



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Holden Beach Terminal Groin Project, Brunswick County, NC (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action:** Reviewing the town's proposal, pursuant to NEPA/EIS procedures, to install a terminal groin and place material along the oceanfront shoreline.
- **Current Concerns:** Use of terminal groins/installation of a hardened structure along the oceanfront shoreline.
- **Third party contractor preparing Draft EIS.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 07

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. PURPOSE:

To provide information regarding the current status of the town of Holden Beach proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the eastern end of Holden Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Action ID: 2011-01914.

2. BACKGROUND:

a. At the request of Holden Beach, an interagency meeting was held on October 12, 2011, at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office in Wilmington to discuss their plans to protect the eastern end of Holden Beach. With the passing of Senate Bill 110, which allows the installation of (4) terminal groin projects for the entire state of NC, the town of Holden 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 Lockwoods Folly Inlet. At this time, plans do include some dredging in the inlet channel and/or the connector channel with the AIWW for supplemental coastal storm damage reduction nourishment.

b. The Corps has determined, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and Holden Beach, that the project proposal will be reviewed pursuant to the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures with an EIS document being prepared by a third party

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contractor. On January 11, 2012, the Corps confirmed the selection of DC&A as the third party contractor.

c. The Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) for the project was published on February 24, 2012 and an initial public scoping meeting was held on March 8, 2012. A Project Review Team was formed and met on September 6, 2012 and May 30, 2013 to review the town's proposal, to discuss various elements of the project, and to identify relevant issues and resources within the project area.

d. The final draft Engineering Report has been reviewed by the Corps, and written comments were received on 17 Nov 2013. A subsequent meeting took place to discuss the comments.

e. Holden Beach has employed the assistance of UNCW (Dr. Pete Schuhmann) to provide a qualitative economics analysis of the alternatives, similar to that completed for analysis of the Figure 8 Island and Village of Bald Head Island proposed terminal groins. A draft financial report was been provided to the Corps and is being finalized for the Draft EIS.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

The Corps is currently reviewing the preliminary Draft EIS that was received in August 2014. A revised Draft EIS is expected to be received sometime late spring/early summer of 2015.