

Harbor Deepening Project, Environmental Restoration Initiatives, New York and New Jersey

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) requests a modification of the New York and New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project to include among its project purposes ecosystem restoration measures. This will allow the PANYNJ to reprogram approximately \$120 million for environmental restoration and mitigation efforts within the Hudson-Raritan Estuary.

Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is constructing the 50 foot Harbor Deepening Project for the New York/New Jersey region with the PANYNJ as the non-federal sponsor. The project was authorized in Section 101 (a)(2) of WRDA 2000 (P.L. 106-541). Throughout the deepening project, there have been multiple opportunities for ecosystem restoration. Executing these efforts in coordination with the Harbor Deepening Project has capitalized on synergies between dredging and environmental restoration within the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, a congressionally recognized estuary of national importance and a component of the National Estuary Program (NEP). The PANYNJ has already dedicated \$60 million to finance the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land for preservation and studies to identify and prevent sources of contamination from entering the harbor estuary. The PANYNJ, in consultation with the Harbor Roundtable, a consortium of environmental entities, identified additional restoration projects in the harbor that could benefit from funding, and requests that the project's purposes be modified to include ecosystem restoration.

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Spending Guarantee

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) requests legislative language that ties Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) annual appropriations levels to annual HMTF revenues, thus dedicating full annual HMTF revenues for harbor maintenance projects across the nation. Tying the HMTF annual appropriations levels to revenues will eliminate the harbor maintenance backlog and will also help to guarantee that the federal navigation channels in the New York-New Jersey harbor can be maintained to their authorized widths and depths.