loam	Poorly drained	The Walpole Series consists of very deep sandy soils formed in outwash and stratified drift. They are nearly level to gently sloping soils in low-lying positions on terraces and plains. Slope ranges from 0 to 8 percent.
15	Scarboro muck	Very poorly drained	The Scarboro series consists of very deep soils in sandy glaciofluvial deposits on outwash plains, deltas, and terraces. They are nearly level soils in depressions. Slope ranges from 0 through 3 percent.
98	Westbrook mucky peat	Very poorly drained	The Westbrook series consists of very deep soils formed in organic deposits over loamy mineral material. They are in tidal marshes subject to inundation by salt water twice daily.
302	Dumps	None assigned	Either active or inactive landfills are mapped as this soil series. The soil components of dumps are variable depending on the materials in the landfill and the soils used for the landfill cap.
306	Udorthents-Urban Land complex	Well drained	This complex consists of soils that have been disturbed by cutting or filling, and areas that are covered by buildings and pavement.
307	Urban land	None assigned	Urban soil refers to soils in areas of high population density in the largely built environment. These soils can be significantly changed human-transported materials, human-altered materials, or minimally altered or intact "native" soils.

Soil ID	Soil Name	Drainage Class	Official NRCS Soil Series Description
308	Udorthents, smoothed	Moderately well drained	Udorthents, smoothed, consists of areas from which soil material has been excavated, and nearby areas in which this material has been deposited. The original soil material is generally excessively drained to moderately well drained, and ranges from nearly level to very steep.
701a	Ninigret fine sandy loam	Moderately well drained	The Ninigret series consists of very deep soils formed in loamy over sandy and gravelly glacial outwash. They are nearly level to strongly sloping soils on glaciofluvial landforms, typically in slight depressions and broad drainage ways.
	Aquents	Poorly to very poorly drained	Aquents are soils formed in human transported material or on excavated (cut) landscapes.

CONCLUSION

All the wetlands on the site are currently subject to tidal influence and contain one or more species of tidal wetland vegetation. Thus, they are considered tidal wetlands in accordance with the State of Connecticut definition and as such are regulated under CGS Section 22a-29 (Tidal Wetlands). These tidal wetlands are also regulated by the USACE. Wetlands 1, 2 and 3 drain to the southwest to Lewis Gut. Wetlands 1 and 2 are larger tidal wetland complexes that have been disturbed by past filling and draining activities. Wetland 3 is adjacent to the mowed areas around the west end of Runway 11-29 and consists largely of constructed channels and *Phragmites*-dominated tidal marshes. Wetlands 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 drain to the east to the Housatonic River via the Marine Basin. Wetlands 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are within the maintained areas around the east ends of Runway 11-29 and Runway 9-24. Although wetlands 5 and 7 are “isolated” from larger wetlands and have no surface water connection with daily tidal flooding, they are still below the CJL/HTL elevations and presumed to be regulated as tidal wetlands. Wetland 9 is located east of Stratford Road and is comprised of vegetated tidal wetlands associated with the Marine Basin itself.

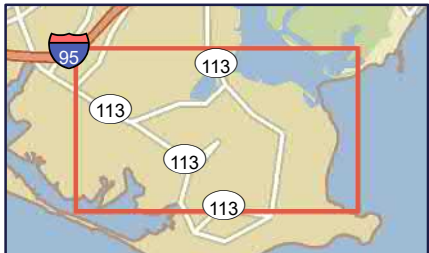
The larger wetland complexes that are not within the maintained areas around the runways form important habitat systems and wildlife corridors that provide resources for various fish and wildlife species known to occur in tidal marshes and tidal creeks. The tidal wetlands within the maintained areas around the runways provide limited habitat for wildlife. Several plant species listed in the State of Connecticut Endangered Species Act as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered, have been documented in portions of some of these tidal wetlands that lie within the project area.

REFERENCES AND LITERATURE CITED

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APPENDIX A

FIGURES



Legend

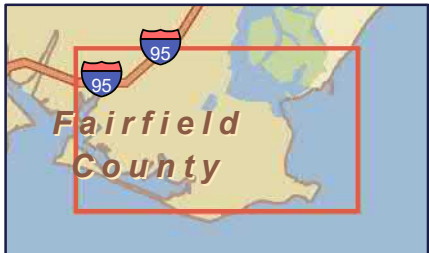
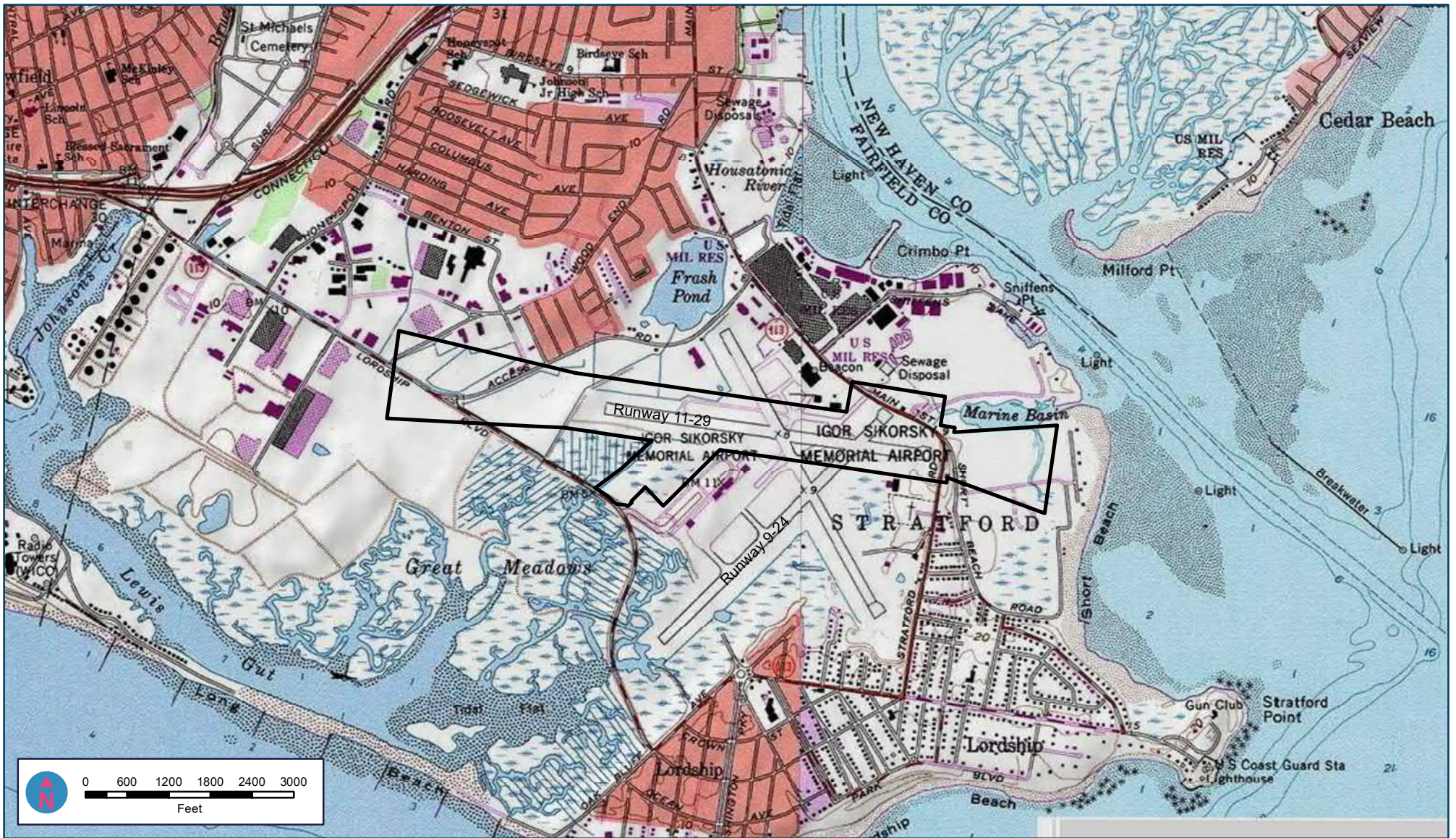
 Study Area

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects:
 Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off
 Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement
 Rehabilitation

Map Produced 10/25/2021
 Data Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial; FHI Studio 2021

Figure 1 - Overview Map



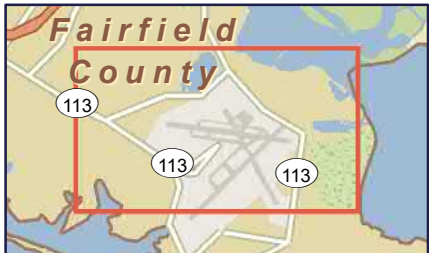
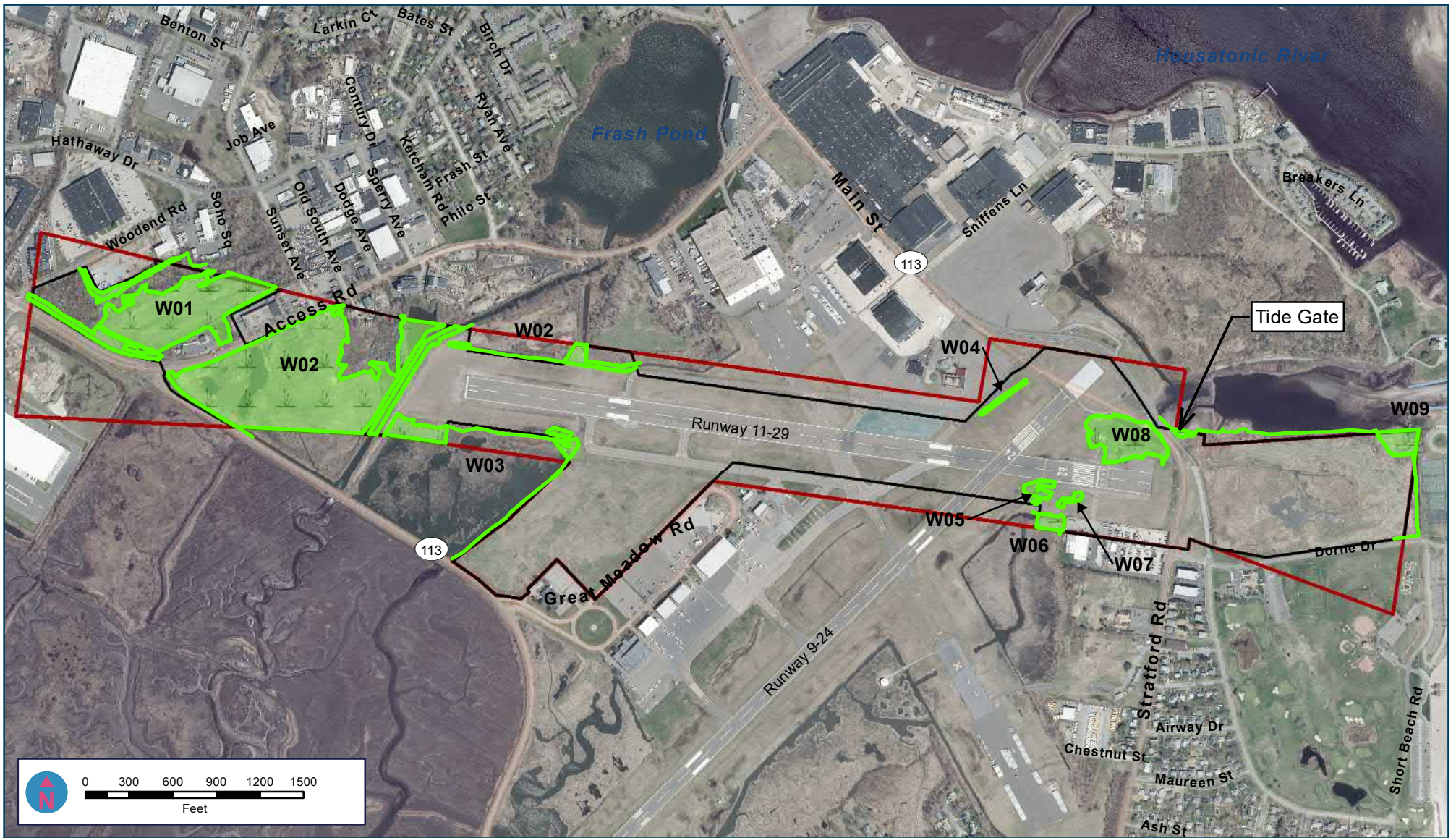
Legend
 Study Area

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects:
 Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off
 Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement
 Rehabilitation

Map Produced 10/26/2021
 Data Source: USGS 2021, FHI Studio 2021

Figure 2 - USGS Map



Legend

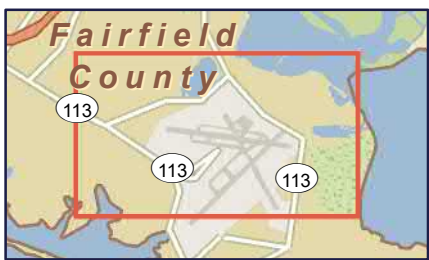
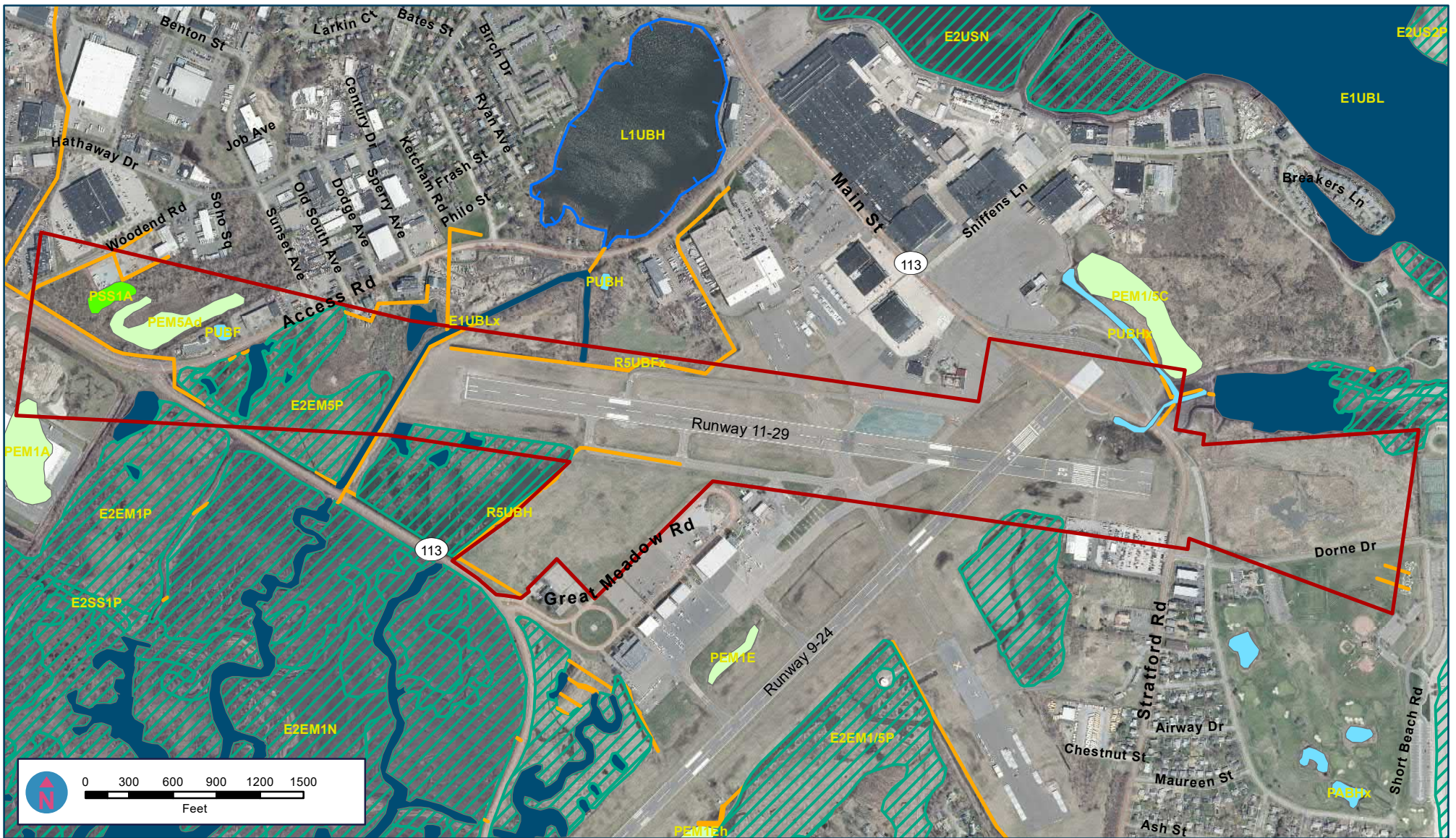
- Study Area
- Limits of Wetland Delineation
- Delineated Tidal Wetland

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects: Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation

Map Produced 11/5/2021
Data Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial; FHI Studio 2021

Figure 3 - Wetland Resources



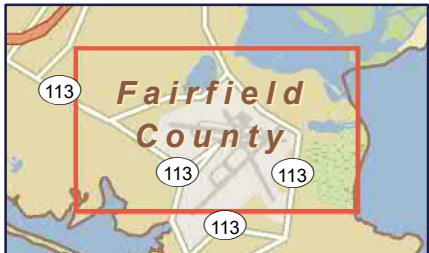
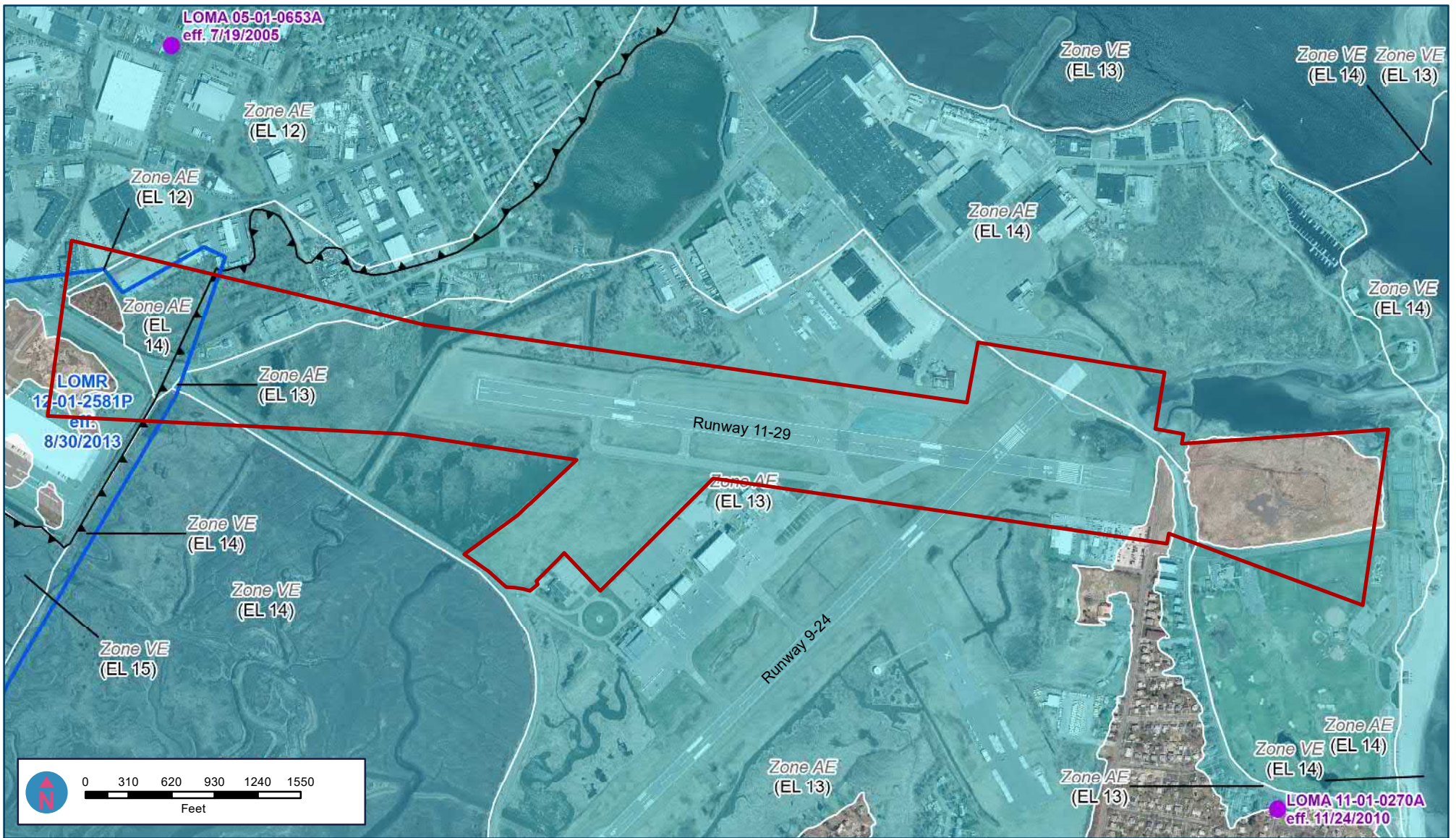
- Study Area
- Lacustrine
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Riverine
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Palustrine Emergent Wetland
- Palustrine Forested/Shrub Wetland

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects:
Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off
Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement
Rehabilitation

Map Produced 10/26/2021
Data Source: USFWS 2021; 2019 Aerial; FHI Studio 2021

Figure 4 - USFWS - NWI Mapping



Legend

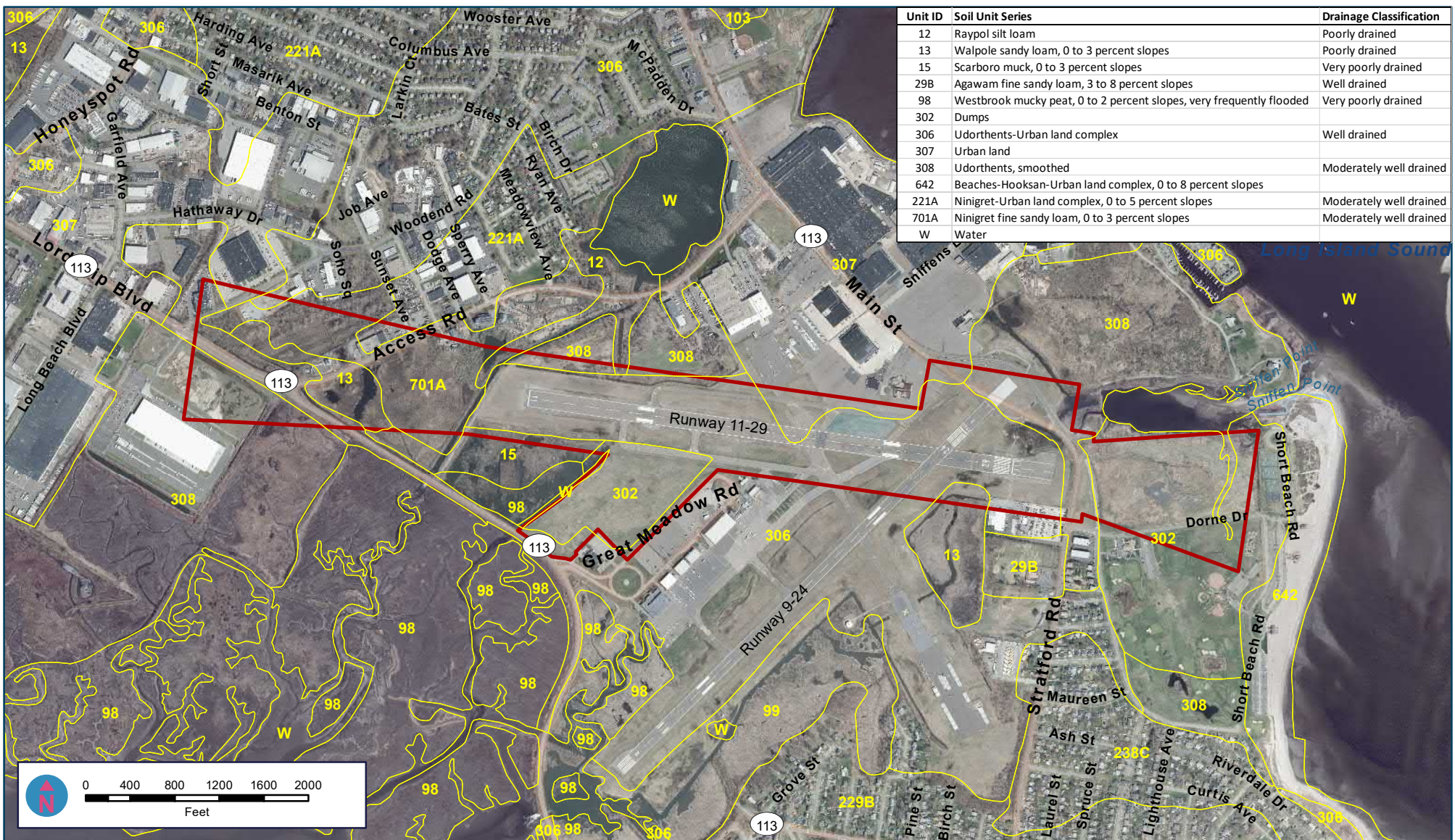
- Study Area
- LOMAs
- Limit of Moderate Wave Action
- Effective LOMRs
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

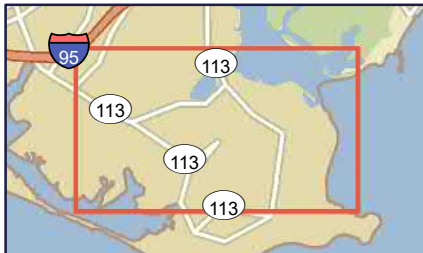
Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects:
 Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off
 Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement
 Rehabilitation

Map Produced 10/26/2021
 Data Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial; FEMA 2021; FHI Studio 2021

Figure 5 - FEMA Flood Hazard Areas



Unit ID	Soil Unit Series	Drainage Classification
12	Raypol silt loam	Poorly drained
13	Walpole sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Poorly drained
15	Scarboro muck, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Very poorly drained
29B	Agawam fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Well drained
98	Westbrook mucky peat, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	Very poorly drained
302	Dumps	
306	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Well drained
307	Urban land	
308	Udorthents, smoothed	Moderately well drained
642	Beaches-Hooksan-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	
221A	Ninigret-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Moderately well drained
701A	Ninigret fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Moderately well drained
W	Water	



Legend

NRCS Mapped Soil Unit

Study Area

Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Environmental Assessment for Short-Term Projects:
 Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements; Off
 Airport Tree Removal; Airfield Pavement
 Rehabilitation

Map Produced 10/25/2021
 Data Source: CTECO 2019 Aerial; USDA NRCS Soils; FHI Studio 2021

Figure 6 - NRCS Soils



APPENDIX B

WETLAND FUNCTION AND VALUE FORMS

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? yes or a "habitat island"? no













Adjacent land use airport, commercial, roads Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM5Pd and E1UBLx Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? 3 tidal creeks Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetlands 1, 2 & 3
 Latitude 41°10'0.78"N Longitude 73° 8'25.59"W
 Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21
 Wetland Impact:
 Type N/A Area N/A
 Evaluation based on:
 Office X Field X
 Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y X N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7		
 Floodflow Alteration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4,5,6,7,8,9,13,15,18		the tidal creeks & ponds with densely vegetated shorelines provide for floodflow alteration
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,3,4,7	X	7 =the tidal marshes provide habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,3,4,7,8,10,12,13,		14,15,16 the tidal marshes with open water areas have the potential to retain sediments/toxicants
 Nutrient Removal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11		12,13,14 the densely vegetated tidal wetlands have the capacity to trap nutrients
 Production Export	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,4,5,6,7,10,11,12	X	13; the Spartina alterniflora in the tidal marshes are a source of production export to Long Island Sound via the tidal creeks
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3,7,12,13,15		
 Wildlife Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6,8,11,12,13,17,18,	X	19,21 the tidal marshes, open water & tidal creeks provide habitat for various vertebrate and invertebrate species. They also provide migratory habitat for avian species.
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	5,7		the majority of the wetlands are on airport owned property and are not used for public recreation
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,5,14		the majority of the wetlands are on airport property and are not used for educational/scientific research
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,3,4,5,13,14,17,19,22		
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,6,8,12		the tidal wetlands are visible from the surrounding roads
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1		Wetland used by state-listed rare bird species (Great Egret, Snowy Egret). Wetland 3 contains the State listed plant species (Aristida longespicata).
Other	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			wetlands provide for carbon sequestration

Notes: * Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? Yes Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? No or a "habitat island"? Yes

Adjacent land use airport runways, paved surfaces & mowed areas Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM5x Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? 1 Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland 4













Latitude 41° 9'57.76"N Longitude 73° 7'17.73"W

Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21

Wetland Impact:
Type N/A Area N/A

Evaluation based on:
Office X Field X

Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y X N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7,15		15 = tidal influence
 Floodflow Alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,5,7,9,18		7 = ponded water and tidally influenced
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	6		6 = food sources available for fish which were observed in the channel
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,4,10,16	X	
 Nutrient Removal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3,5,7,8,9,10,11,13,14		
 Production Export	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,6,7,10,12		fish observed in the channel
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	12,13,15		
 Wildlife Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	8,13,16,19		wildlife is actively discouraged on the airport
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	14		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			1 = a state-listed plant species occurs in the wetland
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			

Notes:

* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? No or a "habitat island"? Yes

Adjacent land use airport runways, paved surfaces & mowed areas Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? none Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland 5 & 7













Latitude 41° 9'51.37"N Longitude 73° 7'12.73"W

Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21

Wetland Impact:
Type N/A Area N/A

Evaluation based on:
Office Field

Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
 Floodflow Alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,7,9		
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			no open water is present in the wetlands
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,4,16		
 Nutrient Removal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3,8,9,10,11		
 Production Export	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,4,12		the wetlands are not associated with a waterbody, but small birds and shorebirds were observed foraging in the wetlands
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetlands are not associated with a waterbody
 Wildlife Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7,8,16,18,19		wildlife is actively discouraged on the airport
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,14		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public; State-listed plant species occur in the wetlands
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	13		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,6		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1	X	State-listed plant species occur in the wetlands
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			

Notes: * Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? No or a "habitat island"? Yes

Adjacent land use airport runways, paved surfaces & mowed areas Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM5Pd Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? one Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland 6













Latitude 41° 9'49.81"N Longitude 73° 7'13.06"W

Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21

Wetland Impact:
Type N/A Area N/A

Evaluation based on:
Office X Field X

Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y X N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
 Floodflow Alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,5,7,9,13,18		
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,7		7=Fish occur in the channel
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,3,4,5,10,16	X	
 Nutrient Removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12		
 Production Export	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,4,5,6,7,9,10,12,13	X	
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	9,12,13,15		
 Wildlife Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6,7,8,11,13,16,18,19,		21
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	5		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,5,14		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5,7,13,27		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public; wetland is part of a compensatory mitigation (restoration) site.
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,6		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1	X	State-listed bird species occur in the wetlands
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			

Notes: * Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? No or a "habitat island"? Yes

Adjacent land use airport runways, paved surfaces & mowed areas Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM and E1UBLx Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? 1 Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland 8













Latitude 41° 9'55.13"N Longitude 73° 7'6.58"W

Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21

Wetland Impact:
Type N/A Area N/A

Evaluation based on:
Office Field

Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7		
 Floodflow Alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,6,7,8,9,13		
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4,7		7=fish were observed in the tidal creek
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,4,7,10,16		wetland is tidally influenced
 Nutrient Removal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3,5,7,8,9,10,11,12		The dense tidal vegetation has the potential to remove nutrients
 Production Export	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2,7,10,12	X	the tidal creek has the potential for production export to the Housatonic River
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6,7,12,13,15	X	the dense emergent vegetation adjacent to the tidal creek provides for stabilization of the shoreline
 Wildlife Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,13,16,17,18,19,21		wildlife is actively discouraged on the airport
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,5,14		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,5,7,13,22,27,28		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public; wetland is a former compensatory mitigation (restoration) site; rare plants occur in wetland
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,4,6		the wetland is on the airport and is not accessible by the public
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1	X	State-listed plant and avian species have been documented in the wetland
Other	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			carbon sequestration

Notes:

* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland N/A Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? No or a "habitat island"? Yes

Adjacent land use paved roadway, closed landfill, & Public Park Distance to nearest roadway or other development adjacent

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM, E1UBL and E1UBLx Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present no

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? no If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? 1 Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland 9













Latitude 41° 9'55.27"N Longitude 73° 6'52.14"W

Prepared by: RG/AZ Date 10/25/21

Wetland Impact:
Type N/A Area N/A

Evaluation based on:
Office X Field X

Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y X N

Function/Value	Suitability		Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
	Y	N			
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7		
 Floodflow Alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	4,5,7,9,13		7=tidally influenced
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4,7		fish and shellfish are present in Marine Basin
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,3,4,7,8,10		
 Nutrient Removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2,3,4,5,9,11		
 Production Export	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,4,5,6,7,10,11,12	X	the tidal creek has the potential for production export to the Housatonic River
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1,2,3,4,6,7,10,12,13	X	15; the emergent vegetation adjacent to the Marine Basin provides for stabilization of the shoreline
 Wildlife Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6,7,8,12,16,17,18,21	X	22; Marine Basin and the surrounding wetlands provide habitat for various invertebrate and vertebrate species.
 Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	5,7,10,11,12		
 Educational/Scientific Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,5,8,9,10		rare plant and animal species occur in the wetland
 Uniqueness/Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,17,19,22		
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1,2,4,6,8,12		a walking path is adjacent to the west side of the wetland
ES Endangered Species Habitat	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			state listed plant and animal species occur in the wetland
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			

Notes:

* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Appendix C: Site Photographs

Runway 11-29 Safety Improvements, Off Airport Tree Removal and Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation Projects



Wetland 1, north central side (October 2021)



Wetland 1, south side (October 2021)



Wetland 2 northeast side (October 2021)



Wetland 3 (October 2021)



Wetland 3, south side (October 2021)



Wetland 4, east end (September 2021)



Wetland 5 (October 2021)



Wetland 6 (October 2021)



Wetland 7 (October 2021)



Wetland 8 (October 2021)



Wetland 9, along south side of the Marine Basin (July 2021)



Wetland 9, along the north side of Dorne Drive (July 2021)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Federal Aviation Administration
New England Region

1200 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

February 11, 2022

Ms. Sabrina Pereira
Marine Resources Management Specialist
Habitat & Ecosystem Services Division
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Re: **Runway 11/29 Safety Area Improvements Environmental Assessment
Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport
Stratford, Connecticut**

Dear Ms. Pereira:

In July 2021, CHA Consulting engaged in informal consultation with your office regarding potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) from proposed safety improvements to Runway 11-29 at Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport. At that time, your office indicated concern with potential impacts to tidal wetlands and EFH for the winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*). Since that early coordination, a wetland delineation was completed and the Draft Environmental Assessment is in progress, including a determination of potential impacts on EFH from the Proposed Action. The wetland delineation report and a figure depicting the Sponsor's Proposed Action with impacts to tidal wetland was provided to you via letter from CHA Consulting, Inc on February 2, 2021.

Description of the Action

The City of Bridgeport's Proposed Action would shift Runway 11-29 to the west 150 feet, install Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS) on both ends of the runway and correct the inadequate Runway Safety Area (RSA) (poor grading and drainage). To maintain existing runway length, the safety improvement project would convert 150 feet of the eastern runway end into RSA, install a 260-foot EMAS bed (with a 35-foot setback), replace the eliminated runway length with a 150-foot of new pavement on the western end of the runway and install a 150-foot EMAS bed with a 35-foot setback from end of runway. The eastern end of Runway 11-29 would be raised approximately 4.5 feet to mitigate the on-going flooding issues on that end of the runway. To adhere to FAA standards within the RSA, approximately 2,100 feet of the runway would be reconstructed. Finally, existing surplus pavement that is deteriorated would be removed. In total, approximately 352,560 square feet of impervious area would be removed, and 77,336 square feet of new impervious

pavement will be added. This alternative would impact 2.14 acres of tidal wetlands that are immediately adjacent to the runway pavement causing poor drainage and wildlife attractants within the RSA.

Wetland 8, as described in the Wetland Delineation report and depicted on the attached figure, is a natural spartina-dominated wetland system. A tide gate was installed on the east side of Route 113 as part of the Runway 6-24 project in 2015. Although the presence of a tide gate downstream of a wetland would normally eliminate the area as EFH, this tide gate was designed and constructed with an open orifice which does allow a certain amount of incoming tide to flow through the tide gate and into Wetland 8. This daily flow of high saline water transformed Wetland 8 from a phragmites-dominated wetland with little tidal vegetation in 2015 to what it is today.

The habitat within Wetland 8 is not ideal for EFH above the tide gate as potential access by winter flounder is clearly diminished/limited due to the tide gate. As currently designed, approximately half of this spartina wetland would be impacted by the proposed project (approximately 1.29 acres). This impact would be confined to the shallower southern portion of the wetland, with the channel and deeper emergent wetland areas remaining as they are. As mitigation to any potential impact to EFH, we are proposing no work within Wetland 8 from February 1 to May 31 to avoid adverse effects to winter flounder spawning and/or juvenile development, assuming winter flounder or other federally managed species even utilize this wetland.

Based upon the above information, the FAA has determined that there will be no adverse effect on EFH due to the proposed project. We anticipate a Draft Environmental Assessment to be distributed to regulatory agencies and the public in April 2022, and your office will receive a copy. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at richard.doucette@faa.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard Doucette
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Mr. Mark Heckroth, ENV SP, CHA
Ms. Michelle Muoio, City of Bridgeport – Airport Manager

Koutropoulos, Taylor

From: Chad Esposito <cesposito@townofstratford.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:09 PM
To: Heckroth, Mark
Cc: Koutropoulos, Taylor; Muoio, Michelle
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: Re: Environmental Assessment for Runway 11-29 Improvements at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Good afternoon,

I recieved your email and had to pass it along to my Director and Town Engineer for review. I dont have any problem with the removal of the trees in the "landfill" gated area of Short Beach Park.

There was some question about a small town owned parcel on Lordship Rd/Access Rd corner.

Please see the following response from Mr. John Casey are Town Engineer:

Hi Chad,

I don't have an issue with Landfill trees, except that no digging shall be done or earth exposed.

For Access Rd parcel, this is the Town Access Rd sanitary pump station. The trees offer aesthetic buffering. If these are removed, perhaps different shrubbery should replaced them. Other trees in this vicinity are near wetlands so provide some ecological benefit.

John

Let me know if the are answers to the questions proposed by Mr. Casey

Chad

From: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Chad Esposito <cesposito@townofstratford.com>
Cc: Koutropoulos, Taylor <TKoutropoulos@chacompanies.com>; Muoio, Michelle <michelle.muoio@bridgeportct.gov>
Subject: RE: Environmental Assessment for Runway 11-29 Improvements at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Mr. Esposito:

We have not received any comments/feedback from our early coordination letter sent to your office back in July or this email below. As shown on the figure, there is proposed tree clearing on property owned by the Town of Stratford. Although the proposed tree removal is on a contiguous parcel that includes Short Beach Park (a publicly-owned park/recreation area that is protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act), it appears that property north of Dorne Dr. is not part of the park. This area appears to be completely fenced off and restricted to the public as it is a former landfill. We are currently preparing an Environmental Assessment document for the City of Bridgeport and the Federal Aviation Administration. In that document, the statement will be made that the removal of trees on the landfill will not impact any 4(f) resources (i.e Short Beach park). If you do not concur with this assessment, please reach out to me directly at either of the numbers below or via email.

Thank you,
Mark

Mark Heckroth, ENV SP

Office: (216) 273-8638

Cell: (216) 904-6283

From: Koutropoulos, Taylor <TKoutropoulos@chacompanies.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 4:32 PM

To: cesposito@townofstratford.com

Cc: Heckroth, Mark <MHeckroth@chacompanies.com>

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Runway 11-29 Improvements at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Good afternoon Mr. Chad Esposito,

The City of Bridgeport, Connecticut is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed short-term improvements to Runway 11-29 at the Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR). The proposed action includes obstruction tree removal on the Runway 29 end off of Airport property (see the attached Figure for obstruction point locations).

In an effort to complete the EA, the City must disclose whether the obstruction points would be located within the boundaries of a publicly owned park. The Town of Stratford Geographic Information System (GIS) combines both Short Beach, Short Beach Park, Short Beach Golf Course, and the Stratford Landfill (located north of Dorne Dr.) in one parcel, identified as Parcel 6004020001. Each of these resources are owned by the Town of Stratford. However, that does not definitively classify the Stratford Landfill as part of the park. Can you please identify the boundaries of Short Beach Park? Does Short Beach park include the Stratford Landfill?

I really appreciate your response. If you have any further questions about the proposed action, feel free to contact me by phone or by responding to this email.

Thank you.

Taylor Koutropoulos

Aviation Environmental Planner

CHA

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tkoutropoulos@chacompanies.com

www.chacompanies.com



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