

August 10, 2005

MEMO

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FROM: William Burton (Program Manager)
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SUBJECT: Progress report for CSA Contract No. GS-00F-0007L (Delivery order No. W912PM-04-F-7010) Monitoring to Assess Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Dare County Beaches (Bodie Island) Shoreline Protection Project, Dare County, North Carolina

This progress report summarizes the work conducted on the Dare County beach monitoring program since the last report that updated progress through spring 2005.

Year One Progress

All field sampling was completed in early April of 2005. Aside from significant weather delays and unfavorable beach conditions, all sampling was completed within the study time frame and without incident. We are currently in the process of finishing the benthic sample enumeration process and those data should be available for analysis within two weeks. All the field data from the fisheries and ghost crab surveys have been entered electronically into a relational database and are currently going through QA/QC. Those data will be ready for analysis with the next few weeks. All the stomachs from year one fish have been processed and are currently being dried for weighing. Those samples should be complete in the next few weeks for data analysis. The creel survey data has been QA/QC'd and preliminary analysis is complete for that data set. The bird survey data is currently being QA/QC'd and will be ready for analysis within a week.

Our subcontractor has processed all bottom video survey tapes collected in December 2004 and the database on biological and physical features was created and submitted.

Year Two Progress

The second year of biological monitoring of the Dare County beaches and borrow sites commenced on May 18th and was wrapped up by early June 2005. All sampling was completed without incident. The benthic sampling, including the beach and borrow reference sites was completed in May and the samples were transported back to the Versar laboratory for sorting and further analysis.

Seining and trawling were conducted from May to early June. Because the beach was not suitable for driving, all beach seines were completed by hand, and all catch specimens were sorted, identified, and documented for future analysis of catch. The catch on the reference beach was dominated by bluefish with very few other species present, and virtually no specimens available for gut content analysis. Not many species were collected on the impact beach and very few specimens were present for gut content analysis at that beach either. The trawling was completed from late May into early June. Very few fish were present in collections at the reference and borrow sites, with juvenile weakfish being the most dominant.