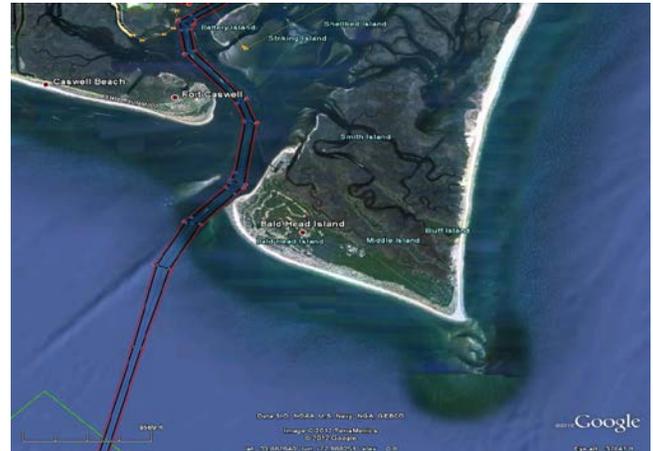




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Bald Head Island Terminal Groin Project (Regulatory)

- **The Village of Bald Head Island (VBHI) proposes to construct a terminal groin on Bald Head Island.**
- **Complicating issues include concerns associated with the construction of a terminal groin along the oceanfront shoreline and ongoing litigation.**
- **The NC Division of Marine Fisheries and National Marine Fishery Service have both expressed concerns related to larval marine organism transport and Atlantic sturgeon.**
- **The FWS has relayed concerns regarding sea turtles and piping plover.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: February 4, 2014

1. PURPOSE.

To provide information regarding the current status of the VBHI's proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the western end of South Beach, adjacent to the Cape Fear Inlet navigation channel, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Action ID: SAW-2012-00040.

2. BACKGROUND.

a. With the passing of Senate Bill 110, which allows the installation of (4) terminal groins for the entire State of NC, the VBHI is vying to obtain the proper permits to construct one of four terminal groins. The town is pursuing authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, to protect residential houses and infrastructure along the South Beach of the island by installing a terminal groin at the mouth of the Cape Fear River (along the navigational channel) at the southwestern tip of the island. The proposed terminal groin project would also include a beach nourishment component.

b. The Corps, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and the VBHI, has determined that the project proposal will be reviewed pursuant to the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures with an EIS document being prepared by Land Management Group, Inc. (LMG), the selected third party contractor for this project. The scoping for this project was held in Southport, North Carolina on March 22, 2012. Two subsequent Project Review Team (PRT) meetings were held on April 24, 2012 and September 12, 2012.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Bald Head Island Terminal Groin Project, Brunswick County, N.C. (Regulatory) – Continued

c. The project would involve construction of a 1,900 foot terminal groin located at the west end of south beach, and disposal of suitable dredged material from one or more of the following sources: Jay Bird Shoals, Frying Pan Shoals, Bald Head Creek Shoals, and the Federal channel. A 1,300 foot terminal groin would be constructed initially. The addition of 600 foot would be predicated on performance of the 1,300 foot groin. Issues surrounding the proposed terminal groin will continue to be closely coordinated internally due to past and likely foreseeable future litigation regarding allegations that Corps' maintenance activities in the federal channel have contributed to nearby shoreline erosion.

3. CURRENT STATUS.

On January 10, 2014, the Draft EIS and a public notice were released for public comment. A public hearing was scheduled to be held on February 12, 2014, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. It will be rescheduled in early March. The Draft EIS comment period ends on February 24, 2014. Section 7, Endangered Species Act, consultation has been requested with NMFS and USFWS on marine and nesting sea turtles, Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, whales, manatee, piping plover, and shorebirds. The applicant has targeted a permit issuance date of September 30, 2014.

