## Transcript of the Testimony of IMO: Installation of Terminal Groin / BHI, NC

Date: March 4, 2014

Volume: I

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COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK

IN RE:

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT )
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT )
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TERMINAL ) TRANSCRIPT
GROIN STRUCTURE AT THE WESTERN END )
OF SOUTH BEACH, BALD HEAD ISLAND )

PUBLIC HEARING
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILMINGTON DISTRICT
CORPS ACTION ID #SAW-2012-00040

## REPORTER BY:

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TELEPHONE: 910 343-1035

DATE: March 4, 2014

LOCATION: Southport, North Carolina

1	APPEARANCES
2	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Representatives:
3	Colonel Steven A. Baker, Wilmington District Commander
4	Mr. Scott McLendon, Regulatory Division Chief
5	Mr. Ronnie Smith, Project Manager
6	N.C. Division of Coastal Management Representatives:
7	Mr. Doug Huggett
8	Ms. Debbie Wilson
9	Also in Attendance:
10	Mr. Christian Preziosi, Land Management Group, Inc.
11	
12	This Public Hearing was held on March 4, 2014, at the
13	International Longshoreman's Association Hall, 210 West 10th
14	Street, Southport, North Carolina, pursuant to 33 CFR 230
15	and 40 CFR 1500 outlining requirements for compliance with
16	the National Environmental Policy Act.
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1 COL. BAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, we're 2 getting ready to start here in a second. So, would you 3 please take your seats and we'll get going. We're running a little bit tardy already, I apologize. 4 Good evening, everyone. I'm Colonel Steve 5 I'm the Commander District Engineer of the 6 Baker. 7 Wilmington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and I'm very pleased to be your host tonight. We are 8 9 going to start the meeting for the Bald Head Island proposed terminal groin. 10 11 This is going to be a public hearing and I 12 want to start off by introducing the head table up here. First of all to my right we have Ronnie Smith, the 13 14 project manager from our Wilmington Regulatory Field 15 Office. To his right Scott McLendon, our Regulatory Division Chief. 16 Across the aisle we have Doug Huggett from the 17 18 North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. right is Debbie Wilson also from the North Carolina 19 20 Division of Coastal Management. And finally Mr. Christian, I'm going to say this right, Preziosi. 21

COL. BAKER: Preziosi, yeah, from the Land

MR. PREZIOSI: Preziosi.

1 Management Group, Incorporated. Before we begin I'm 2 going to make sure that we recognize any elected officials in the audience. We have one standing up 3 4 already over here. Please identify yourself. Debbie Smith, Ocean Isle Beach. 5 MS. SMITH: 6 COL. BAKER: We got some more. 7 MR. SAYRE: Andy Sayre, Bald Head Island. 8 COL. BAKER: We got some more. 9 MR. SIMMONS: Harry Simmons, Caswell Beach. 10 COL. BAKER: Is there any more hiding back 11 there? 12 Pat Syles, Brunswick County. MS. SYLES: Bill Rabon, North Carolina 13 MR. RABON: 14 Senate. 15 COL. BAKER: Excellent. Any more in the 16 back? Mickey, you're not elected to anything yet, I'm telling you. All right, thank you for your 17 18 participation as well. And at this time I'm going to explain the 19 20 purpose of the hearing and then we'll get on with our 21 The purpose of tonight's public hearing is business. 22 defined by the 33 Code of Federal Regulations 327.3 23 which states that a public hearing may be held for the

purpose of acquiring information or evidence which will be considered in evaluating a Department of Army permit action which affords the public an opportunity to present their views, opinions, and information on such permit action.

It is important to note that this public hearing is not a question and answer session.

Information gathered at the public hearing will be used to develop a final EIS, Environmental Impact Statement, for this project. Please note that the Corps is neither a component nor opponent to the proposed project.

Following the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, a record of decision will be prepared to support the Corps' decision on this project. We invite your comments on this project tonight.

Now, you know, this is one of the few events where we get to have, you know, democracy take place and that's a good thing. So, we're going to -- you don't have to speak at one of these events either. You can always send in your written comments. You don't have to speak at the event. But if you do, you're going to come to the podium and you're going to speak as clearly as

you can from the podium.

We're going to have a -- again, it's not a question and answer session. We invite you to come to -- when your name is called, and we have a list of that, we'll be calling names and each person has an allotted five minutes to speak which we can probably be a little bit gracious for tonight if you go a little bit over because we're not terribly crowded. A timekeeper will signal if we get too out of control, but I don't think we will.

Please speak loudly enough for our friendly neighborhood court reporter here to hear you so that he can accurately get your comments because that's what it's all about, making sure that we accurately record your comments so that it gets into the public record. All right?

So, at this point I'm going to invite my friend Scott to give an overview of the regulatory program and address NEPA Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 404, Clean Water Act. So, Scott, please take it away.

MR. MCLENDON: And I'm not going to take the rest of the evening to do that although I could. So, as

Colonel Baker mentioned, this is a very important part of our process, inviting the public in to offer comment on the project.

So far as the Corps of Engineers Wilmington
District Regulatory Division is concerned, we operate
under two authorities. One of those is Section 10 of
the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and that is a very
old navigational fortitude law that we have the
authority to issue permits for and we act a lot on
behalf of Colonel Baker here.

The other authority is the one that everybody loves to hate, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, has to do with wetlands and streams. Since both of those resources are present in the proposed project area where the terminal groin may be going, we have to be involved with the permit review of that. Okay.

Once the federal agency is involved, the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, we have to comply with lots of other statutes. One of those is the National Environmental Policy Act and that is the reason we're here tonight is to invite your comment on this in the development of the EIS.

And just to I guess emphasize what Colonel

Baker said, too, to us this is a very important part of our process because ours is not a process where Ronnie Smith goes into a room and makes a decision in a vacuum. He invites the comments of all the agencies -- he invites the comments of all the agencies. He invites the comments of the public at this forum tonight which you're allowed to voice your opinions and thoughts on the project.

And then we will go back and evaluate those comments relative to the applicant's proposal and in so doing balance the applicant's need for the project, which is stated to protect some of the infrastructure on the south end of Bald Head Island, very important. And we must balance that proposal against the reasonably foreseeable detriments that might occur as a result of the project.

So, the Corps of Engineers is charged with this balancing act where we take the potential environmental impacts, which can be good or bad, against the potential detriments associated with the project.

So, that's sort of the first major step that we do and that's called public interest. We are talking about a public resource out there so we have to consider the

needs and the welfare of the nation.

The second part of that equally as important is looking at alternatives to the proposed action and that really forms the meat as it is of the EIS. And so the applicant has proposed constructing a terminal groin. We will as a requirement of NEPA and the 404(b)(1) guidelines also look at other alternatives that may satisfy the applicant's purpose and need for the project. And it's a really, really important part of our process. And, again, going back the public is invited to comment on that as well.

That's it in a nutshell. Again, this is a very important part of our process. And on behalf of the District I'd like thank you all for being here tonight.

Ronnie Smith?

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Scott. Hello. My name is Ronnie Smith. I'm the Wilmington Field Office Regulatory Project Manager for the Village of Bald Head Island Shoreline Stabilization Project.

My name is Ronnie Smith. Sorry about that. I work in the Corps Wilmington Regulatory Field Office. I am the Project Manager designated responsible for this

project that we're meeting here tonight.

There's a few things I'd like to bring to your attention. Our NEPA process will be closely coordinated with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management and we'll be streamlining our process with the State Environmental Policy Act so we're not duplicating efforts and hopefully come up with a speedier process, more efficient process.

Second I'd like to point out the contact information up here on this screen. My email address is there, mailing address. All comments -- you can either provide comments by mail or by email. Our website you can look at the draft environmental impact statement and our public notice on the Corps website at that link right there.

As Scott and the Colonel have mentioned, we are not a proponent or opponent of the project. We are going to process this action according to the NEPA reviewing all public interest review factors and we're going to make sure that the alternative that is selected is the least environmentally practical damaging alternative.

The comment period is set to expire on March

17th, 2014. So, please have your comments in to me on or before that date. The comments that we get in response to the draft environmental impact statement and public notice will be taken into consideration and they will used -- they will be addressed in the final environmental impact statement. When we release the final environmental impact statement, the public will be afforded the opportunity to comment again on the project.

That concludes my section. I would like to introduce Doug Huggett with DCM.

MR. HUGGETT: And if everybody is okay with this, nobody wants to look at me standing up. I feel more comfortable sitting down. So, thank you, Harry, I appreciate that.

I am Doug Huggett with the Division of Coastal Management located in Morehead City. The Division of Coastal Management has been very involved in this process to get us to where we are now and working with the Corps of Engineers, Christian and Land Management Group, and the Village of Bald Head Island.

The context of our involvement is under the State's Coastal Area Management Act. And as many people

may know, under the Coastal Area Management Act until just a couple of years ago a structure such as what is being proposed today by the Village would not have been allowable under State law. But the law has been changed by the Legislature to allow for the permitting of up to four terminal groin structures and this is, of course, one of the four projects that's in the hopper right now.

We are, again, heavily involved with the Corps of Engineers in the development of the environmental document. As Ronnie stated, the legislation that was passed to allow for the terminal groins require that a EIS or environmental impact statement under the State Environmental Policy Act or SEPA is required.

But the SEPA law actually allows for a consolidation of the SEPA and National Environmental Policy Act reviews, which is what we have done here to try and streamline the efforts so that the applicant only has to prepare one environmental document instead of two.

The draft environmental impact statement is still out for public comment. But if I remember correctly, the State's comment period on the draft environmental impact statement has ended and I believe

those comments have been provided back to the Corps of Engineers.

So, the State has commented back on that and at this point in time we are beginning to work with the Village on the submission of a permit application for the terminal groin structures. This is the earliest in the process that an application can be entertained and we are working with the Village on that.

The public will have an opportunity a little bit later in the CAMA permit application process to comment through our public notice provisions. There will not be a public hearing under the CAMA Act itself. But there will be a public notice provision that will give the public an opportunity to comment back to us.

Again, really the biggest thing to say here is that we have been working very closely with the Corps of Engineers in partnering on this project. And while we are still learning how to go about the permitting of terminal groin structures, we are committed to keep working with the Corps of Engineers and the Village and move forward just as quickly as we can.

And if anybody has any questions about the CAMA side of things, either see myself or Debbie Wilson,

who is the district manager for our Wilmington Regional
Office. After the meeting we'd be happy to give you
contact information and any other advice that we can.

COL. BAKER: Thank you, Doug. We appreciate it and we appreciate your partnership.

At this point we're going to turn the briefing over for ten or 15 minutes or so to Mr. Christian. I'm not trying that last name again. And we invite his briefing at this point. Thanks.

MR. PREZIOSI: Thank you, Colonel. Thank you, everyone, for attending tonight's hearing.

I just wanted to provide a brief overview of the project including the -- restating the project purpose, listing the project alternatives that were considered in the draft EIS, reviewing the proposed action or the preferred alternative, which is the terminal groin, that's the preferred alternative of the applicant, briefly describe the general characteristics of the terminal groin, some of the design and construction considerations, as well as discuss the proposed phasing approach.

The project purpose as stated in the draft EIS is to address the ongoing and chronic erosion of the

western end of South Beach to thereby protect public infrastructure, roads, homes, businesses, rental properties, the golf course, beaches, recreational assets, and protective dunes.

Early on during PDT meetings, project delivery team meetings, a list of alternatives was identified.

And these six alternatives were advanced to the draft

EIS. They include the no action alternative or the status quo alternative, the alternative number two, which is the managed shoreline retreat alternative.

Alternative number three is beach nourishment alone with the existing sand tube groinfield to remain along South Beach. Alternative four is the same as alternative three with the exception of the removal of groinfield.

Alternative five again is the proposed action, which is the terminal groin with the required sand fillet and the groinfield to remain in place. And alternative number six is the same as number five with the exception of the removal of the groinfield. So, those are the six alternatives that were evaluated in the draft EIS.

This is an oblique image of the vicinity of

the project area with the federal navigation channel.

This is the entrance to the Wilmington Harbor navigation

project or the Cape Fear River mouth. The project area

on South Beach, western South Beach, with some of the

5 prominent ebb tidal shoals evident middle ground, Jay

6 Bird Shoals and Bald Head Shoal.

This is another oblique image, aerial image, with the pictometry overlaid of the navigation channel. Adjacent is Bald Head Island. This is a view looking south with West Beach in the foreground, the point feature, and then the project area in the background there. That's South Beach and this is the approximate area of the proposed terminal groin.

So, some of the goals that were identified by the applicant were to reduce sand losses from beach nourishment and beach disposal projects and to provide a template for a shoreline alignment conducive to reducing sediment transport and to reducing shoreline recession in the area of interest on western South Beach.

The engineer and the Village proposes to install a maximum 1,900 foot terminal groin. Again, this is South Beach, West Beach, and the point right here and the Harbor Entrance Channel. And the terminal

1 groin, again, is proposed to be a maximum 1,900 feet.

2 It is proposed to be constructed in two phases with a

350 foot tie back section that would be constructed

4 entirely in the dry, a stem section that's about 1,200

5 linear feet, and then a head section of 300 feet.

Under the maximum extent the full Phase II project the structure would extend approximately 700 feet off of the mean low water position of 2013.

This is an aerial image showing the approximate location and extent of the proposed groin. Relative to both the eroded shoreline condition in this April 2011 photo you can see the sand tubes of the groinfield. Again, that's the eroded condition.

It also shows it relative to the nourished condition. This case example was from the 2009-2010 Village sponsored project that utilized sand derived from the Jay Bird Shoals borrow site. So, you can see the relative extent of the terminal groin relative to both shoreline positions.

This is the same image with a conceptual fillet in place. As a requirement of SB 151 and also from an engineering standpoint it is desirable to have a sand fillet in place and this shows the equilibrated --

predicted equilibrated shoreline post construction. And the engineers indicated -- by the way, a lot of these slides were produced by Erik Olsen, the project engineer. He couldn't be here tonight so I'm just giving an overview.

But Erik has shown the sediment transport direction. The groin is intended to be a permeable structure in that some sediment sand will be able to move both through and over the groin.

Olsen Associates conducted intensive numerical modeling to help validate the different design options. They reviewed and considered several different design options for the terminal groin as well as other alternatives including the five other alternatives in the EIS.

So, the Delft 3-D evaluates different forcing conditions - waves, currents, winds. And they are able to predict relative performance of the different options, different design options and different alternatives. And then from that they can identify the potential physical effects of each design option or each alternative and be able to compare those potential physical impacts on both the local and regional level.

From the Delft 3-D modeling Olsen, the engineer, is able to predict the sediment transport rates with the shoreline realigned and the terminal groin in position. On the top right is the existing sediment transport rates. You'll see in the vicinity of the most severe erosion, western South Beach, sediment transport rates are 440,000 cubic yards per year. With the installation of the groin and the predicted shoreline alignment the sediment transport rate is reduced down to 164,000 cubic yards per year.

These are some of the different considerations that the applicant had with respect to the project and construction. The Village proposes to construct a groin coincidental with the next federal disposal event. So, that's the disposal from the maintenance of the federal navigation channel that's adjacent to the project area.

The federal disposal would ideally satisfy the fillet formation that's desirable from an engineering standpoint and also which is required by legislation, Senate Bill 151. Because the construction would occur post disposal, the terminal groin construction, much of the construction would occur and extend into the summer months.

If there is any need for supplemental sand for the fillet or for future maintenance, then the Village proposes to obtain that sand principally from the Jay Bird Shoals borrow site and that's a borrow site that was delineated in 2009, 2010, a portion of which was used for the project, the Village sponsored project, at that time.

This slide shows the different prospective sand source sites with Jay Bird Shoals being the principle source site for any supplemental fillet needs and for initial maintenance. Again, this is Jay Bird Shoals is the ebb tidal shoal feature that with the previously delineated and utilized borrow area at the very distal end of the shoal. So, this represents a relatively small area along the distal end of that shoal feature.

They've also identified the Wilmington Harbor Entrance Channel, Bald Head Shoals Channels 1 and 2, the Smith Island Range, as well as the Bald Head Creek Shoal for potential maintenance needs as well as Frying Pan Shoals as a long term source for maintenance and any mitigation that may be needed.

As far as the construction of the terminal

groin it's intended to be a rubble mound structure with uniformly sized stone that would be overlaid over a marine geotextile mattress.

The landward stem of the structure would be constructed in the dry with the seaward portion of the structure being constructed through different methods either from the top of the structure itself or from a temporary trestle that would be installed alongside the structure or from offloading materials and stone off a barge. Either way material would be stockpiled in a confined area near the point and distributed from there.

This is a schematic that Olsen provided just showing in the event that a trestle is used, this is a schematic of how it would be installed with steel pipe pile adjacent to the proposed groin structure. Again, he's got the marine mattress shown with the rubble mound over top of the marine mattress.

This is a case example that was worked on by Olsen. Erik did the design of this project and was responsible for construction oversight. This is South Amelia Island, a terminal structure, rubble mound structure, in a case where they built this using a temporary trestle. And that's shown immediately

alongside the terminal groin.

The project is proposed to be constructed in two phases, Phase I and Phase II. It assumes that the federal disposal will be similar as occurred in 2013 with no fill westward of station 45 on western South Beach. Certain construction and mobilization can occur prior to and concurrent with the federal beach disposal. Much of the construction of the terminal groin though would be post disposal. And the structure cross section can be brought to its design elevation incrementally.

This slide shows the extent of the two phases with Phase I being 1,300 linear feet extending about 300 feet off the mean low water position. And then Phase II would be an extension of 600 feet more or less and it extends in curvilinear alignment off of western South Beach and extends approximately 650 feet off the mean low water position.

This is the same slide showing the two predicted shoreline alignments post fillet formation.

Again, for phase one the shoreline alignment is shown in blue. And then for phase two the predicted shoreline alignment is shown in red.

The benefits of a phase approach include a

shorter period of construction initially for Phase I.

2 In addition, installation of just a Phase I structure

3 | would likely not require the use of a trestle. It would

4 | necessitate a smaller initial fill volume and,

5 therefore, likely preclude the need for an additional

6 sand source site initially.

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In addition, installation of just a Phone I structure initially would allow for more rapid activation of sand transport. So, it would allow for sediment transport beyond the structure more quickly.

So, in summary the applicant's preferred alternative is the terminal structure with periodic beach fill or beach disposal with the existing sand tube groinfield to be left in place. Again, this is alternative five of the draft EIS. It is the position of the applicant and its engineer that the sand tube groinfield should remain until various groins are proven unnecessary.

It's also believed that adequate sand sources are available for fillet maintenance and mitigation over the life of the project. And the applicant desires to construct the project in two phases.

COL. BAKER: Thank you, Christian. At this

point it's time for the public's involvement which is what we came here for. And I'm going -- I only had right now unless there's people that came in late that wish to speak, anybody that came in late that wanted to be on the speaking list? No? Okay, I tried.

We do have three people that wish to speak tonight and I want to emphasize that when you come up, just stand at the podium so that our friendly neighborhood court reporter can accurately get your statements correctly. I know that at least some of you speaking will not have any problem with volume.

We're going to try to stick to around the five minute rule even though we only have a few people speaking. I'm going to give you some latitude with that. It's not a problem. Just don't do a filibuster on me, please.

We'll open the floor to any -- well, we're just going to go right down the line because this is who we got here. We'll start with Mr. Harry Simmons, sir, please.

MR. SIMMONS: Sure, Colonel. I'm Harry
Simmons, I'm the mayor of Caswell Beach, which is right
across the Cape Fear River from the Village of Bald Head

Island. I'm speaking tonight just personally, not on behalf of the Town. The Town will in fact provide written comments of a good bit more detailed nature by the 17th.

I just wanted to say that in general we support this project. I am personally very supportive of this project. It's something we've worked long and hard to have as an option in North Carolina with the help of a lot of folks in this room. And I encourage the continued effort to make this a project that makes sense for the Village of Bald Head Island as well as for its neighbors across the way and for the channel -- the maintenance of the channel itself.

There's so many positives with this project that it's -- I can't seem to find any really good reason not to have it move forward in as quick a manner as possible. Having been a part of the group that helped get the legislation passed that makes it possible to do this, we're very anxious to see how well it worked because we believe it will based on everything we've seen.

The Amelia Island picture that you showed,

Christian, I used it so many times I think it's in about

12 different places on my computer because it's a good example of one of these things that works very well.

So, we're optimistic, we're supportive, and we wish the Village the best of luck.

COL. BAKER: Thank you, sir. Next on the list we have Mr. Peter Meyer, sir, please.

MR. MEYER: Hopefully you all can hear me.

I'll try to speak up. My name is Peter Meyer, M-e-y-er. I'm here to speak for the public users of the beach
- the beachcombers, the beach walkers, the kayakers, the
surf fishermen, all the recreational beach users. I'm a
member of all those groups but I'm mainly a coast
walker.

I think I have a unique perspective because my wife and I walked the entire North Carolina coast, every foot of every barrier island beach accessible to the public, a hike of some 425 miles. I don't think many people know about this resource that state laws and public trust grant us all unrestricted beach access. People are unaware that they can walk from the South Carolina border to the Virginia border. The public is unaware of Coast Walk North Carolina, a flatter, shorter, kinder Appalachian Trail for beachcombers.

If they were aware, the public would be angry because from walking the beaches of North Carolina we came to an inescapable conclusion. Hard structures on the beach impair the use of public trust beach. As such, placement of any hard structure on the shoreline should be avoided if at all possible unless the structures are absolutely positively necessary.

We have walked the 13-mile circuit of Bald
Head, Fort Fisher beaches many times. Overall it's one
the best walks on the North Carolina coast. It's
absolutely beautiful. Unfortunately, a groinfield of
enormous sand tubes makes walking on one section of Bald
Head Island beaches one of the most unpleasant
shorelines to walk in North Carolina. The mile of South
Beach marred by giant sand tubes is a painful pimple on
the face of an otherwise beautiful set of beaches.

I'm asking that the importance of the recreational use of public trust beach be considered before proceeding with this terminal groin proposal. The draft EIS does not address this issue. It does not adequately consider the impact of the groin on recreational use of public trust beach especially with the option of leaving the infernal sand tubes in place.

In fact, the brief opinion that is given in the EIS on the impact of this project on public beach recreation, especially comparing options five and six, is absolutely incorrect. The issue of public trust beach how the recreational beach of Bald Head Island would be protected and not adversely affected should be properly addressed before this project proceeds.

I thought I had three minutes. Since I've got five I'm going to bring up one other thing in my written comments. Bear with me. Small print. But in the environmental impact statement it makes some statements that beach (inaudible) may also serve to encourage additional use and/or development.

Such additional development can reasonably be anticipated in the case of the Bald Head Island Club in the form of a planned \$6,000,000.00 expansion which is unlikely to transpire absent a hardened structure solution. Given the location of the club relative to the existing footprint of the groinfield it is not known whether the proposed future expansion will take place under alternative number six where the sand tubes are taken out.

So, basically it sounds like the \$6,000,000.00

expansion of the club won't occur unless they get the groin and keep the sand tubes. To me these statements are illogical and somewhat ironic. Because of poorly planned development, the building of structures in an inlet hazard area the whole issue of building hardened structures on the beach has reared its ugly head here.

So, if we put a large groin in, then we get construction of more expensive structures, expansion of present structures and the defense of these structures will require even more necessary and cost effective bigger groins, whatever the next proposal to save them.

The anticipated development from the placement of the large rocky groin and leaving the groinfield sand tubes in place is to me actually a reason not to proceed with these projects. Did we not learn from our folly?

Thank you.

COL. BAKER: Thank you, sir. And our last and final contestant, Ms. Debbie Smith, please.

MS. SMITH: Good evening, everyone, I'll be very brief. Most of you know I'm a lifelong resident of Brunswick County and I've been fortunate enough to grow up with the sand along our beaches between my toes from a very young age.

We moved to the coast when there was nothing on the coast of Brunswick County, on Bald Head Island, on Ocean Isle Beach, or much anywhere else. We actually moved to Ocean Isle six months after Hurricane Hazel had flooded it. I moved in a house that survived and I've been there ever since.

I think we -- all of us that have grown up and lived on the coast certainly understand the changes that happen along our inlets. These are certainly sometimes unpredictable and in the case of Bald Head here with the shipping channel so close to them, they certainly have unique challenges.

I think it's time that we work with Mother

Nature. These structures will help us to maintain our

beaches. They will help us to maintain them for the

public to use and for public trust. If they are not

there, you can't walk on them. I've seen many of these

structures along the coast -- the east coast and down

along the gulf. They are very successful, they are not

obtrusive, and they have been proven to work.

So, I encourage you. Thank you, Doug, for your comments because I know y'all had some challenges with working through the latest law that's written. But

1 I look forward to y'all being able to work through a 2 permit very quickly and the Corps has certainly given great assistance with these projects and thank you all 3 for your help. I look forward to the success here. 4 5 COL. BAKER: Thank you, ma'am. All right. We don't have anybody else on the list so I'll give you 6 7 one more chance. If you've got any other public statements you want to make, you can come up and take 8 9 the podium, please. Sir, what's your name, please? 10 MR. HICKMAN: Bill Hickman. COL. BAKER: Okay. Sir, where are you from? 11 MR. HICKMAN: I'm chairman of the Brunswick 12 13 County Commercial Fishermen Association. 14 COL. BAKER: Thank you, sir. 15 I appreciate the opportunity to MR. HICKMAN: speak to you gentlemen. I'm speaking on behalf of the 16 commercial fishermen in Brunswick County who make their 17 living along the coastline here in Brunswick County and 18 throughout North Carolina and the east coast. 19 20 As a personal reference we are very concerned about our coastal ecosystem and the measures that you're 21 22 facing here on Bald Head needs to be addressed through 23 what we feel like since you moved the ship channel over

to the east, which has completely disrupted our local inlet transfer of water in and out of the river.

And that not only do they need a terminal groin on Bald Head to prevent further beach erosion but if you wanted to really solve the problem for Bald Head and other inlets along our coast, look about 20 miles to the north at Masonboro Inlet and look what that jetty system has done for the east end of Wrightsville Beach and the entire Masonboro Island system.

That has completely stopped the erosion coming off of Wrightsville Beach. The bad erosion that they had in the past on Masonboro Island, that completely stopped the washing away of the Masonboro Inlet. And if you did the same thing to Bald Head Island by putting a jetty from Ellis Shoals from the point of Bald Head Island 1,500 feet out beside the shipping channel, you would not have the transfer of sand into the inlet, into our river system, into our nursery areas that's completely being destroyed by sand coming in the river.

A good example is where the ferry run aground in February or January. Three year ago it was 30 feet of water. That sand is beach renourishment sand that has completely filled up behind Bald Head Island, filled

up through the thoroughfare, filled up Bald Head Creek. You can't even get in Buzzard Bay anymore for beach renourishment sand. You can't catch any clams anymore with tongs in those creeks over there because sand has covered up the muddy bar.

And Elizabeth River coming out of the waterway, you can't get in Elizabeth River no more because it's shoaled up with beach renourishment sand. That's fact, I can prove that. The western cup going out around Fort Caswell, since you moved the shipping channel to the east, the western cup is completely closed up. It's moved to the west about a half a mile that goes out by the CP&L canal.

In turn by doing that on a falling tide with the water going out of the CP&L canal has created an eddy. I can show it to you on a system I have on my phone which is a live feed from a satellite. That eddy is what's causing the erosion problem on the highway on Caswell Beach. I can prove that right here on my cell phone.

The beach renourishment that we currently have has destroyed our coastal ecosystem. The beach sand that is being pumped on our beaches is washing back

offshore covering up our muddy bars up to a half a mile off the beach therefore destroying an ecosystem permanently. It won't never come back. You can't catch a crab on the beaches no more in the wintertime because there's no mud for them to bury up.

What's put our piers out of business is beach renourishment sand washing back filling up the sand out at the end of the pier filling up the mud. People can't catch no fish on the piers, they don't come to the piers no more. They put them out of business because they don't catch fish. Why they don't catch fish? Because beach renourishment sand has covered up that mud and fish ain't going where they ain't got nothing to eat.

We can't catch shrimp no more along the beach because the shrimp ain't got no mud to bury up in. They can't catch spots no more along the beach like they used to because there's no mud there for them to feed on.

Why? Because our Environmental Protection

Agency along with the Corps of Engineers purposely left

out the soft bottoms in the environmental impact study

for the coastal beach renourishment projects because

they knew if they included the soft bottom structures in

their environmental impact studies, that they could not

issue a permit for beach renourishment. That's what our research has shown.

So, what I'm saying if you want to improve our ecosystem and help Bald Head Island, don't stop with just a short groin. Go ahead and do what they need to solve their problem and put a jetty from Ellis Shoals 1,500 feet out beside that shipping channel. You won't have to do no more beach renourishment on Bald Head Island, it'll take care of itself.

Lockwoods Folly Inlet if you'll put a jetty in Lockwoods Folly Inlet or Shallotte Inlet, you won't have to worry about dredging the intracoastal waterway no more because that jetty will stop the sand from coming in the inlets and the natural occurrence of beach sand going around that jetty on the east side will fill up naturally the problem that you're having on Holden Beach.

So, use some common sense. It don't take a rocket scientist, it takes 48 years of experience working on that water to know what's happening with Mother Nature. We've got people moving down here on the beach that's got a lot of money. They want to build on that oceanfront, let them bear the responsibility if

they want to live on that oceanfront because we are in an evolving earth. We've living on an evolving earth.

It's always evolved.

We can't build backwards to the sea. We got to think about moving those people off the oceanfront and moving back because we're not going to change nature. We're not going to stop. We got the wrong idea about what's going on. Building backwards you're just throwing away money year after year after year. That's all you're doing. You got to think about moving back with an evolving earth.

So, all these engineers for the Corps of Engineers that's planning all this stuff and the EPA, listen to the voice of experience, people that has lived on that ocean all their life and know more about it than any of these engineers and scientists can ever tell you. Now, listen to me, you got the wrong idea. If you want to help Bald Head, put a jetty out there. That'll stop their problem once and all, you ain't got to worry about it no more. If you want to help these inlets and help these beaches, jetty these inlets, it'll take care of itself.

So, think about it, gentlemen. That's all

1 I've got to say.

COL. BAKER: All right. Anybody else? All right. Just a reminder that all these verbal comments will be included as public record and will be made available once they have compiled. Comments may be compiled and placed on our website. Please refer to the handouts available at the sign-in desk with a link to the draft environmental impact statement.

And please note that the comments on the draft environmental impact study again, the date that we're looking for those to be turned in is March 17. March 17, 2014 so we can continue on to the next phase of the study and work towards the final EIS.

So, again, I appreciate you coming. I appreciate you being part of the process because without you we wouldn't have a process. So, we need you to participate and we're very happy that we got at least a decent crowd in here tonight and we got some of our outstanding elected officials to show up as well. So, I appreciate you attending as well.

Thank you and with that this public hearing is adjourned.

(The public hearing concluded at 6:55 p.m.)

1 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )

2 COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER )

#### CERTIFICATION

I, PETER BROWNE RUFFIN, III, Notary Public, Court
Reporter and President of AURELIA RUFFIN & ASSOCIATES,
INC., do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript
constitutes a true and correct record of the Public
Hearing, the same having been taken down by me on the
date and at the place set forth in the record and before
those persons named therein, and that said testimony was
transcribed by MARY HEIDEN;

FURTHER, that we are not related to any of Counsel; we are not employed by any of Counsel or parties to this action, save and except for the explicit purpose of taking down the testimony herein and transcribing same; and that we, in no way, are interested in the outcome of said litigation;

FURTHER, that the original of this transcript will be bound and will be forwarded to SCOTT McLENDON, Chief of Regulatory Division, at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington Division, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403.

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