



Public Affairs Office

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Wilmington District

P.O. Box 1890

Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

(910) 251-4626

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Maintenance dredging of Oregon Inlet begins

BODIE ISLAND, N.C. – Wilmington District Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging of Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay, Oregon Inlet Channel is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 15, 2001.

Approximately 800 feet at the south end of Bodie Island Spit on Cape Hatteras National Seashore will be temporarily closed while the dredging operation is in progress. Weeks Marine Incorporated of Louisiana, the contractor for the dredging project, will erect a construction fence to designate the work area. The upland area will not be dredged; however, work will be done close to the shoreline. In the interest of safety, the public must remain outside the fenced area at all times.

Weeks Marine will be using a Dustpan Dredge named “Beach Builder,” which will dredge at least 50,000 cubic yards of channel material each day. The total amount of material to be dredged out of the channel is estimated at 600,000 cubic yards. The dredged material will be pumped through a pipeline to Pea Island, approximately 3,000 feet south of the terminal groin.

There will be a floating pipeline near the dredge. Boaters should exercise precaution and stay clear of all pipelines, buoys and the dredge. If boaters are unsure of how to safely navigate around the dredging operation, they can contact the dredge crew on VHF Marine Band Radio Channel 16.

Dredging should be complete in mid-September, unless delayed by inclement weather conditions, and the southern end of Bodie Island will be reopened.