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Lakes Bay Channel dredging project completed ahead of schedule in Atlantic County Channels restored to a state of good repair

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the completion of dredging in four State navigation channels in Atlantic County.

The \$3.7 million dollar Lakes Bay Channel Complex project outside of Atlantic City restored safe navigation to Lakes Bay, the Lakes Bay Spur, Tunis Basin and Risley's Channels. This project has been one of the Office of Maritime Resources' most successful projects this dredging season. Operations began in September with work taking place 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week when weather and other conditions permitted. The project was completed ahead of schedule in October.

Overall, NJDOT's contractor, H&L Contracting, removed more than 109,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Lakes Bay Complex. Many of these channels had been shoaled in since Superstorm Sandy, limiting commercial, sailboat, and general recreational traffic in the area. Boaters in these channels will now be able to enjoy a depth of at least six feet of water. These channels are now considered to be in a state of good repair for the 2022 boating season and will provide a much-needed boost to the regional economy.

Environmental Improvements

The 109,000 cubic yards of material from these channels will be used to help improve fish habitat in the area. The material was placed in a subaqueous borrow pit known as Dredged Hole #86. The hole was formed when sand was mined from Beach Thorofare for the building of regional development. Since its creation, the water in the hole has stagnated and the hole has partially filled in with silt, making it undesirable for fish, shellfish, and other wildlife. This project restored the bottom of the hole to the surrounding elevation, improving the habitat and fostering the return of fish and shellfish.

This dredging project was part of the comprehensive State Channel Dredging Program initiated in March 2014, following Superstorm Sandy. The State Channel Dredging and Emergency Response Program aims to maintain safe navigation statewide, and to respond quickly to damage to waterways caused by named storms.

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