



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Phil Murphy, Governor | Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor



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Sloop Creek and Lavallette Channel dredging to begin next week as the Metedeconk Channels project is completed ahead of schedule in Ocean County

Additional state channels will be restored to safe navigable depths

(Trenton) - New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the start of navigation dredging in the Sloop Creek and Lavallette Channel next week as the Metedeconk Channels Dredging project in Ocean County is completed ahead of schedule.

The \$16 million Metedeconk Channels project, which was expected to continue through December 2019, is completing in the next week – two months early. NJDOT’s Office of Maritime Resources (OMR), working with the H&L Contracting, made the decision to add the Sloop Creek and Lavallette Channel to the existing contract to maximize available time left in the dredging season. NJDOT was prepared with permits to do this work and this will enabled OMR to conduct the additional work that would have otherwise had to wait until next summer.

Completing this work now in the off-season increases life safety on the water and will eliminate the economic and social impacts of dredging these busy navigation channels during the more active summer season.

Dredging in Sloop Creek in Berkeley Township is scheduled to start on or about October 24 and is expected to be finished in a few weeks. Dredging in Lavallette Channel in Lavallette will begin directly after Sloop Creek and is anticipated to last through December 31, 2019.

NJDOT’s contractor, H&L Contracting, will be mechanically dredging the channels to an authorized depth of five feet below mean low water (-5 MLW) with one foot of allowable over-dredge. An estimated 86,000 cubic yards will be removed taken by barge to the placement location known as Dredge Hole 25 (DH25). DH25 is off the coast of West Point Island in Lavallette.

Dredging operations are expected to continue 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week through the end of December 2019. Channel use may be limited where the excavator barges are located. Channel closures are not expected, although this is subject to change.

The Metedeconk Creek project restored the following State channels in Barnegat Bay to their authorized depth: Upper Metedeconk River Channel (6ft.), Green Cove Channel (5ft), Beaver Damn Creek North and South (5ft.), Bay Head Channel, Winter Yacht Basin, Kettle Creek-Sailors Quay (5 ft.) and Kettle Creek (5ft.) with one foot of allowable over-dredge, respectively. These channels were severely impacted, creating shoals and limiting navigation, by Superstorm Sandy. This project renewed safe navigation and maintains these Barnegat Bay Channels in a state of good repair.





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Mariners should be advised that State Aids to Navigation (ATON) will be removed as necessary for the duration of the project. All mariners, including those utilizing human powered craft, should be especially alert to project equipment much of which will be continuously moving. Updates to the Local Notice to Mariners should be expected as the project progresses.

The public is advised to be aware of and stay alert to the construction equipment, buoys, barges and other equipment during this time. NJDOT asks that no one approach the construction site or any related project equipment under any circumstances, whether or not active dredging operations are observed. Boaters should proceed through dredging maintenance and construction zones with the utmost caution. No wake speed should be observed in active work zones throughout the project duration.

Since shortly after Superstorm Sandy, in March 2014 the NJDOT announced a comprehensive State Channel Dredging and Emergency Response Program to ensure and maintain safe navigation statewide, and to continue to be able to respond adequately to waterway impacts from named storms.

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Please note, the NJDOT Communications Office has a new phone number – 609-963-1975.

