



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION  
60 FORSYTH STREET SW, ROOM 10M15  
ATLANTA, GA 30303-8801

09 JUN 2017

CESAD-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, WILMINGTON DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Final Integrated Morehead City Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMMP/EIS)

1. Reference Memorandum, CESAW-ECP, 11 April 2016, subject: Final Integrated Morehead City Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMMP).
2. This Final Integrated Morehead City DMMP and EIS (DMMP/EIS) was developed in association with operation and maintenance requirements for the federally authorized Morehead City (MHC) Harbor navigation project to ensure sufficient placement capacity for the 20-year period beginning in 2016 and extending through 2035. The DMMP/EIS addresses dredging needs, placement capabilities, capacities of placement areas, environmental compliance requirements, and potential for beneficial use of dredged material and indicators of continued economic justification.
3. The DMMP/EIS provides efficient options for placement of dredged material, involving nearshore placement and potential re-use of dredged material placed at the offshore disposal site. The Regional Sediment Management Center of Expertise recommends innovative contract acquisition plans that could provide low-cost alternatives for executing future dredging and placement work. Future dredging projects should be coordinated with Ms. Jackie Keiser, telephone 904-232-3915, email address [Jacqueline.S.Keiser@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jacqueline.S.Keiser@usace.army.mil).
4. The District provided satisfactory responses to all District Quality Control (DQC), Agency Technical Review (ATR), SAD Quality Assurance, Policy Compliance, and public, State and Federal agency comments. All comments were considered and evaluated, with revisions made to the Final DMMP/EIS, where appropriate, including the addition of an Operations Plan for ease of implementation.
5. The Final DMMP/EIS is hereby approved, and the Record of Decision (ROD) has been signed.
6. The SAD point of contact for this action is Ms. Karen Dove Odumosu, CESAD-PDP, (404) 562-5225.

C. D. T.  
C. DAVID TURNER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

## RECORD OF DECISION

### MOREHEAD CITY HARBOR DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

The Final Integrated Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMMP/EIS), dated March 2017, ensures adequate dredged material disposal capacity for the Morehead City Harbor Federal navigation project for at least the next 20 years. Based on the DMMP/EIS, the reviews of other Federal, State, and local agencies, input from the public, and the review by my staff, I find the recommended plan to be technically feasible, economically justified, cost effective, in accordance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, and in the public interest.

The final DMMP/EIS, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives to improve dredged material management and avoid and minimize environmental impacts. The recommended plan is the least cost alternative and will ensure maintenance dredging activities are performed in an environmentally acceptable manner, use sound engineering techniques, are economically warranted, and that sufficient confined disposal facilities are available for at least the next 20 years. The recommended plan includes the following:

- Continued use of the existing Brandt Island upland disposal site for disposal of fine-grained dredged material;
- Placement of beach-quality dredged material on the beaches of Fort Macon State Park and Atlantic Beach;
- Expansion of the existing Nearshore West Placement Area and the establishment of a new Nearshore East Placement Area for placement of beach-quality dredged material;
- Continued use of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's designated Morehead City Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) for disposal of fine-grained dredged material; and
- Modification of the environmental windows for dredging activities and placement in nearshore and ODMDS locations.

At the request of the National Park Service, no dredged material will be placed on the Shackleford Banks shoreline.

In addition to a "no action" plan, several alternatives were evaluated. These alternatives include placing Inner Harbor material ( $\geq 80\%$  sand) in nearshore placement

areas, raising the existing Brandt Island dike, disposing of material on other islands, constructing bird islands or wetlands, constructing jetties, modifying groins, constructing a new upland disposal site, using Hydrocyclone Density Separation, transferring Brant Island material to the ODMS, and realigning channels. These alternatives were eliminated because they did not meet the goals identified in the DMMP. Specific reasons for elimination of each alternative are discussed in detail in the DMMP/EIS.

In October 2013, the draft DMMP/EIS was provided to a list of appropriate federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; environmental groups; and known interested individuals for a 45-day review and comment period. All comments received were considered in the development of the final DMMP/EIS. The final DMMP/EIS was completed in March 2017. All activities and statement that were denoted as "proposed" in the Final DMMP/EIS are considered final by the signing of this Record of Decision.

The DMMP has been fully coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other government agencies. All requirements pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205), as amended, have been met. All practicable means to avoid and/or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. No compensatory mitigation is required. The recommended plan is the environmentally preferred alternative.

The recommended plan is the Federal standard, as defined in 33 C.F.R. 335.7, because it has been identified as the least costly alternative consistent with sound engineering practices, meets the environmental standards, and provides for disposal of maintenance dredged material from Morehead City Harbor for at least the next 20 years. This Record of Decision completes the National Environmental Policy Act process.

9 Jun 17

Date

C.D.T

C. David Turner  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding