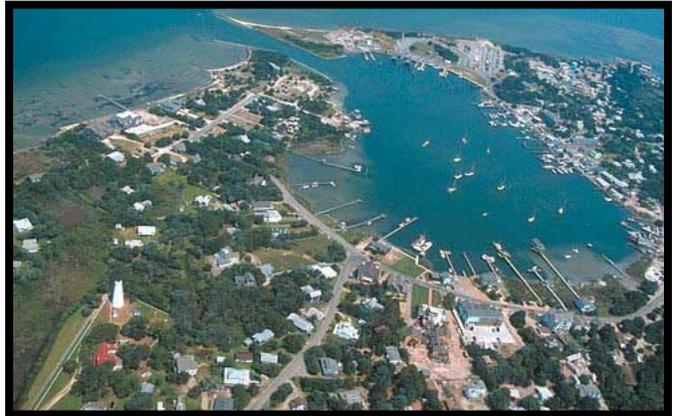




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Coastal Harbors and Waterways, NC (Shallow Draft Navigation) (O&M)

- **Shallow draft coastal harbors include a subsistence harbor at Silver Lake**
- **FY 2014 President's Budget includes Rollinson Channel and Silver Lake Harbor**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3 and 7

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. AUTHORIZATION:

Rollinson Channel, NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1935, 1945, 1954, and 1962, as amended.

Silver Lake Harbor, NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1930, 1940, 1967 (Section 107) and 1960, as amended.

Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound to Beaufort Harbor NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1935, 1937, 1945, 1950, 1963, 1960, 1967, 1969 and 1975 (Section 107), as amended.

Shallotte River, NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1913 and 1927, as amended.

Beaufort Harbor, NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1881, 1907, 1925, 1930, 1945, 1950, and Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended.

Channel from Pamlico Sound to Rodanthe, NC: River and Harbor Act of 1945, as amended.

Channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight, NC: River and Harbor Acts of 1937 and 1945, as amended.

2. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The Corps of Engineers has several dozen Federally-authorized shallow draft harbor projects within North Carolina, several of which are maintained on a multi-year dredging frequency. The following projects are those that have significant project user interest:

PROJECT INFORMATION – Coastal Harbors and Waterways, NC (Shallow Draft Navigation)
(O&M) – Continued

Rollinson Channel is utilized by the North Carolina State Ferry Division for subsistence harbor ferry transportation to Ocracoke Island, which is not connected by any roads. The project is located just inside Hatteras Inlet, NC. The project consists of a 12-foot deep and 100-foot wide channel from Pamlico Sound to Hatteras Island, a 10-foot deep and 100-foot wide channel from Hatteras Island to Hatteras Inlet, and a 12-foot deep basin varying in width.

Silver Lake Harbor is utilized by the North Carolina State Ferry Division for subsistence harbor ferry transportation to Ocracoke Island. The project is located just inside of Ocracoke Inlet, NC and consists of a 12-foot channel from deep water in Pamlico Sound to, and including an anchorage basin of the same depth in Silver Lake Harbor at Ocracoke, with widths of 150 feet across Big Foot Slough bar and 60 feet in the entrance channel. Silver Lake Harbor on Ocracoke Island, is classified as a subsistence harbor, where supplies and personnel can only access the island via ferry (i.e. no vehicle access).

Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound to Beaufort Harbor is located in the vicinity of Cedar Island, Cape Lookout and Pamlico Sound. This project consists of a through channel and several shallow draft harbors, which branch off the main through channel. The through channel portion of the project provides a 7-foot deep by 75-foot wide channel which extends from Pamlico Sound, through Core Sound, and terminates at Beaufort Harbor, North Carolina. The harbor portions of the project provide for 6- to 7-foot deep channels with varying widths, which extend from the main through channel to Cedar Island Harbor of Refuge, Atlantic Harbor of Refuge, Sea Level Harbor, Marshallberg Harbor, and Harkers Island Harbor of Refuge.

Shalotte River, NC provides for a 4-foot deep project from the Shallotte Inlet gorge and extends approximately 9 miles within the banks of the Shallotte River. The project terminates at the NC 103 bridge at Shallotte, NC.

Beaufort Harbor, NC is located in the vicinity of Beaufort, NC and connects with three Federal navigation projects: Morehead City Harbor, NC to the south, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, NC to the north and Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound and Beaufort Harbor, NC to the east. The project consists of approximately 7.5 miles of the following navigation channels, harbor entrance channels and turning basins: Bulkhead Channel 15-foot deep by 100-foot wide and approximately 1.5 miles in length connecting the Morehead City Harbor, NC project to the Beaufort Docks, located in downtown Beaufort; Gallant's Channel 12-foot deep by 100-foot wide and approximately 1.5 miles in length connecting the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and Bulkhead Channel; Taylor's Creek 12-foot deep by 100-foot wide and approximately 3.2 miles in length connecting Bulkhead and Gallant's Channels to the Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound and Beaufort Harbor, NC project; Beaufort Docks Turning Basin 12-foot deep by 600-foot long adjacent to the docks at downtown Beaufort, NC; Town Creek Harbor: 15-foot deep by 100-foot wide entrance channel and an associated 12-foot deep and 400-foot by 900-foot wide turning basin; and Morgan Creek Harbor 14-foot deep by 70-foot wide entrance channel and an associated 14-foot deep and 150-foot by 300-foot wide turning basin.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Coastal Harbors and Waterways, NC (Shallow Draft Navigation)
(O&M) – Continued

Channel from Pamlico Sound to Rodanthe, NC is utilized by the North Carolina State Ferry Division for subsistence harbor ferry transportation. The project consists of a channel 6-foot deep by 100-feet wide from Pamlico Sound to a basin 6-foot deep and 80-feet by 100 feet wide at Rodanthe, NC.

Channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight, NC includes a channel 7-foot deep by 100-feet wide from Back Sound (vicinity of Harker’s Island) through Barden’s Inlet to Lookout Bight.

3. **FY 2012 ALLOCATIONS AND FY 2013 BUDGET AMOUNT:** FY 2012 allocations include Disaster Relief funding that was used to restore the coastal harbors and waterways to pre-Hurricane Irene conditions. FY 2013 President’s Budget amount does not include Disaster Relief Appropriations.

<u>Project Name</u>	FY 2012 Allocations (\$000)	FY 2013 Budget (\$000)
Rollinson Channel	\$ 2,172	\$50
Silver Lake Harbor	1,292	300
WW Connecting Pamlico Sound and Beaufort Harbor	150	0
Shalotte River	0	0
Beaufort Harbor	0	0
Channel from Pamlico Sound to Rodanthe	497	0
Channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight	0	0
Total	\$4,111	\$350

FY 2012 funds have been used for either contract or Government-owned plant maintenance dredging within the availability of funds. FY 2013 funds are being used to perform environmental monitoring at Rollinson Channel and minor maintenance dredging within the Silver Lake Harbor channel.

4. **FY 2014 BUDGET AMOUNT:**

Rollinson Channel: \$300,000. These funds would be used at Rollinson Channel to perform hydrographic surveys and minimal maintenance dredging by Government-owned plant of the sending terminal for the Ocracoke Island Ferry. Additional funds in the amount of \$650,000 could be used to perform additional maintenance dredging by contract of the sending terminal for the Ocracoke Island Ferry.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Coastal Harbors and Waterways, NC (Shallow Draft Navigation)
(O&M) – Continued

Silver Lake Harbor: \$300,000. These funds would be used for hydrographic condition surveys, environmental coordination and minimal maintenance dredging by Government-owned plant. Additional funds in the amount of \$1,200,000 could be used as follows: \$800,000 to perform contract maintenance dredging to full project dimensions at the Teaches Hole entrance channel; and \$400,000 to perform two additional maintenance dredging cycles by Government-owned plant providing 80% project availability.

Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound to Beaufort Harbor: \$0. No maintenance dredging required in FY 2014.

Shalotte River, NC: \$0. Funds in the amount of \$250,000 could be used to perform hydrographic surveys and maintenance dredging by Government-owned plant within the Shallotte River project with disposal within the surf zone of the Ocean Isle Beach shoreline.

Beaufort Harbor, NC: \$0. Funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 could be used to perform maintenance dredging within Bulkhead Channel and Taylors Creek to provide unrestricted access to the Atlantic Ocean.

Channel from Pamlico Sound to Rodanthe, NC: \$0. Funds in the amount of \$350,000 could be used to perform maintenance dredging of the entrance channel to the emergency ferry terminal at Rodanthe Harbor used by the North Carolina Ferry Division.

Channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight, NC: \$0. Funds in the amount of \$1,100,000 could be used to perform maintenance dredging along Bardens Inlet from Back Sound to the Atlantic Ocean.

5. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** The project users which are adversely impacted by lack of harbor maintenance include:

- North Carolina Ferry System
- Commercial fishing vessels and recreational vessels
- U.S. Coast Guard search & rescue and Homeland Security operations

Lack of maintenance dredging for the projects described above and other similar harbors, could lead to groundings of ferries and/or commercial and recreational vessels, resulting in economic losses to the state of North Carolina, property damage, personal safety hazards, fuel oil spills, and wreckage debris in the channel.

The state of North Carolina and the Corps are working to enter a five-year multi-project memorandum of agreement to use state funds to perform additional maintenance dredging of many of these coastal harbors and waterways as needed.