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Court Orders Corps to Halt Georgia Coastal Dredging Plans

Savannah, GA— Today a U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia granted a preliminary injunction filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of One Hundred Miles, ordering the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to halt hopper dredging activity set to begin this month.

In a brief filed with the Court last Friday, the Corps conceded that One Hundred Miles would ultimately succeed on the merits and admitted that the agency violated federal law when it failed to conduct an environmental review of its actions.

After the Corps committed that dredging will begin no earlier than May 28, the Court held a hearing today in OHM and SELC's challenge against the agency's unlawful decision to eliminate seasonal limitations on hopper dredging projects that have successfully protected sea turtles and other marine life for decades.

In response to today's decision, the following statement is from Catherine Ridley, Coordinator for the St. Simons Island Sea Turtle Project and Vice President of Education and Communications at One Hundred Miles:

"We are pleased that the Court recognized what's at stake here for Georgia's protected loggerhead sea turtles, particularly given the Corps' admission that it violated federal law by not conducting an adequate environmental review."

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About One Hundred Miles: *One Hundred Miles is a nonprofit conservation organization with a mission of protecting and preserving Georgia's 100-mile coast through advocacy, education, and public engagement. Founded in 2013, OHM is the only organization focused on combatting the multiple threats to Georgia's entire 100-mile coast and promoting the significance of its robust wildlife, vast landscapes, and vibrant communities. Our team of ten employees works out of offices in Savannah and Brunswick to empower citizens to fight poor decision-making that threatens our coast and to participate in important community dialogues about growth, sea level rise, economic development, and conservation. OneHundredMiles.org*

About Southern Environmental Law Center: *For more than 30 years, the Southern Environmental Law Center has used the power of the law to champion the environment of the Southeast. With over 80 attorneys and nine offices across the region, SELC is widely recognized as the Southeast's foremost environmental organization and regional leader. SELC works on a full range of environmental issues to protect our natural resources and the health and well-being of all the people in our region. www.SouthernEnvironment.org*