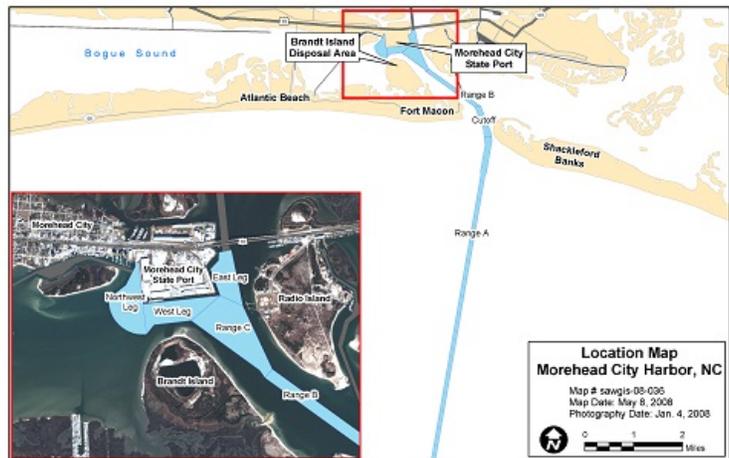




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor with disposal of dredged material to the adjacent shoreline, near-shore and off-shore disposal areas.**
- **Rapid shoaling west of the Shackleford Banks area has seriously affected the navigability of this deep draft channel.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Acts of 1958 and 1970, and Section 101 of Water Resources Development Act of 1992.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** This navigation project is located at Morehead City (MHC), in Carteret County, midway along the North Carolina coast approximately 10 miles west of Cape Lookout. The project consists of a 47 feet deep by 450 to 600 feet wide entrance channel from the deep water in the Atlantic Ocean to the Beaufort Inlet gorge; a channel 45 feet deep by 400 to 600 feet wide from the gorge of Beaufort Inlet to the east facing berthing facilities of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA); and a channel 35 feet deep with varying widths to the south and west facing NCSPA berthing facilities.
3. **FY 2012 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$6,732,000 which included \$2,300,000 in Disaster Relief funding to restore portions of the project to pre-Hurricane Irene conditions. A contract for maintenance dredging was unawardable due to bids being more than 25 percent over the Government estimate. Consequently the Corps hopper dredge McFarland was utilized to provide immediate dredging relief following the cancelation of the solicitation and the majority of these funds were carried over into FY 2013.
4. **FY 2013 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$ 5,800,000 (not including Disaster Relief Appropriations). A contract for maintenance dredging was again unawardable due to bids being more than 25 percent over the Government estimate. The Corps hopper dredge McFarland was utilized again to provide immediate dredging relief following the cancelation of the solicitation. New contract solicitations are planned in May 2013 and before the end of this fiscal year to perform maintenance dredging to the Shackleford Banks area which has significantly encroached on the

PROJECT INFORMATION – Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M) - Continued

navigation channel. Funding was also used to continue development of the dredged material management plan (DMMP).

5. **FY 2014 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$5,357,000. Funds would be used for project operations and monthly hydrographic surveying and maintenance dredging of the inner ocean bar portion of this critical harbor of refuge and to complete the DMMP. Additional funds in the amount of \$11,643,000 could be used for additional maintenance dredging in the Cutoff channel to Range A.

6. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** Expansion of the shoal west of the Shackleford Banks has seriously affected the safe navigability to and from this deep draft harbor. Currently, the prevailing depth and width of the navigation channel in this reach of the project is approximately 24 feet deep and 100 feet wide, compared to the authorized dimensions of 45 feet and 600 feet, respectively.

7. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The approved MHC Interim Operations Plan (IOP) consists of a three-year maintenance cycle. Year-1 includes entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal onto the adjacent shorelines of Ft. Macon State Park and Atlantic Beach. Year-1 work was completed in FY 2011. Year-2 includes inner harbor maintenance dredging with disposal to either within the ocean dredged material disposal site (ODMDS) or within the existing upland disposal facility and entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal within the near-shore placement area. Year-3 includes entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal of dredged material to the near-shore disposal area. The Corps of Engineers has approval to amend the IOP for one additional 3-year cycle while the DMMP is being prepared. The DMMP is scheduled for completion in FY 2014.