



An Electronic Newsletter
of EEA's Environmental
Consulting Activities
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EEA services include
Phase I ESAs, Haz-Mat
Testing and Remediation, Wetlands
Delineation
and Creation, Natural
Resources Inventories,
Marine Ecology Studies,
Air Quality and Noise
studies, and Environmental
Management System (ISO 14000)
implementation.

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Environmental Consulting

INSIGHTS

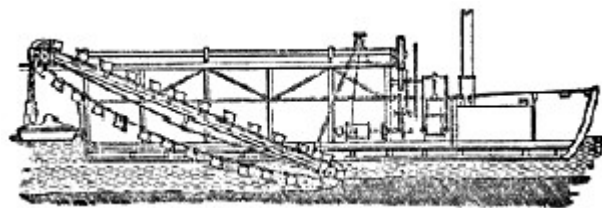
LONG ISLAND EAST END DREDGING:

EEA Works with Suffolk County to Open Dredging Channels

(printer friendly version uses Acrobat Reader)

Unless you live near a creek, work on the water or are an avid Long Island boater, you may not be aware of how sediment deposits can muck up the waters, literally. Bottom sediments are in constant motion and flux as energy sources take the driver's seat. Sediment movement patterns are dictated by many variables including tides, sediment size, shape of the watershed, wind, waves, storms, gravity, etc. Sediment is constantly deposited and scoured from the watershed bottom.

On the east end of Long Island, many Suffolk County creeks are routinely dredged due to sediment deposition. Without dredging, the creeks become unnavigable. Open water areas and beaches diminish and mosquitos can come in and take over new breeding grounds if conditions are right.



With dredging comes an armload of permitting requirements to ensure that dredging is done with minimal impact to our shoreline inhabitants, like the nesting shorebirds (piping plovers, terns, etc.), fish species and sea turtles. Submerged aquatic vegetation beds and benthic critters also have to be examined. Shoreline erosion must be addressed and structures along the waterways must be protected as well.

That's where EEA's team of ecologists and marine scientists step in to address some of these important environmental concerns. [Suffolk County Department of Public Works](#) (SCDPW) has contracted EEA to develop environmental data reports that include Essential Fish Habitat Assessments (also known as EFH's) and Endangered and Threatened Species Assessments on 28 creeks on the eastern end of Long Island that are slated for dredging. EFH assessments are in place to protect spawning finfish and shellfish species. Many times, environmental windows are established to protect specific species.

Phase I ESAs
[Richard Fasciani](#)

Phase II/III Haz-Mat Testing and Remediation
[Nicholas Recchia, VP, CPG](#)

Dredge Management Testing
[Jeffrey Shelkey](#)

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Wetlands Studies and Design
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Marine Ecology
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Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14000)
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EEA, Inc. –
Founded in 1979

Principals

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[Roy R. Stoecker, Ph.D.](#)
 Vice President



Aerial View of Fresh Pond in the Town of Southampton. Fresh Pond is a Tributary to Little Peconic Bay

One example is the Winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*). This popular sole fish is a typical species of concern in our region. Life history characteristics and habitat requirements are examined to determine their movements within the project area. Spawning windows, egg and larval stages of development and adult patterns are assessed relative to the impact of the dredging activity.

These assessments address the following key biological and physical environmental characteristics:

- ✓ **General Site Characteristics**
- ✓ **Sediment Characteristics**
- ✓ **Benthic Communities**
- ✓ **Water Quality**
- ✓ **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)**
- ✓ **Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)**
- ✓ **Endangered and Threatened Species**

Dredging Permits have been issued for the following east end creeks:

Town of Southold

- ✓ Little Creek
- ✓ Cedar Beach Harbor Inlet
- ✓ Deep Hole Creek
- ✓ Brushes Creek
- ✓ Richmond Creek
- ✓ Corey Creek
- ✓ Jockey Creek Spur
- ✓ Goose Creek
- ✓ James Creek
- ✓ Schoolhouse Creek

Town of Southampton

- ✓ North Sea Harbor
- ✓ Fresh Pond
- ✓ Noyac Creek
- ✓ Sebonac Creek
- ✓ Far Pond
- ✓ Middle Pond

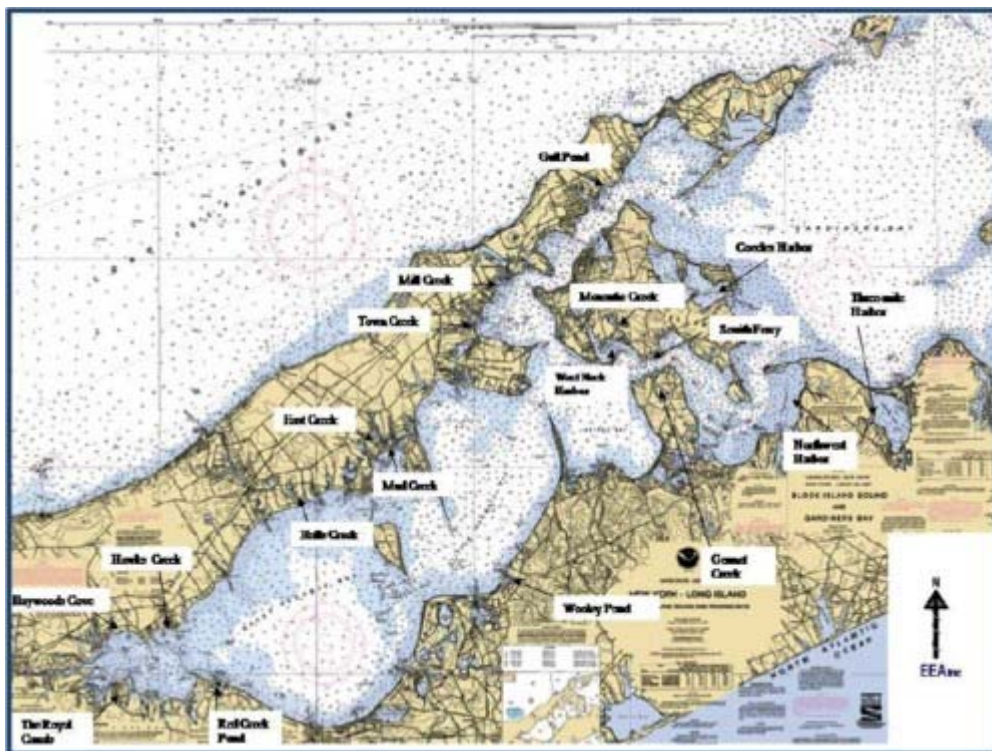
Town of Riverhead

- ✓ Miamogue Lagoon

Potential impacts to habitat and species of concern that may occur as a result of the proposed maintenance project, both dredging and beneficial use of the dredged material, and measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the effect of the proposed project are addressed. Prior studies in the creek and surrounding area are reviewed and referenced.

EEA's report also provides an Endangered and Threatened Species Assessment for proposed maintenance dredging over an extended period of time (eg. 10 years). If appropriate, beach placement of dredged material is also reviewed and recommendations are given.

These reports are included in the permitting package to the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New York District](#) for a permit to perform 10-year maintenance dredging with shoreline placement /beach nourishment, as applicable to each creek. A key component of the permitting process is coordination with the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service](#) (NOAA-NMFS) and the U.S. Department of the Interior's [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS).



Some of the Creek Locations Targeted for Dredging on the East End of Long Island

Environmental reports for the remaining creeks have been submitted and are awaiting approval. EEA will also be submitting reports for dredging permits in the Great South Bay on Long Island.

For more information on these and other dredging projects, please contact Marybeth Billerman at mbillerman@eeaconsultants.com or call our

Stony Brook office at 631-751-4600.



Additional Internet Links of Interest:

[Long Island South Shore Dredging](#)

[Dredging Update: SoutholdVOICE](#)

[Hudson River PCBs | Region 2 | US EPA](#)

[An Electronic Newsletter of EEA: Vibracoring the East Coast](#)

12/13/07