



## Ocean Isle Beach Terminal Groin Project (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action:** Reviewing the Town's proposal to construct a terminal groin pursuant to NEPA/ EIS procedures.
- **Current concerns:** Environmental effects of a terminal groins/installation of a hardened structure along the oceanfront shoreline. Implementation of Senate Bill 110.

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: 6 February 2014

### 1. PURPOSE.

To provide information regarding the current status of the Town of Ocean Isle Beach proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Action ID: SAW-2011-01241

### 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 Town of Ocean Isle Beach is vying to obtain the proper permits in order to be included as one of the four. The Town will be 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 eastern end, which borders Shallotte Inlet.
- b. The Corps, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and Ocean Isle Beach, 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 a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contractor.
- c. An interagency meeting was held on 18 January 2012 at the NC DENR Office in Wilmington, NC, to discuss their plans to protect the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach. Corps officials summarized the permitting process and steps needed for the applicant to select a 3rd Party Contractor to prepare the EIS document.
- d. By letter dated 8 June 2012, the Corps approved of Coastal Planning and Engineering to act as third party contractor for preparing the DEIS.
- e. On 14 September 2012, the Corps submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to hold a scoping meeting. A Public Notice (PN) and press release announcing the scoping meeting was distributed on 24 September 2012.
- f. A scoping meeting was held on 3 October 2012. Most comments received were in support of the project.

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g. The first Project Review Team meeting was held on 5 March 2013 at which time the NEPA process was discussed.

3. **CURRENT STATUS.**

Chapters 1, 2 and 4 of the DEIS have been submitted and reviewed by the Corps. On-going coordination with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contractor continues as the DEIS is being prepared. Remaining Sections of the DEIS are expected to be received by March 2014.