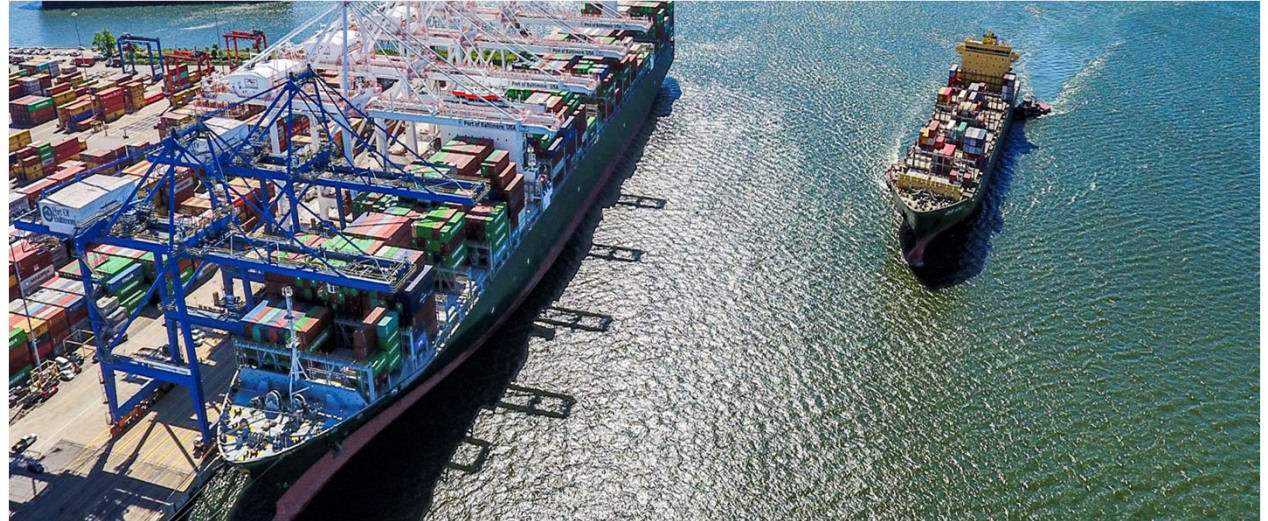


# Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project Overview

**Colonel Estee Pinchasin**  
**USACE, Baltimore District,**  
**Commander**  
**Nov. 9, 2022**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# Approach Channels to the Port of Baltimore





# PROJECT LOCATION

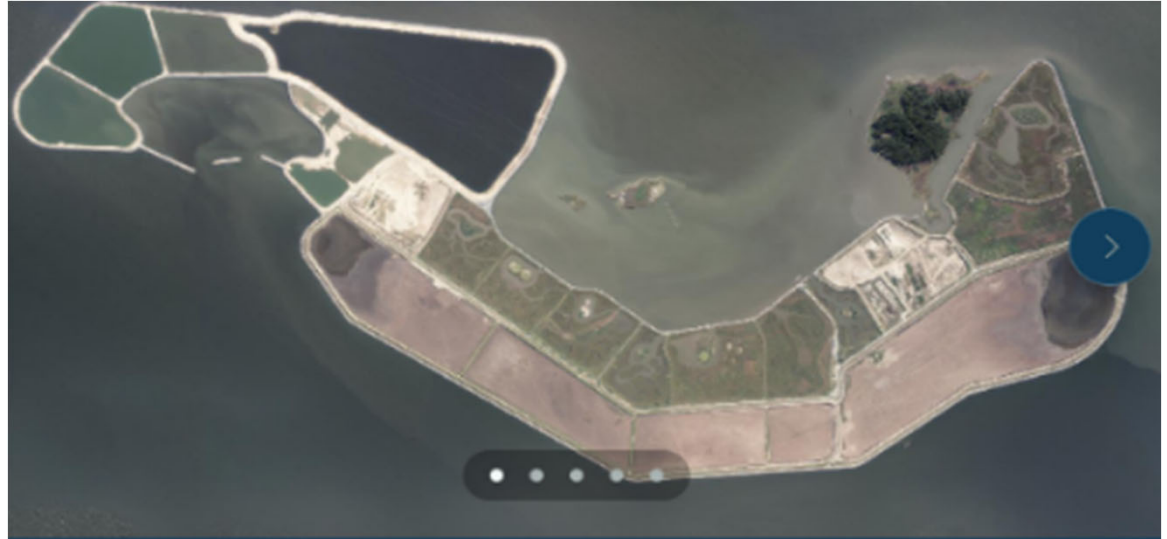




# PROJECT SPECIFICS



- **Win-Win:** Restores/expands lost island habitat in mid-Chesapeake Bay through beneficial use of dredged material
  - James Island will use material dredged from the approach channels to the Port of Baltimore
  - Barren Island will use material dredged from local shallow draft channels
- Builds upon **success of Poplar Island project**
- USACE/Maryland DOT, Maryland Port Administration **partnership**



## Poplar Island - A Success Story

*Located in Talbot County adjacent to Tilghman Island*

Poplar Island, once inhabited by a small community, eroded down to about 5 acres in the early 1900s. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Port Administration began working in the mid 90's to rebuild the island to the original size to restore remote island habitat. Currently, Poplar Island is larger than it's original size at 1,715 acres filled with dredged material collected from the Baltimore Harbor approach channels. The project is expected to be completed in 2044 where it will be turned over to the State of Maryland.





# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



- **Restores:** 2,144 acres of lost remote island habitat, including 1,212 acres of tidal wetlands
- **Preserves:** existing Island remnants and habitats
- **Sustains:** existing seagrass beds at Barren Island and promotes conditions to establish additional seagrass beds
- **Enhances:** diverse wildlife habitat for avian and recreationally/commercially significant fish species
- **Reduces:** erosion to local shorelines by decreasing wave heights



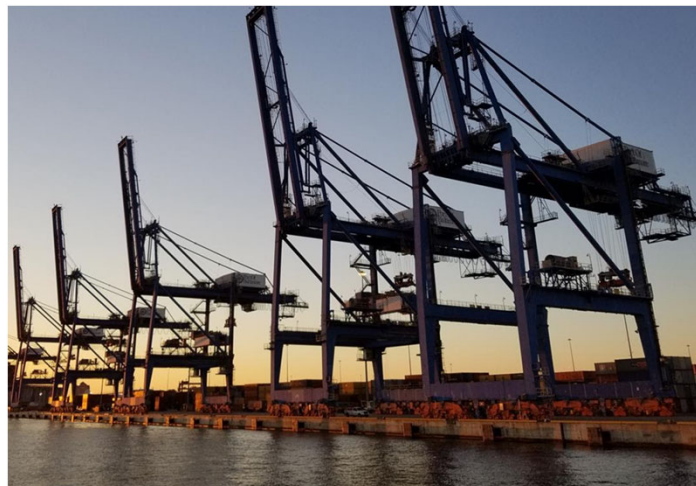
*Ruddy turnstone observed on James Island*



# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS



- Meets long-term capacity needs for dredged material placement
- Enables federal navigation channels to remain open, and safe for transit
- Estimated to provide more than 30 years of capacity to place almost 95 million cubic yards of dredged material





# BARREN ISLAND PLANS



## BARREN ISLAND RESTORATION PLAN



*Breakwaters and Sills to protect island remnants; SAV beds; and create 72 acres of remote island habitat (100% wetlands)*

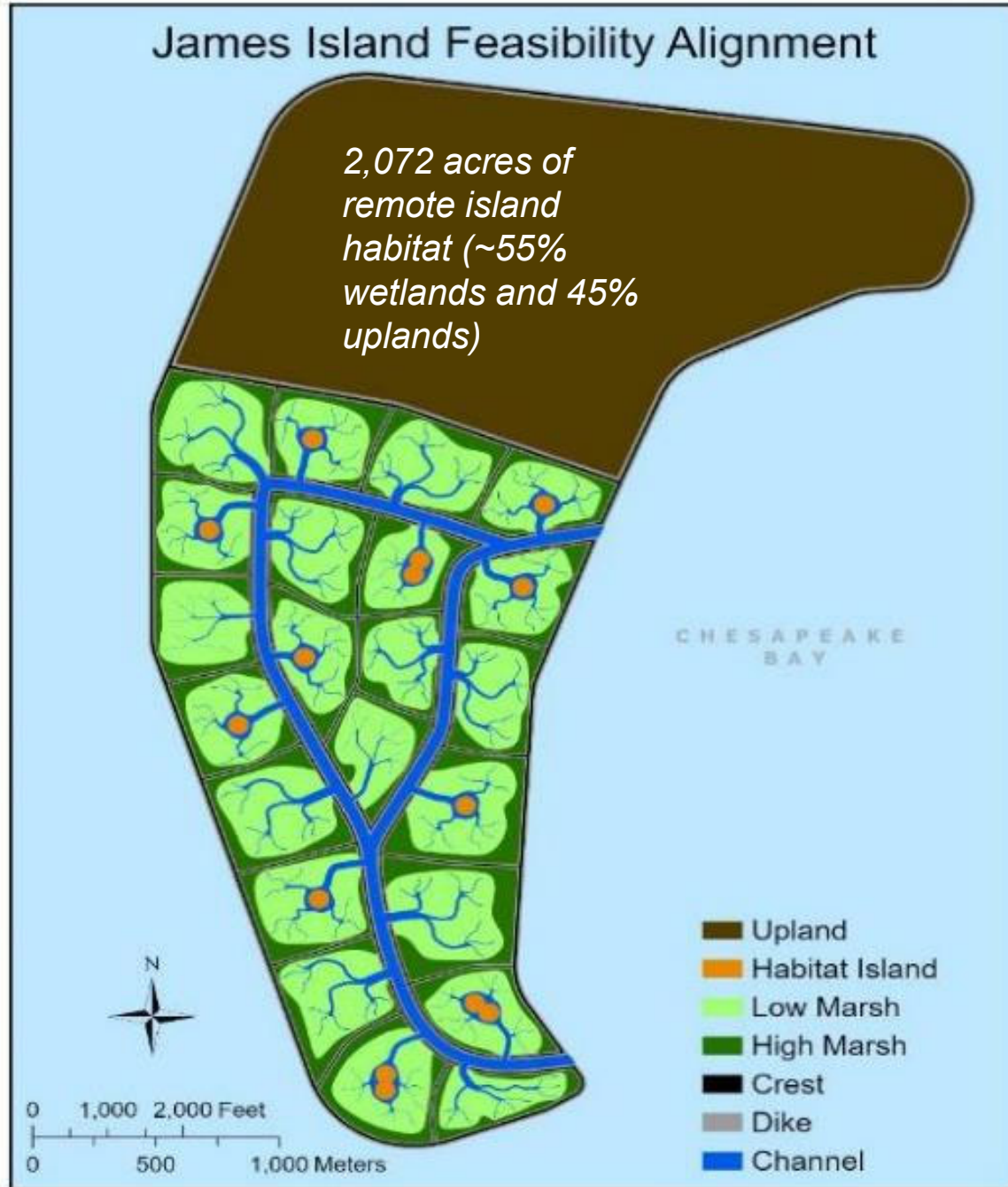
- Proposed Outfalls
- Stone Sill Alignment
- Wetlands
- Existing Sill
- Foundation Remediation



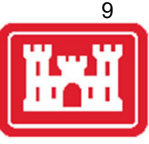




# JAMES ISLAND PLANS







# PROJECT HISTORY / TENTATIVE TIMELINE

**We  
Are  
Here!**

- 20 August 2019: Design Agreement Executed between Dept. Army and State of Maryland
- 7 March 2022: Signed FONSI for Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Barren Island
- 2022: USACE receives more than \$80 million in construction funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- 23 August 2022: Executed \$4 billion Project Partnership Agreement between Dept. Army and Maryland
- 26 September 2022: Awarded \$43.1 million Construction Contract for Barren Island to Coastal Design and Construction
- Fall / Winter 2024: Award Contract to Construct Barren Island Phases 2, 3 & 4 Features\*
- April 2022 to Summer 2025: Design / NEPA / Permits for James Island
- Summer 2025: Award First Construction Contract for James Island\*
- 2024: Barren Island may start to accept dredged material; restoration commences
- 2030: James Island may start to accept dredged material; restoration commences
- 2032: Poplar Island reaches capacity to accept dredged material
- 2024 – ~2067: Mid-Bay ecosystem restoration project continues to develop through dredged material placement

*\*Subject to appropriations for construction and dredging*