

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Application for Federal Consistency Certification with the
Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program
CZ-2020-0515-043 (Joint Permit Application 1733)
CZ-2020-0515-044 (Joint Permit Application 1734)**

According to sections 306(d) 14 and 307(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and applicable Federal Consistency Regulations at 15 CFR Part 930, the Puerto Rico Planning Board informs that the following project is under Federal Consistency review with the P.R. Coastal Zone Management Program:

Applicant: PR Ports Authority (PRPA)

Description: The berthing areas of San Juan Port Zone require regular maintenance dredging to guarantee safety in navigation. The PRPA submitted the Joint Permit Applications at reference to obtain an US Army Corps of Engineers permit to perform maintenance dredging in Pier 1 and Pan-American pier berthing areas of the San Juan Port Zone. The details on the proposed works are the following:

- **Pier 1:** The last maintenance dredging for this area was carried out in the year 2011. The PRPA proposes to perform maintenance dredging for removal of around 38,592 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from an area of 269,415 cubic feet comprising the berthing areas of cruise ships. The proposed dredging depth will be -35 feet plus -2 below the "Mean Low Water Level" (MLLW). There is a small area located east of pier 1 which will be dredged to a depth of -25 feet.
- **Pan-American Pier:** The last maintenance dredging for this area was performed in year 2018. The PRPA proposes a maintenance dredging to remove 1,906 cubic yards of accumulated sediments in the cruise ship berthing area comprising an extension of 21,570 square feet. The accumulated sediments will be removed to a depth of -36 pies plus -2 feet below MLLW.

The proposed construction method would be the construction methodology considered in the 2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO dated March 27, 2020) for dredging and material placement activities such as conventional methods: mechanical, (i.e. a clamshell or backhoe dredge) or hydraulic method (i.e. hopper dredge). In addition, barges or scows, crew boats, split-hull hopper dredge, and survey vessels would be used to perform the proposed works.

Geographical Location: The areas where the dredging will be carried out are within the waters of San Juan Bay Port Zone. The Pier 1 is located south of the Old San Juan islet, in the cruise ship berthing areas. The Pan-American Pier is located in the San Antonio Channel, north of Isla Grande Airport, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Environmental Impact Analysis: The PR Permit Management Office (OGPe) issued a Certification of Environmental Compliance for categorical exclusion under case numbers 2021-400966-DE C-099825 and 2021-403015-DEC-100262 for dredging in the proposed areas. The PRPA is proposing to use the San Juan Ocean Dredged Marine Disposal Site (ODMDS) designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to dispose the dredged material. The PRPA contracted Anamar Consulting Company, to carry out a sampling and characterization of the sediments in all the docks managed by said agency within the San Juan Bay Port Zone, and prepared a report dated April 2021. This, as part of the requirements of section 103 of the Federal Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) for deposit of dredged material in the ODMDS. The report is available for public review along with other documents related to this application.

Impact on Cultural and Historical Resources: The proposed dredging will be carried out in impacted areas and only accumulated sediments will be removed, so no impact on historical or archaeological resources is expected.

The documents regarding this application will be available for public review and comments as of the date of notification of this notice, through the Planning Board portal at www.jp.pr.gov, under "Certificación de Compatibilidad Federal". The available information at the web site is contained in a work file that can change as new information is received, the final public file will be available after the completion of the works. You can access the documents corresponding to this application through the following link: <https://jp.pr.gov/index.php/compatibilidad-federal-con-pmzcpr/>

If you need additional information, must request it through the Secretary's Office of the PR Planning Board. Comments regarding this request will have a period of **thirty (30) days** from notification of this notice. Any comments must be sent by email to: cometariosjp@jp.pr.gov

Please refer to the application number in your communication. For any questions regarding this matter, you can contact the Coastal Zone Unit via email at: ortiz_r@jp.pr.gov.

I certify and notify today: JAN 18 2023


Georgina Gonzalez Oller
Secretary





