

PROJECT BRIEF Amendment

FALMOUTH CRUISE PORT EAST BERTH Maintenance & Capital Dredging

FEBRUARY 2018

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA | 15 – 17 DUKE STREET | KINGSTON, JAMAICA



PROJECT BRIEF - AMENDMENT

MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL DREDGING FALMOUTH CRUISE PORT (East Berth)

BACKGROUND

The Historic Falmouth Cruise Port is located in the town of Falmouth, Trelawny on the north coast of Jamaica and consists of a finger pier constructed in late 2009 with the capability of accommodating two megaliner cruise vessels.

The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) is seeking to undertake dredging of the Historic Falmouth Cruise Port East Berth to widen the berth pocket and a section of the access channel. Capital and Maintenance Dredging works will be carried out to enable the port to accommodate the next generation class of cruise vessels at both the East and West berths simultaneously. Previous dredge works saw the basin having a depth of 12m with the berth pockets being 11.6m to the west and 10.6m to the east berth. In compliance with the Beach Licence condition stipulated by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) a public sensitization was held 2017 June 01.

Due to the presence of high value natural resources such as the Martha Brae river in the area of interest, the PAJ engaged the services of environmental consultant company Smith Warner International Limited (SWIL) to analyze the impacts from dredging at the Falmouth Cruise Port East Berth. Analyses consisted of bathymetric and benthic surveys as well as physicochemical and biological data collection including water quality and sediment.

Of important note is **that the proposed dredge footprint is situated in an area previously altered and impacted by dredging works**. Recommendations were proposed for minor realignment of the ship channel widening to permit exclusion of sensitive resources such as hard corals found in the northern section (Exhibit 1). The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) approved the Works with the issuance of a Beach Licence #L3637 and Permit No. 2017-07017-BL00066.

METHODOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

The dredging works will be carried out by a Trailing Hopper Suction Dredger with an expected hopper capacity of approximately 3,700 m³. Additional dredging equipment such as Backhoe and Split-Hopper barges will be employed as determined by the contractor.

The dredger will operate 24 hours per day and seven (7) days a week including all local and other holidays. Dredging operations will be conducted in repeated cycles with the following activities comprising one cycle: dredging; sailing loaded; discharging; sailing empty.

- Dredging dredged material will be placed into the hopper using a sectional dredging arm.
- Sailing loaded once hopper is full, vessel will sail to disposal site
- Discharging unloading of dredged material at the disposal site by opening hopper



• Sailing empty – vessel will return empty to dredge area to commence dredging again.

VOLUME ESTIMATES

An estimated one hundred and forty thousand cubic metres (140,000 m³) of material will be removed from the seafloor at the location shown on the attached Exhibit 2 which illustrates the proposed dredge slope represented by purple hatched markings.

The breakdown of estimated volume is as follows:

LOCATION

VOLUME

East Berth

140,000 m³ (maintenance & capital) dredge to 11.6m

LOCATION OF DISPOSAL SITE

The proposed disposal site for the dredge spoil is the area approved by NEPA in previous capital dredging works located at least 2.5 nautical miles offshore and not closer than the coordinates 18° 31'58.04"N and 77° 38'46.22"W (see attached Exhibit 3)

TYPE OF MATERIAL

Material composition of the dredge spoil is expected to be a mixture of high sand and significant silt and clay content. The presence of solid waste and other land-based source material is also expected.

BENTHOS

A benthic survey was conducted by SWIL to identify species which could face potential negative impacts from dredging works and results indicate low ecological value of the proposed dredge footprint. Limited living significant marine resources - such as corals and fish - are located in the proposed dredge area presumably due to modification from previous activities as evidenced by the SWIL Impact Analysis October 2016 Report.

Dredging in a coral reef environment is likely to have a number of negative impacts, however it is important to note that **the proposed dredge footprint is located in an area previously altered and impacted by dredge work.** The subsequent dredge impacts will be dependent on duration of the dredging operations, the equipment and proposed technique to be used.

Subsequent detailed analyses by the Consultant indicated that over 600 corals, inclusive of contingency estimate, will now require relocation. However, the vast majority of corals within the area will be avoided due to the ship channel realignment previously proposed. The coral species composition of dredge footprint is detailed in the attached Coral Relocation Plan.

The proposed dredge slope and basin consisted mainly of non-living substrate, particularly silt with macroalgae being the dominant living substrate type. Fish diversity and abundance were low and no seagrass species were found in the proposed dredge area.



MITIGATION MEASURES

Given the proximity of the existing reef to the proposed dredge area, mitigation measures have been proposed including relocation of some corals and invertebrates.

Recommendations from the SWIL October 2016 report include the use of the coral relocation site from the previous capital dredge work of 2009 for any hard coral relocation provided that the site possesses complementary features (regarding space and species competition) and is exempt from potential harmful impacts such as ship groundings and sedimentation. Discussions with NEPA highlighted that the eastern section of the previous coral relocation site (from the 2009 dredging) showed better conditions and as such the coral relocation site being proposed will be located on the eastern side as seen in the revised Coral Relocation Plan dated February 02 2018 attached.

Minimization of sediment plume during dredging operations will be effected by the use of turbidity barriers to help protect the existing marine community. Suspension of dredging activities will be carried out in cases of adverse sea conditions and abnormal ocean parameters to further diminish the impact of sediment suspension on marine resources in close proximity to the dredging site.

DURATION

Work is projected to occur over a period of two and a half weeks.

SCHEDULE/ TIMELINE

Dredging operations are expected to commence at a date to be agreed during the first quarter of 2018 for completion after two and a half weeks.

The Port Authority of Jamaica - February 2018



Exhibit 1 – Proposed Realignment of ship channel in Falmouth showing hard coral locations.



Proposed realignment



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Proposed realignment

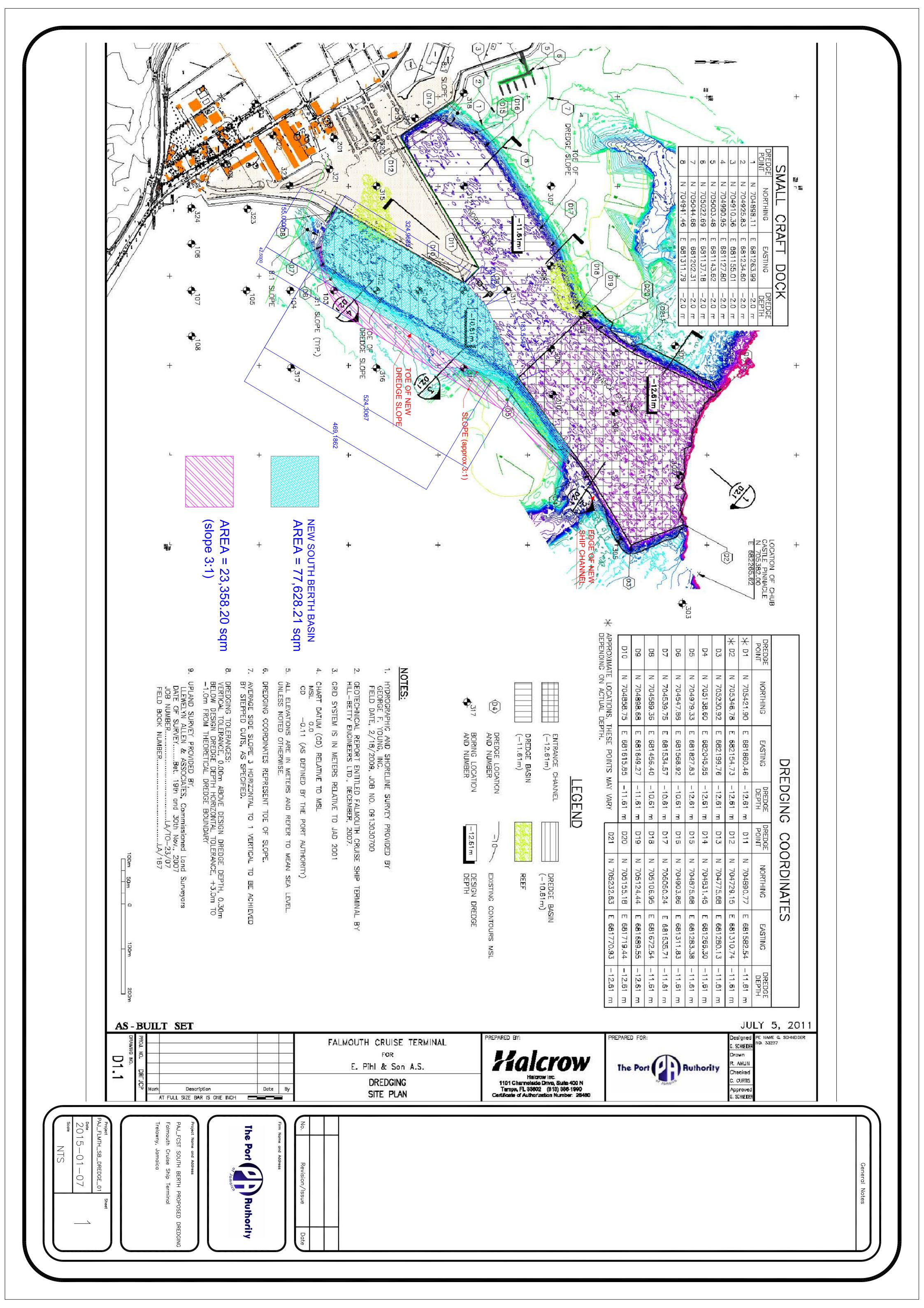


Exhibit 3. Approach to Falmouth Harbour showing proposed dredge disposal site (red outline) located 2.5 nautical miles offshore in 1000m contour

