

HART-MILLER ISLAND VISITORS: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels Dredging Project Ordnance Investigation and Disposal

What is happening?

Baltimore harbor's anchorages and channels are dredged to help keep the Port of Baltimore viable. During dredging operations, pieces of timber and metal, chunks of concrete, tires and other debris are occasionally brought up from the harbor floor. This refuse is loaded into debris barges.

Last year, World War II vintage ordnance items were discovered in a debris barge. The materials were safely detonated or disposed of at the time. A subsequent review was unable to conclusively determine whether the ordnance had been dredged from the harbor with other debris or was unintentionally transported in the scow from other military dredging locations. However, several ordnance items have already been discovered during this year's dredging operations.

What is being done?

A temporary restricted area and a temporary safety zone will be set up. Neither the restricted area nor the safety zone reaches the public areas of Hart-Miller Island. Both are marked on the map on the reverse. For your protection, avoid these areas.

The restricted area is a no-watercraft zone, which will extend from the pier into the waterway at a 1,500-foot radius for the duration of the unloading. Unloading is scheduled to start about mid-June and could last up to 30 days. The perimeter of the restricted area will be clearly marked with buoys and signs. The buoys and signs will be removed when the unloading is finished.

The unloaded material will be sorted for ordnance items near the center of the island's cross dike from June to August. When ordnance is found, skilled experts will destroy it. During these activities, a 300-foot-radius safety zone will be established. The zone will be expanded to a 1,500-foot radius if needed. The perimeter will be posted. Island visitors may hear a muffled explosion in the distance when an item is detonated.

What is ordnance?

Ordnance is military ammunition, components or explosives.



Photo by George Follett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

These ordnance items were discovered in a debris barge during 2002 dredging operations.

Harbor history

Baltimore Harbor was defended by a number of coastal fortifications from 1800 to 1928. All seacoast fortifications tested and practiced firing their guns over water.

During the War of 1812, Fort McHenry was bombarded by an estimated 1,500 10-inch and 13-inch mortar-bombs and rockets.

In addition, at the conclusion of World War II, incoming vessels may have unloaded ordnance in the harbor to avoid inventory claims.

Although ordnance had not been uncovered in harbor dredging before 2002, ordnance items have again been identified in this year's dredging debris.



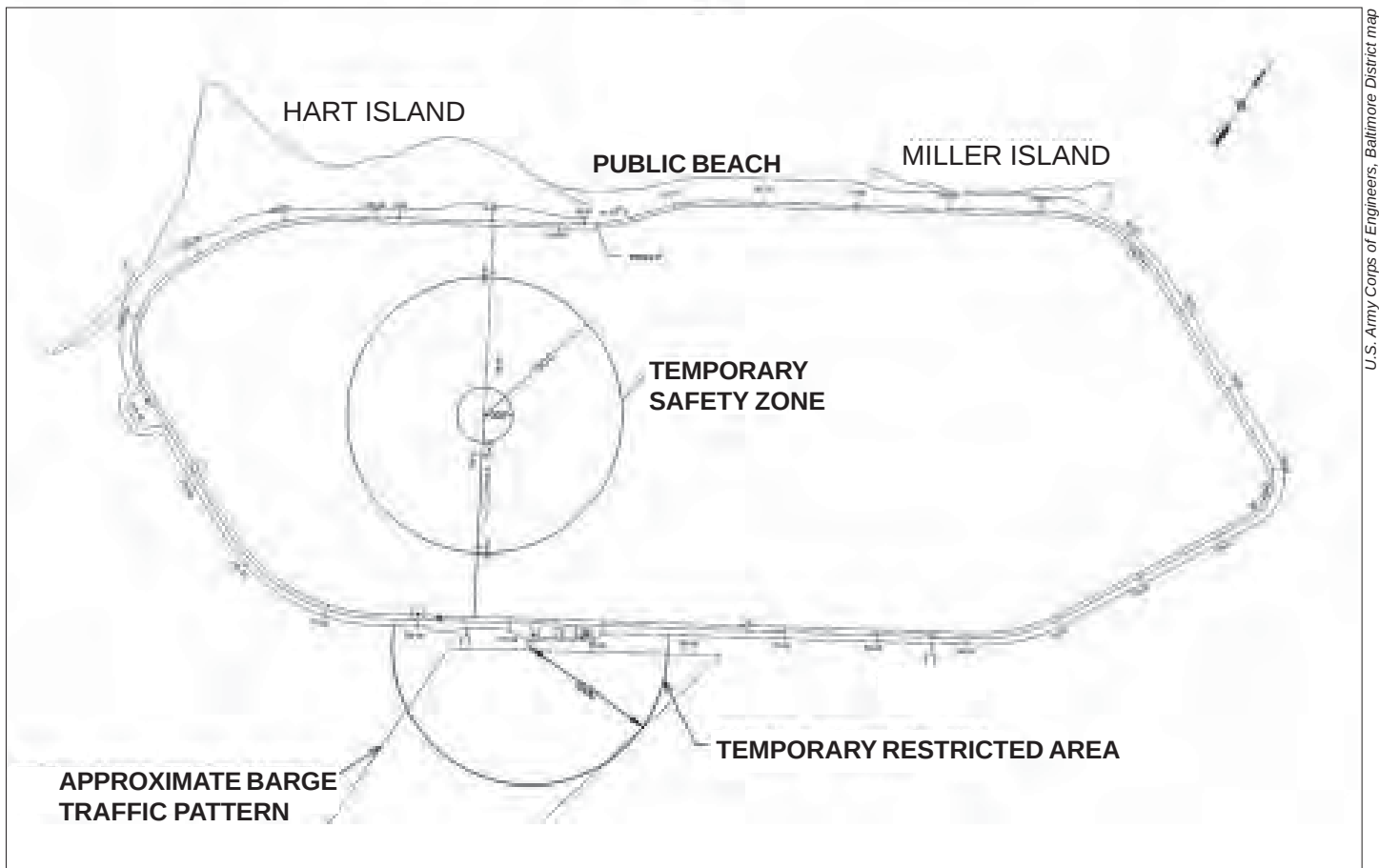
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A temporary restricted area and a temporary safety zone are being used at Hart-Miller Island to protect the public during the unloading of dredging debris and the destruction of ordnance extracted from the debris.

Coordination

The Corps' project team has coordinated this effort with the U.S. Coast Guard, Maryland Watermen's Association, Baltimore County Watermen's Association, Balti-

more County Bomb Squad, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Resources, Hart-Miller Island Citizens Committee and Maryland Port Administration.



Dredged material from Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels project is unloaded at the Hart-Miller Island pier.



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