



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Surf City and North Topsail Beach, NC (Coastal Storm Damage Reduction-Investigations)

- **Sponsors: Towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach**
- **Project ready for construction authorization**
- **Chief's Report cleared by OMB and transmitted to Congress in April 2011**
- **Design agreement executed in August 2011**
- **Development of plans and specifications underway**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3, 7

DATE: 6 March 2014

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Resolution adopted 16 February 2000 by House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for Surf City and resolution adopted 11 April 2000 for North Topsail Beach.
2. **STUDY AREA:** The towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach are located in the central and northern part of Topsail Island. Topsail Island is a well developed barrier island located about 25 miles northeast of Wilmington between New Topsail Inlet and New River Inlet. From north to south, this island includes the communities of North Topsail Beach, Surf City, and Topsail Beach.
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** Local interests desire a coastal storm damage reduction project including periodic shoreline nourishment to reduce flood risk to upland structures and infrastructure for both towns. The recommended plan consists of constructing a sand dune at an elevation of 15 feet NGVD and a berm with a crown width of 50 feet and a top elevation of 7 feet above NGVD over approximately 10 miles of shoreline. The total

PROJECT INFORMATION - Surf City and North Topsail Beach, NC (Coastal Storm Damage Reduction-Investigations) – Continued

estimated project cost is \$328.6 million with a Federal cost of \$182.8 million and non-Federal cost of \$145.8 million.

4. **COST ESTIMATE:**

\$ 1,343,000	(PED/Federal)
\$ 447,000	(PED/Non-Federal)
\$ 1,790,000	Total

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2013 (PED):** \$1,254,000.

6. **FY 2014 FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$225,000. Funds are being used to complete PED and plans and specifications.

7. **FY 2015 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. The project is awaiting authorization for construction.

8. **KEY DATES:**
 - August 2010 –Issued Division Commander’s transmittal letter (complete feasibility phase)
 - August 2011–Executed design agreement and initiated preconstruction engineering and design phase
 - September 2014 – Complete preconstruction engineering and design phase

9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** As a result of Hurricane Fran in 1996 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the damage to publicly owned properties exceeded \$5,000,000 and the total losses paid to privately owned property by FEMA was about \$32,000,000. Further, Hurricane Bertha, also in 1996, and Fran eroded at least 25 feet of protective beach width over the project area leaving 66 percent of the Surf City and North Topsail Beach shoreline without its natural vegetation. This erosion has either severely damaged or destroyed the primary dune system along the ocean shoreline leaving the towns vulnerable to damage from future storm events. Estimated average damages without the proposed project area are over \$19 million per year.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) – The North Topsail Beach portion of the project covers 12 miles of shoreline. However, 7 miles of shoreline are located in a CBRA zone which restricts Federal spending that could foster development in undeveloped areas, thus precluding inclusion of this portion of the coastline within the Federal recommended project.