

**Savannah Harbor Expansion Project  
Stakeholders Evaluation Group -- Fisheries Committee  
Mission Statement**

**March 3, 2000**

**I. Background**

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) has established a collaborative process for identification and evaluation of potential effects of the proposed Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. In concert with this collaborative process a Stakeholders Evaluation Group (SEG) has been established, including membership by state and federal agencies, local governments, and interested private sector participants. The SEG has established special technical committees to address specific topical areas that need detailed study. The Fisheries Committee was established to provide a forum for addressing fishery resource topics as needed by the SEG. The role of the Fisheries Committee is advisory, and does not assume the statutory requirements or responsibilities of any participating agency for compliance with applicable law or regulation.

**II. Mission**

"The Fisheries Committee will assist the SEG in the following tasks, in full accordance with applicable agency authorities and expertise:

(1) Identifying information needed to thoroughly evaluate the potential impacts of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and related Port operations, on fishery resources in the Savannah River estuary and nearshore coastal marine habitats.

(2) Defining fishery and related studies that would address the information needs identified.

(3) Reviewing study findings and other applicable information to (a) identify additional information or study needs, if any, and (b) provide an independent view of whether the findings support a report's stated conclusions.

(4) Evaluating proposed mitigation actions and/or features.

(5) Evaluating proposed post-construction monitoring.

(6) Potentially suggesting a framework for consideration and implementation of mitigation actions to address the historic and/or cumulative impacts of harbor development on fishery resources."