US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

Wilmington Harbor 96 Act, NC (Navigation) (Construction)

- **Sponsor: State of NC**
- **Construction initiated in Aug 1999**
- **Northeast Cape Fear River portion upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge deferred due to marginal Benefit-to-Cost Ratio (BCR)**
- **Completed harbor deepening from State Port facility up to the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge in FY 2013**
- **Incremental dike raises being continued for Eagle Island dredged material disposal facility**
- **Completed remaining mitigation requirement (Fish Passage) in FY 2013**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3, 7 DATE: 6 March 2014

1. **AUTHORIZATION**: Water Resources Development Acts of 1986 and 1996.

2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**: Wilmington Harbor is located in Wilmington on the southern coast of North Carolina in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties. The plan of improvements that have been completed consists of deepening the ocean bar and entrance channels from the authorized depth of 40 feet to 44 feet, deepening the authorized 38-foot project to 42 feet including the anchorage basin through the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, widening the existing 400-foot wide channel to 600 feet over a total length of 6.2 miles including Lower and Upper Midnight and Lower Lilliput reaches; widening five turns and bends by 100 to 200 feet; and widening the Fourth East Jetty channel to 500 feet over a total length of 1.5 miles.

Required mitigation features completed to date include a 30 acre tidal embayment and acquisition of about 700 acres of existing tidal swamp and upland area for habitat preservation to offset losses of wetlands and primary nursery areas. The rock ramp for fish passage at Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Cape Fear River has been completed to address the impacts to anadromous fish and the endangered short-nose sturgeon from rock removal by blasting during the harbor deepening. Construction has been completed on deepening the navigation channel from the state ports to the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The authorized features yet to be completed include deepening the navigation channel upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

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The plan of improvement for the dredged material disposal facility consists of incrementally raising the dikes at the Eagle Island confined disposal facility from their current elevations to a maximum of 40 feet.

Funds were received in FY 2012 and a contract awarded for the deepening between the state ports and the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. However, the remaining upstream portion of the project, including the northeast Cape Fear River portion, is being deferred due to a marginal benefit to cost ratio. This portion of the project includes deepening the 32-foot channel between Castle Street and the Hilton Railroad Bridge and the 32-foot turning basin just above the mouth of the Northeast Cape Fear River on the west side to 38 feet; deepening the 25-foot channel from the Hilton Railroad Bridge to 750 feet upstream to a depth of 38 feet, deepening the 25-foot channel from 750 feet upstream of the Hilton Railroad Bridge to the turning basin near the upstream limits of the project to 34 feet, along with widening of the channel from 200 to 250 feet; and widening the turning basin from 700 to 800 feet. This deferral has also suspended the development of the general reevaluation report which was investigating the need for relocating a turning basin in the Northeast Cape Fear River.

3. **COST ESTIMATE:** $377,398,000 (Federal)
2,244,000 (Other Federal agency – Coast Guard)
182,057,000 (non-Federal)
$561,699,000 Total

4. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2013**: $296,132,000

5. **FY 2014 FUNDING ALLOCATION**: $0. Carry-in funds would be used to continue physical monitoring, construction management, dredged material management plan development, and award of an additional contract to incrementally raise the Eagle Island disposal area facility.

6. **FY 2015 BUDGET AMOUNT:** $0. Carry-in funds would be used to continue the post-construction physical monitoring contract as required under the sand management plan.

7. **KEY DATES:** Subject to the availability of funds, the scheduled project completion date is September 2020.

8. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** Since the portion of the authorized project upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is being deferred, construction of navigation deepening features are complete. All future project requirements after FY 2015 would be budgeted and funded under the Operation and Maintenance appropriation.