ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

October 29, 2026 Notice Issue Date	Chatham County City / County
November 28, 2026 Notice Close Date	SAS-2001-09120 Control Number

Sec. 401 Water Quality Certification
Bahia Bleu Marina Maintenance Dredging– US Army Corps of Engineers Sec. 404 Permit Application

This notice is issued to inform the public that a request has been received for water quality certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The public is invited to comment during this 30-day period on the proposed activity. Information pertaining to the project is attached to this notice. Since the request is specific to 401 WQC, only comments pertaining to water quality are considered under the certification review process. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov. Comments may also be provided in writing to: Program Manager, Wetlands Unit, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Suite 1052 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. Include the words "Water Quality Certification Comment" and the Control Number above in the e-mail subject line or on the top of the first page of written comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff. For additional information, contact Dewey Richardson at dewey.richardson@dnr.ga.gov.

Type of Permit Application: 401 Water Quality Certification

Applicable Law: Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1341

Applicable Rules: 40 CFR part 121

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

Safe Harbor Marina Bahia Bleu, LLC et al. is seeking a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for aquatic resource impacts associated with the issuance of a dredging permit to perform periodic maintenance dredging within the existing Bahia Bleu Marina basin to an authorized depth of -10 Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). The project site is located in the Wilmington River, at the Safe Harbor Bahia Bleu Marina in Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.0319, Longitude -81.0495). The request for 401 WQC was originally submitted on December 21, 2023. However, the project was on hold until the Tier II Sediment Sampling and Analysis Report could be completed. The Tier II Report and a letter with an updated project description were submitted to EPD on October 26, 2026. The original application states that the dredged material will be transported via submerged pipeline to the active Contained Disposal Facility (CDF) owned and operated by Thunderbolt Marine, Inc. The project has since been revised, and the applicant proposes to transport the dredged material via submerged pipeline to the active CDF owned and operated by Savannah Yacht Club (SYC), located approximately 2.1 miles downstream of Bahia Bleu Marina along the Wilmington River.

The proposed dredging encompasses approximately 1.17 acres of the existing marina basin. Approximately 0.84 acre encompassing the marina slips would be dredged to a project depth of -10 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), with a 1-foot allowable overdredge to -11 feet MLLW. An additional approximately 0.33 acre along the landward limits of the dredge footprint would be dredged on a 2H:1V side slope extending upward from the project-depth dredge area. Because additional sedimentation has occurred, the estimated dredge quantity has been increased to approximately 17,000 cubic yards for permitting purposes.

Dredging would be performed using a small hydraulic cutterhead dredge capable of maneuvering within the existing marina slips, floating finger docks, and associated marina infrastructure. The dredged sediment would be removed hydraulically as a slurry and conveyed through an underwater/underground pipeline to the Savannah Yacht Club (SYC) upland confined disposal facility, located approximately 2.1 miles downstream of Bahia Bleu Marina along the Wilmington River. The SYC CDF discharges through a controlled weir to Longfield Creek near its confluence with the Wilmington River.

Based on the Tier II evaluation, the sediment testing did not identify compounds at concentrations requiring special upland handling or disposal considerations. The evaluation further concluded that, considering the proposed disposal method, controlled discharge from the CDF, and analytical results for the dredged sediment and anticipated effluent, a numerical mixing model and on-site sediment remediation are not warranted. The Tier II report concludes that the proposed dredged material is not considered a carrier of contaminants that would cause the dredge discharge to contribute to degradation of receiving-water quality.

The applicant requests a 15-year maintenance-dredging authorization, including the initial approximately 17,000-cubic-yard event and up to three subsequent maintenance events at approximately three- to five-year intervals. The SYC CDF is identified as the disposal location for the next maintenance dredging event; the disposal location for future maintenance events will be at the SYC CDF or another approved upland CDF.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant:

Ms. Amanda Caton
Safe Harbor Marina Bahia Bleu, LLC
2812 River Drive
Thunderbolt, Georgia 31404

Mr. David Crenshaw
2801 River Drive
Thunderbolt, Georgia 31404

Mr. Robert Milie
Town of Thunderbolt
2821 River Drive
Thunderbolt, Georgia 31404

2201 Rowland Avenue
Savannah, GA 31404
P (912) 629 4000
F (912) 629-4001
Terracon.com

December 21, 2023

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
7 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 450
Atlanta, GA 30334

Attn: Dewey Richardson
E: Dewey.Richardson@dnr.ga.gov

Re: 401 Water Quality Certification Request
Bahia Blue Marina Maintenance Dredging
Chatham County, Georgia
Terracon Project No. ES217049

Dear Mr. Richardson:

On behalf of Safe Harbor Marina Bahia Blue, LLC. (SHM Bahia Blue), Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon) submits the following 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) request for the proposed maintenance dredging event within the Bahia Blue Marina basin.

In accordance with 40 CFR Part 121.5 of the Federal Register, Terracon provides the following information in order to complete this 401 WQC request:

1. **A description of the proposed activity, including purpose of proposed activity and type(s) of discharge(s) that may result**

The proposed activity includes the maintenance dredging of the SHM Bahia Blue marina basin. As proposed, the dredging event will return the marina basin to a depth of -10 ft. (MLLW). This dredging event would result in approximately 13,055 cubic yards of material being removed from the marina basin and pumped via submerged pipeline to a contained disposal facility (CDF) across the Wilmington River from the marina. Due to the large size of this CDF, and the relatively minute amount of dredged material being placed within the CDF, no releases from the CDF are anticipated during the entirety of this project. SHM Bahia Blue has contracted Terracon to complete the permit application for this proposed dredging event to alleviate navigational issues caused by sedimentation within the basin. At peak low tides, the marina is unable to utilize it's most landward finger docks due to the amount of sediment that has accumulated. Completing this dredging event will return the marina's basin to complete operating capacity. This proposed maintenance dredging follows and mimics the previous maintenance dredging event that was permitted for in 2008 and was completed in 2010.

2. **The specific location of any discharge(s) that may result from the proposed activity**

As noted above, due to the size of the CDF and the small dredge volume resulting from the proposed maintenance event, no discharges from the CDF are anticipated during the entirety of this project. Within the attached dredging plans, plan and cross section views of the CDF site help illustrate the available capacity within the CDF, and the space the proposed dredged material will occupy.

3. **Map or diagram of the proposed activity site, including proposed activity boundaries in relation to local streets, roads, and highways**

Please see the attached dredging plans prepared by Bolchoz Marine Advisors, Inc., dated October 13, 2023 and signed December 15, 2023.

4. **Description of current activity site conditions, including but not limited to relevant site data, photographs that represent the current site conditions, or other relevant documentation**

The current site conditions of the proposed dredging footprint are open water and existing marina infrastructure such as finger docks and concrete pilings (See attached dredging plans). Photosheets 1-2 depict images of the marina and the effect the sedimentation is having of vessels moored to the most landward finger docks.

5. **Date(s) on which the proposed activity is planned to begin and end and, if known, the approximate date(s) when any discharges may commence**

The proposed activity start date hinges upon the issuance of both a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Permit and Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resource Division (CRD) Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) permit. However, the targeted starting date for the maintenance dredging is October 2024 – February 2025. As noted above, no discharge events from the CDF are anticipated during the entirety of this project.

6. **A list of all other Federal, interstate, Tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed activity and the current status of each authorization**

The other required authorizations for this project and their current status are listed below:

Authorization	Agency	Status
Individual Permit	USACE	Submittal Anticipated January 2024
CMPA Permit	GA DNR-CRD	Submittal Anticipated January 2024

7. **Documentation that a pre-filing meeting request was submitted to certifying authority in accordance with applicable submission procedures, unless the pre-filing meeting request requirement was waved**

Please see the attached copy of an email exchange from Mr. Dewey Richardson confirming the 30-day waiting period following the Pre-Filing Meeting on November 8th 2023 had passed.

At this time, we trust that the above information satisfies the minimum required contents for this 401 WQC request. Pending your review of the above information and attached documents, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or requests for additional documentation.

Sincerely,
Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Aaron Valenti
Staff Scientist

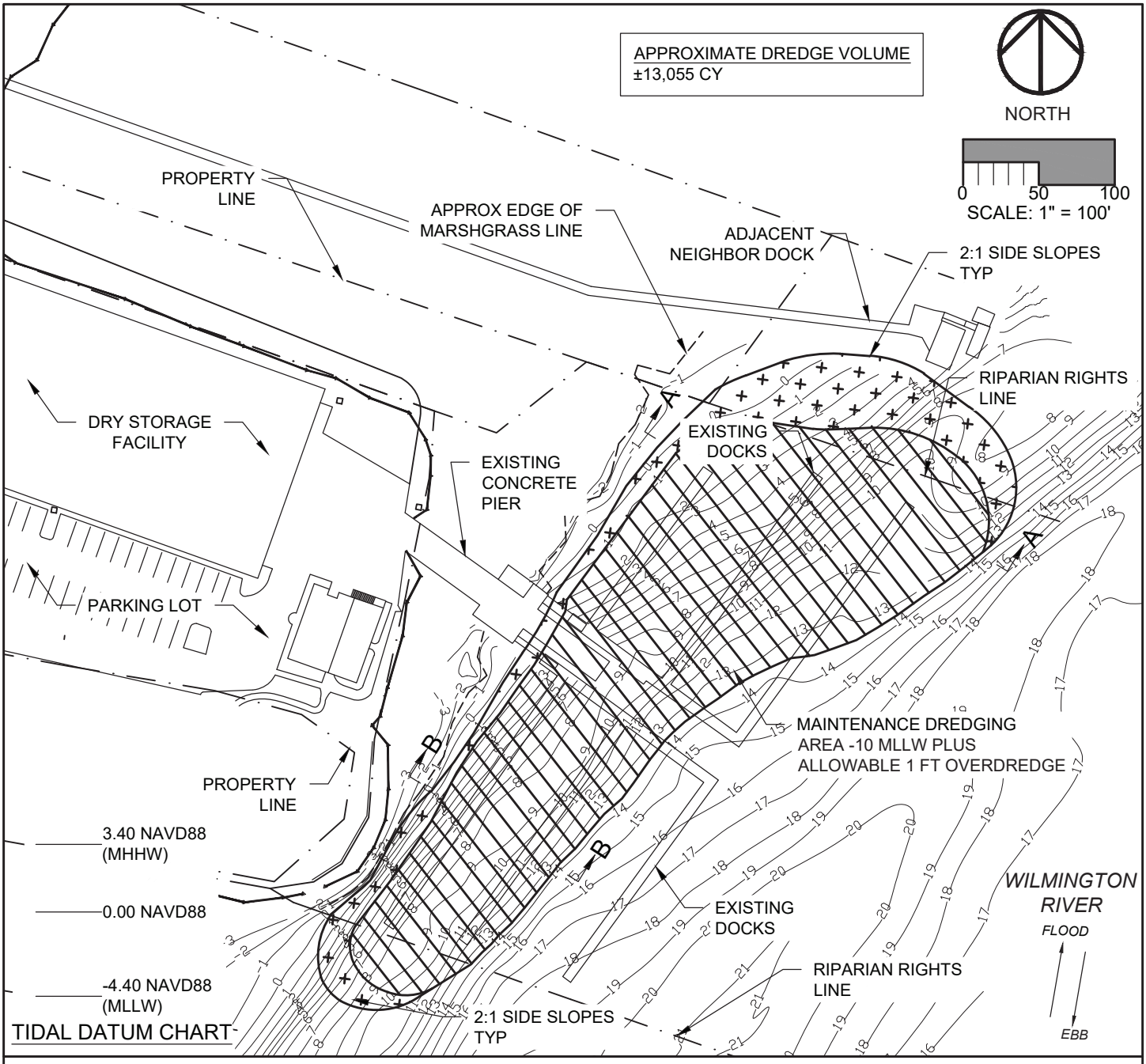
Mike DeMell
Department Manager II

Attachments: **Dredging plans prepared by Bolchoz Marine Advisors, Inc., dated October 13, 2023 and signed December 15, 2023**

Photosheets 1-2

Pre-Filing Meeting Email Exchange

MD/av
ES217049/Joint App Materials/401WQC/12 20 23 401 WQC Request
December 2023



NOTES:

1. PROPERTY LINES AND LAYOUT FEATURES SHOWN IN THESE PLANS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION TAKEN FROM SURVEY PERFORMED BY PIRKLE AND ASSOCIATES, INC., DATED MARCH 15, 2020.
2. ELEVATIONS ARE REFERENCED TO NAVD88.
3. SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDES MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF EXISTING MARINA TO -10 MLLW WITH A ONE FOOT ALLOWABLE OVERDREDGE.
4. SEE SHEET 1 FOR LOCATION MAP, SHEET 2 FOR EXISTING CONDITIONS, SHEET 3 FOR PROPOSED DREDGE PLAN, SHEET 4 FOR CROSS SECTIONS, SHEET 5 FOR DISPOSAL BASIN DETAILS, AND SHEET 6 DISPOSAL BASIN CROSS SECTION.

GEORGIA REGISTERED No. PE043273 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER 12/15/2023 MARK D BOLCHOZ

PROPOSED: MAINTENANCE DREDGE
LOCATION: SAVANNAH (CHATHAM), GA
DATUM: NAVD88
APPLICATION BY: SAFE HARBOR MARINAS

DATE: 10/13/2023

SHEET 3 OF 6

PROPOSED DREDGE PLAN

SAFE HARBOR MARINAS, LLC
14785 PRESTON ROAD, SUITE 975
DALLAS, TX 75254

Bolchoz Marine Advisors, Inc.

Water Environment Consultants
P.O. Box 2221
Mount Pleasant, SC 29465
(843) 375-9022

October 26, 2026

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
7 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 450
Atlanta, GA 30334

Attn: Mr. Dewey Richardson <Dewey.Richardson@dnr.ga.gov>

Dear Mr. Richardson:

This transmittal provides additional project information in support of the Bahia Bleu Marina Maintenance Dredging Joint Permit Application previously submitted by Terracon Consultant, Inc. (Terracon), dated April 22, 2023. The original application states that the dredged material will be transported via submerged pipeline to the active Contained Disposal Facility (CDF) owned and operated by Thunderbolt Marine, Inc. The project has since been revised, and the applicant proposes to transport the dredged material via submerged pipeline to the active CDF owned and operated by Savannah Yacht Club (SYC), located approximately 2.1 miles downstream of Bahia Bleu Marina along the Wilmington River. Figure 1 shows the location of the SYC CDF.

Attached is Terracon's Tier II Sediment Sampling and Analysis Report, dated October 20, 2026. The Tier II evaluation did not identify compounds in the sediment at concentrations requiring special upland handling or disposal considerations. Based on the proposed disposal method, controlled discharge from the CDF, and analytical results for the dredged sediment and anticipated effluent, the report concludes that the proposed dredged material is not considered a carrier of contaminants that would cause the dredge discharge to contribute to degradation of receiving-water quality. The evaluation further concludes that a numerical mixing model and on-site sediment remediation are not warranted.

Below is a revised project description:

> *Safe Harbor Marina Bahia Bleu, LLC proposes to conduct maintenance dredging within the existing Bahia Bleu Marina basin at 2812 River Drive in Thunderbolt, Chatham County, Georgia, along the Wilmington River. Maintenance dredging is necessary to restore the marina basin to navigable depths and full operating capacity. Sediment accumulation within the basin currently restricts use of the most landward finger docks during low-tide conditions.*
>
> *The proposed dredging encompasses approximately 1.17 acres of the existing marina basin. Approximately 0.84 acre encompassing the marina slips would be dredged to a project depth of -10 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), with a 1-foot allowable overdredge to -11 feet MLLW. An additional approximately 0.33 acre along the landward limits of the dredge footprint would be dredged on a 2H:1V side slope extending upward from the project-depth dredge area.*

Based on the March 2020 bathymetric survey, approximately 12,000 cubic yards of material would be removed to achieve the proposed dredge configuration. Because additional sedimentation has occurred since that survey, the estimated dredge quantity has been increased to approximately 17,000 cubic yards for permitting purposes.

Dredging would be performed using a small hydraulic cutterhead dredge capable of maneuvering within the existing marina slips, floating finger docks, and associated marina infrastructure. The dredged sediment would be removed hydraulically as a slurry and conveyed through an underwater/underground pipeline to the Savannah Yacht Club (SYC) upland confined disposal facility, located approximately 2.1 miles downstream of Bahia Bleu Marina along the Wilmington River (shown in Figure 1). The SYC CDF discharges through a controlled weir to Longfield Creek near its confluence with the Wilmington River.

Tier II sediment characterization was completed for the proposed dredged material. Based on the Tier II evaluation, the sediment testing did not identify compounds at concentrations requiring special upland handling or disposal considerations. The evaluation further concluded that, considering the proposed disposal method, controlled discharge from the CDF, and analytical results for the dredged sediment and anticipated effluent, a numerical mixing model and on-site sediment remediation are not warranted. The Tier II report concludes that the proposed dredged material is not considered a carrier of contaminants that would cause the dredge discharge to contribute to degradation of receiving-water quality.

In summary, the applicant proposes maintenance dredging of an existing, previously dredged marina basin to restore navigable depths and access to the marina's existing slips. The applicant requests a 15-year maintenance-dredging authorization, including the initial approximately 17,000-cubic-yard event and up to three subsequent maintenance events at approximately three- to five-year intervals. The SYC CDF is identified as the disposal location for the next maintenance dredging event; the disposal location for future maintenance events will be at the SYC CDF or another approved upland CDF.

Sincerely,

Matt Goodrich, P.E.

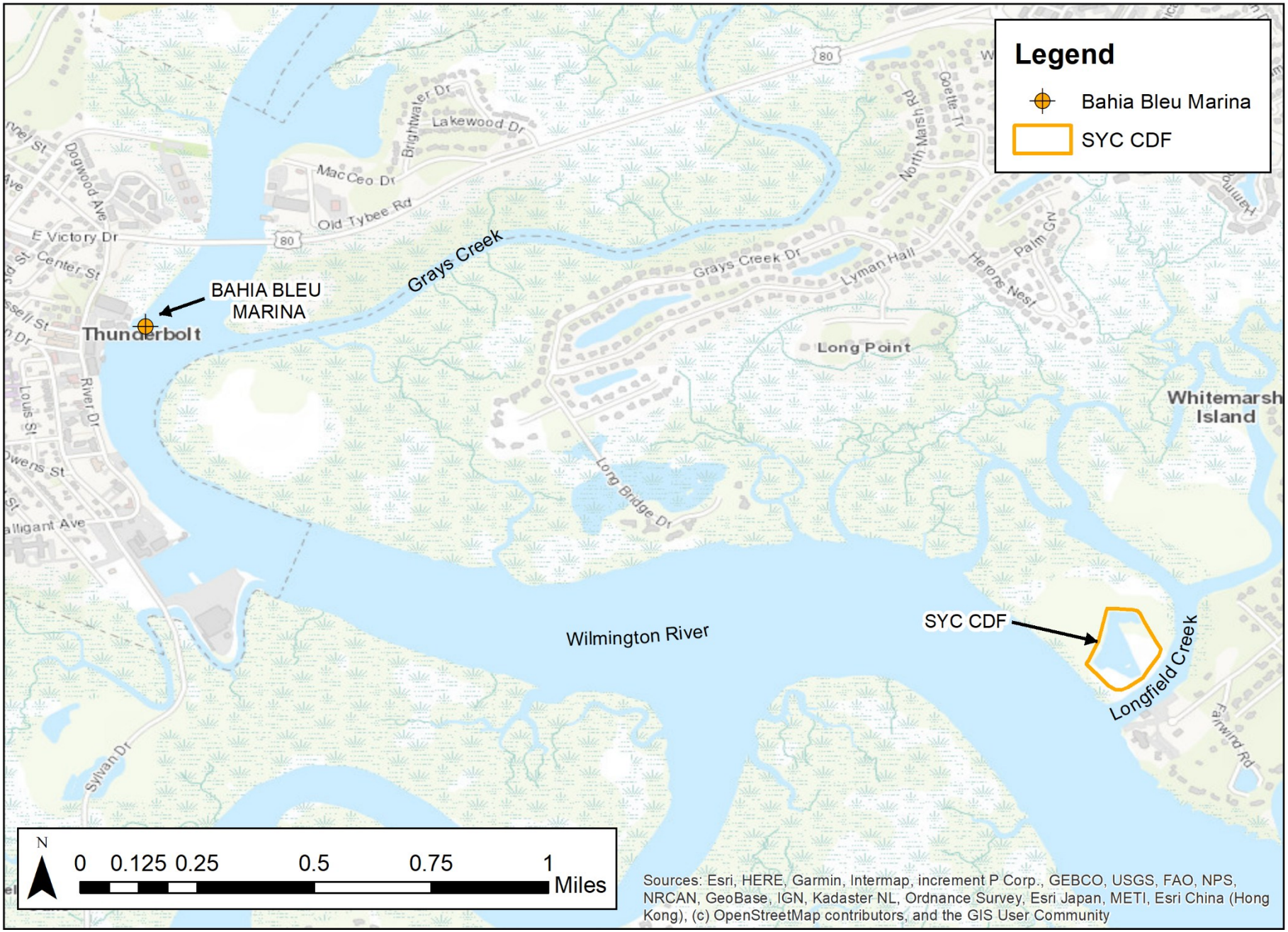


Figure 1 – CDF location map