



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Wilmington District

## Figure Eight Island Inlet and Shoreline Management Project (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action:** Via EIS under the NEPA procedures, the Corps is reviewing Figure Eight Island HOA's proposal for a terminal groin structure & supplemental beach nourishment.
- **Current Concerns:** Environmental concerns related to a terminal groin structure along the oceanfront shoreline and the use of a hardened structure on the beach.



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: 8 April 2013

### 1. PURPOSE:

To provide information regarding the current status of the Figure Eight Island shoreline protection proposal on Figure Eight Island, New Hanover County, North Carolina. Action ID: 2006-41158.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

a. In late June 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 110 lifting a 25+ year ban on the construction of terminal groins along the coast of North Carolina. This bill allows, under certain conditions, the construction of (4) Terminal Groin projects in the state. Figure Eight Island, vying to be one of the four, is proposing to place a terminal groin at the northern tip of their island for a long-term shoreline protection solution. No projected construction date has been set.

b. The Figure Eight Island Homeowners Association (Figure 8) is pursuing authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, to protect residential houses along approximately 3.0 miles of beachfront, starting at the northern end at Rich Inlet. Initially, their preferred alternative was to nourish the 3.0 miles by repositioning Rich Inlet channel (located along the New Hanover/Pender County Line), and by implementing an inlet management plan to control the positioning of the new inlet channel.

## PROJECT INFORMATION – Figure Eight Island Inlet and Shoreline Management Project (Regulatory), Continued

However, the engineer has concluded, via additional modeling and analysis, that the use of a terminal groin at the extreme north end of Figure Eight Island (with supplemental dredging within parts of Nixon Channel) is the best option for providing shoreline protection. Figure 8 will be pursuing the groin structure as their preferred alternative, with inlet channel relocation and beach nourishment remaining as reasonable options.

c. Figure 8's initial contact with the Corps inquiring about permit procedures occurred in early September 2006, and the first interagency meeting was conducted on October 17, 2006. The proposal is currently being reviewed under the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures, and an EIS document is being prepared by a third party contractor (Coastal Planning & Engineering of NC). Environmental issues will focus on fishery and bird resources, the controversial use of a terminal groin, and potential changes to adjacent shorelines.

d. The Public Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2007, subsequent public scoping meeting was held on March 1, 2007, and the Project Delivery Team (PDT) has conducted (4) separate meetings to discuss the proposal.

e. The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on May 18, 2012 and filed with EPA May 16, 2012 via e-filing. A Public Hearing was held on June 7, 2012 at Ogden Elementary School in Wilmington. Comments were received during the public hearing and the commenting period of the NOA. All comments were posted on the Corps' Regulatory webpage.

### 3. CURRENT STATUS:

a. The Corps is working with the third party contractor, CP&E Inc., in reviewing and addressing all comments that were received during the NOA commenting period and the Public Hearing. The Corps received a couple of hundred pages of comments from private citizens, non-government and government organizations, and state and federal government resource agencies.

b. On-going project coordination and discussions with Figure 8 continue.