

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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## ARMY, INTERIOR ARRANGE LAND TRANSFER TO HELP PROTECT TINICUM MARSH

Acting Secretary of the Interior Fred J. Russell and Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor announced today that a 60-acre tract in the heart of Tinicum Marsh near Philadelphia used for disposal of dredged material from the Delaware River navigation channel will be transferred by the Department of the Army to the Interior Department when the alignment for Interstate 95 has been decided.

The transfer is intended to preserve the maximum remaining natural value of the marsh, which is threatened by the highway and other development. Interior already holds two parcels of Tinicum land totaling 87 acres, transferred to it by the Department of the Army about five years ago.

Tinicum, which Interior officials inspected this spring, is Pennsylvania's only true tidal marsh. "We are working with the Army, the Transportation Department, and the State highway department to avoid environmental degradation," Secretary Russell said.

The Secretary said that public funds appear to be inadequate to purchase all of Tinicum Marsh, but "prospects are encouraging that private capital may be available for acquiring some of the undisturbed marshland."

Secretary Russell listed these conservation goals for Tinicum: (1) preservation of its fish and wildlife, (2) maintenance of a natural environment for ecological studies and conservation education, to be carried out in cooperation with local educational institutions, (3) continuance of the marsh as an outdoor recreation area.