

LEGACY SEDIMENT PLACEMENT AND HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS FOR USING NNBF FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

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NORTHERN SMILL USACE PRIOR PLACEMENT AREAS



BENEFICIAL USE IN 1960'S?



- WETLANDS INSTITUTE FOUNDER HERBERT MILLS STUDYING THE BLACK SKIMMER AND TERN COLONY "IN THE VICINITY OF CEDAR ISLAND" IN THE EARLY 1960'S
- NOT CERTAIN EXACTLY WHERE BUT LIKELY SITE 97 PRIOR PLACEMENT SITE

KNOWN PLACEMENT HISTORY 98B/C

DREDGING AND PLACEMENT HISTORY GREAT CHANNEL FOOTBALL FIELD AND 98 B/C COMPLEX (FY1973 – PRESENT)

- 98 B
 - 1977 61,212 CY
- 98 C
 - 1974 33,017 CY
 - 1979 40,875 CY
 - 1982 68,600 CY
 - 1985 41,543 CY
 - 1987 58,500 CY
 - 1991 119,263 CY
 - 1993 53,367 CY
- AVALON MARSH ENHANCEMENT
 - 2015 5,000 CY 50,000 cy
 - 2016 45,000 CY

476,676 су



- Does not include significant placements pre-1973 or at sites 96, 97 or 98A
- Do not know if any was removed from the system

GULL / STURGEON ISLAND PLACEMENT COMPLEX

- OVERBOARD PLACEMENT
 CREATED MARSH ISLANDS
 AND IMPORTANT SUBTIDAL
 AND INTERTIDAL FLATS
 - IMPORTANT MACROALGAL
 SAV HABITAT
 - IMPORTANT INTERTIDAL FORAGING AND LOAFING FLATS FOR SHOREBIRDS AND WADING BIRDS
- UNCONFINED ON MARSH SEDIMENT PLACEMENT CREATED ELEVATED NESTING HABITAT FOR WADING BIRDS AND GULLS



CLERK OF CAPE MAY COUNTY CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, N. J. February 29, 1952

Mr. H. H. Mills c/o T. C. Wheaton Company Millville, New Jersey

The island outlined in yellow is Gull Island which projects out into Great Sound; it has an acreage of 526 acres. It is interesting as having been formerly owned by the Audubon Society being purchased by them at the time when it was the nesting place of the colony of Laughing Gulls, from which it got its name. Shortly after it was purchased the gulls moved from there to their present home on Bluefish Creek Meadows, the Audubon Society then lost interest in the Island, ceased paying taxes and it was sold as delinquent. It is now understood to belong to one Hugh McHenry, but the taxes are paid by Mr. C. D. Bevis, Spruce Road, Castle Rock, Newton Square, Penna. It is a wonderful conservation site and a small growth of trees has started at the northern end which could be encouraged.

I am particularly glad to hear from Miss Thomas that you are interested in the general plan of conservation and particularly of these specific areas. I will be most happy to cooperate with you in any way possible, and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you personally in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

tirling W. Cole.

County Clerk

Cope May

Court House

Gull

Island

GULL ISLAND AND GULL ISLAND FLATS COMPLEX

- OVERBOARD PLACEMENT
- UNCONFINED ON MARSH SEDIMENT PLACEMENT







1970 Gull Island Placement Complex









2006 Gull Island Placement Complex

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0



Gull 1 Gull 2

Sturgeon Island

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2007 IR Gull Island Placement Complex

- PRIOR PLACEMENT SITES
 CREATED IMPORTANT
 WADING BIRD HABITAT
 - NESTING AREAS ACCOUNT FOR NESTING FOR NEARLY 1/3 OF WADING BIRDS IN STATE OF NJ
- HABITAT DEGRADING
 WITH ELEVATION LOSS
- DON'T KNOW WHEN STURGEON RECEIVED FILL BUT ELEVATIONS RELATIVE TO GULL SUGGEST EARLIER OR LESS MATERIAL OVERALL



1977

STURGEON ISLAND





2002 Sturgeon Island

0































The lot black be all

Shellfish and SAV













Site 97B Fill Area

Complex Evolution of Spartina and Mud Flats











1995 IR Imagery







SITE 97A CHANNEL FILL EVOLVING TO SPARTINA MARSH, INTERTIDAL FLATS AND SAV HABITAT















DYNAMIC SEDIMENT SYSTEMS OF SMILL

- SMILL HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF INTERTIDAL AND SUPRATIDAL FLATS AND A RICH HISTORY OF LEGACY SEDIMENT PLACEMENT
- SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED NATURALLY AND THROUGH PRIOR PLACEMENT TO CREATE A SERIES OF BENEFICIAL FEATURES
- PROVIDE LESSONS FOR USING SEDIMENT PLACEMENT TO MIMIC NATURAL PROCESS WITH THE OPTION TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR FUTURE BENEFIT
- THE PAST IS A KEY TO THE FUTURE