

Corps responds to storm impacts adjacent to Grays Harbor's south jetty



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Nov. 24, 2003

SEATTLE-Recent storms have shaped Army Corps of Engineers' plans to protect the rapidly eroding sandy shoreline adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty in Westport, Wash. The Corps expects to begin placing up to 27,000 cubic yards of gravel and cobble material along 1,000 linear feet of shoreline in early December.

Erosion accelerated by heavy storms threatens the south jetty breach fill placed in 1994 and re-nourished in 2002. The gravel and cobble placement is intended to maintain government access to the south jetty and to prevent another breach from forming and threatening the stability of the south jetty. This interim action reduces the likelihood for more drastic emergency repairs later this winter.

The Corps coordinated this project with State and local officials and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Corps also received approvals or necessary certification from the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Fish & Wildlife for this project.

The Corps is planning to hold a kick-off meeting early next year with interested local, State, and federal parties to address the longer-term health and stability of the south jetty and the navigation channel.