



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet

- **Home Port: Wilmington, NC**
- **Fleet operates along the entire east coast of the US**
- **Provides support to other Federal projects outside of the Wilmington District**
- **Capability to dredge shallow-draft channels (5 to 20 feet depth)**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3, 7

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. **BACKGROUND:** The Wilmington District operates and maintains three dredges and one snagboat to serve coastal areas along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico seaboards. Many of the areas served are noted on the map on the last page of this fact sheet. Detailed descriptions of each plant follows:

2. **DREDGE MERRITT:** The MERRITT is the first dredge ever developed to employ the sidecasting method. It was designed and constructed in Wilmington, NC in 1964. The extremely shallow draft of the MERRITT allows the dredge to maintain channels within shallow, unstabilized inlets where larger hopper dredges cannot operate.



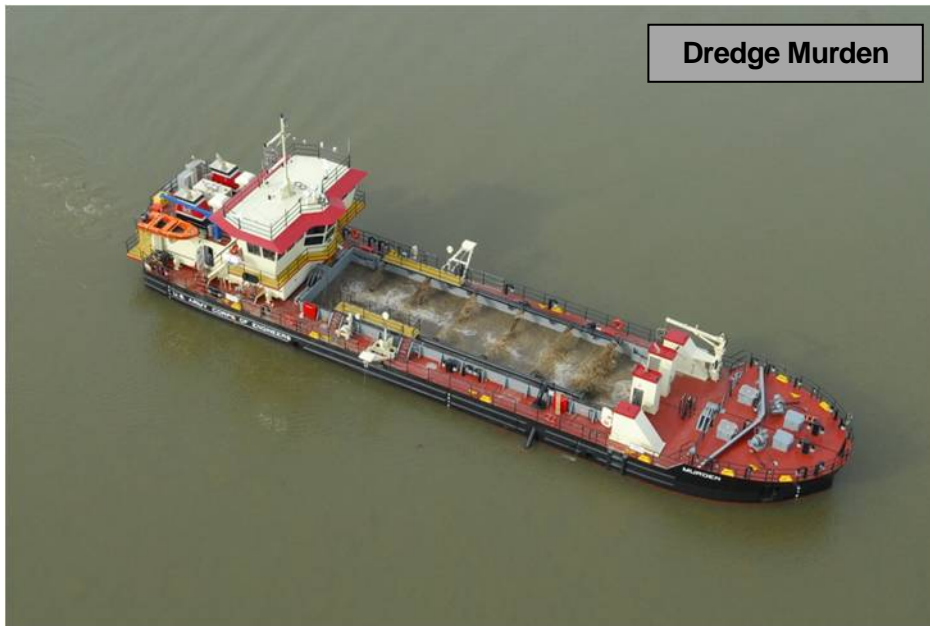
Dredge Merritt

PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet – Continued

3. **DREDGE CURRITUCK**: The CURRITUCK is a split hull hopper dredge that works in the shallow-draft ocean bar channels along the Atlantic coast. However, in addition to removing dredged material from the channel, the CURRITUCK can also transport the material to the down-drift beach and deposit it in the surf zone to nourish sand-starved coastal areas. The hopper is capable of carrying 300 cubic yards of material and draft eight feet when fully loaded.



4. **DREDGE MURDEN**: The MURDEN was constructed in 2012, and began working in the Wilmington District fleet later that year. This vessel works in the shallow-draft ocean bar channels along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast. The MURDEN is capable of working in waters as shallow as 6.5 feet. The split hull configuration and shallow draft allows for deposit of the material in the surf zone to nourish sand-starved coastal areas. The hopper is capable of carrying 500 cubic yards of material and draft nine feet when fully loaded.



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5. **SNAGBOAT SNELL:** The SNELL has capability for driving piling and construction and repairs of fender systems, dikes, jetties, and dolphins. Serves as derrick-boat, vibracore sampling platform, and also as a clamshell and hydraulic dredge for smaller scoped projects. The SNELL performs clearing and snagging of waterway debris, and wreck removal in Federal channels.



Snagboat Snell

6. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The Engineer Repair Yard is located in Wilmington, NC on the Cape Fear River. The yard facilities include a fully-equipped machine shop, a welding shop, a warehouse, and vessel berthing facilities. Considerable welding and mechanical work is done at the yard on dredging equipment for the vessels SNELL, MERRITT, CURRITUCK and MURDEN and on machinery and fixtures for the District's multi-purpose reservoir projects, locks, dams, and vessels.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet – Continued

