



News

Sand to be used to build up Coaches Island shoreline

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STEVENSVILLE The Maryland Environmental Service has contracted with Kentmorr EcoDredge to use its environment friendly dredge to deepen the approaches to Poplar and use the dredged sand to build up the shoreline on Coaches Island.

The contract is part of MES' efforts to maintain access to Poplar Island and restore eroding shoreline at Coaches Island in the central Chesapeake Bay.

Kentmorr EcoDredge will use its marine dredging system to make precise, GPS-directed cuts in the submerged sand and vacuum the material through a hydraulic pipeline to designated discharge points on the shore. Coaches Island will have 2,000 cubic yards of new sand.

An essential part of MES' plan is to maintain the beach area in conjunction with the buildup of marshland and mudflats.

"We got into this business because we saw a way for economic and environmental interests to come together and really succeed in a sustainable way," Pete McArdle of Kentmorr EcoDredge said. "We bring new thinking to an old industry and Poplar Island is the perfect representation of that because deeper draft ships can continue to call on the Port of Baltimore and we are part of a project that is both an international model for environmental restoration and a living lab for environmental education."

Poplar Island, once nearly 1,100 acres before dwindling to less than ten in the 1990s, is part of the Port of Baltimore's Dredged Material Placement Program.

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