



## **Statement to Community Benefits Steering Committee about Dredge Project and Effect on Birds and Wildlife**

**Joe Corcoran and Kathy Lambrow**  
**Baltimore Bird Club Conservation Committee**

In the past week we've met with Tradepoint Atlantic and Maryland Department of Natural Resources representatives in order to get a clearer picture of the dredging process and its effect on bird and wildlife and their habitat in the North Cell of HMI. Please correct us if we have anything below that is not what you believe to be true.

What we've discovered:

- 1) **There is no plan in place to protect existing birds and wildlife and their habitat during the dredging process. In fact, the entire wildlife habitat in the north cell will be decimated by becoming covered in dredge slurry during the process. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!**
- 2) Plan D to convert the North Cell to parkland cannot occur for at least 5-8 years from now because the existing dredge material is not dewatered enough to be able to use equipment to accomplish the plan. It's taken 15 years since 2009 (end of dredge acceptance) to get to where we are now. If the \*4.2 Million Cubic Yards is added to the North Cell, **it will add another 10-20 years (15-28 years from now) until the parkland project will be completed.**
  - a. \*Note that 4.2 million cubic yards of dredge material, when converted to dredge slurry by adding water to be able to pump it on to the island will be more in the range of 6 million cubic yards of slurry.
- 3) The dredge material will eventually attract shorebirds and wading birds, but there is currently no plan to allow the public access and observation points to study and view them, nor any plan to create areas where the birds will congregate.
- 4) Destroying the habitat of so many nesting and visiting birds in the North Cell may be a violation of federal and state laws!

**We strongly urge all parties involved to consider the effects of the dredging to the wildlife in the North Cell and make significant enforceable plans to protect the birds in this Audubon designated Important Bird Area, and if that can't be done, then we believe the project should be halted.**