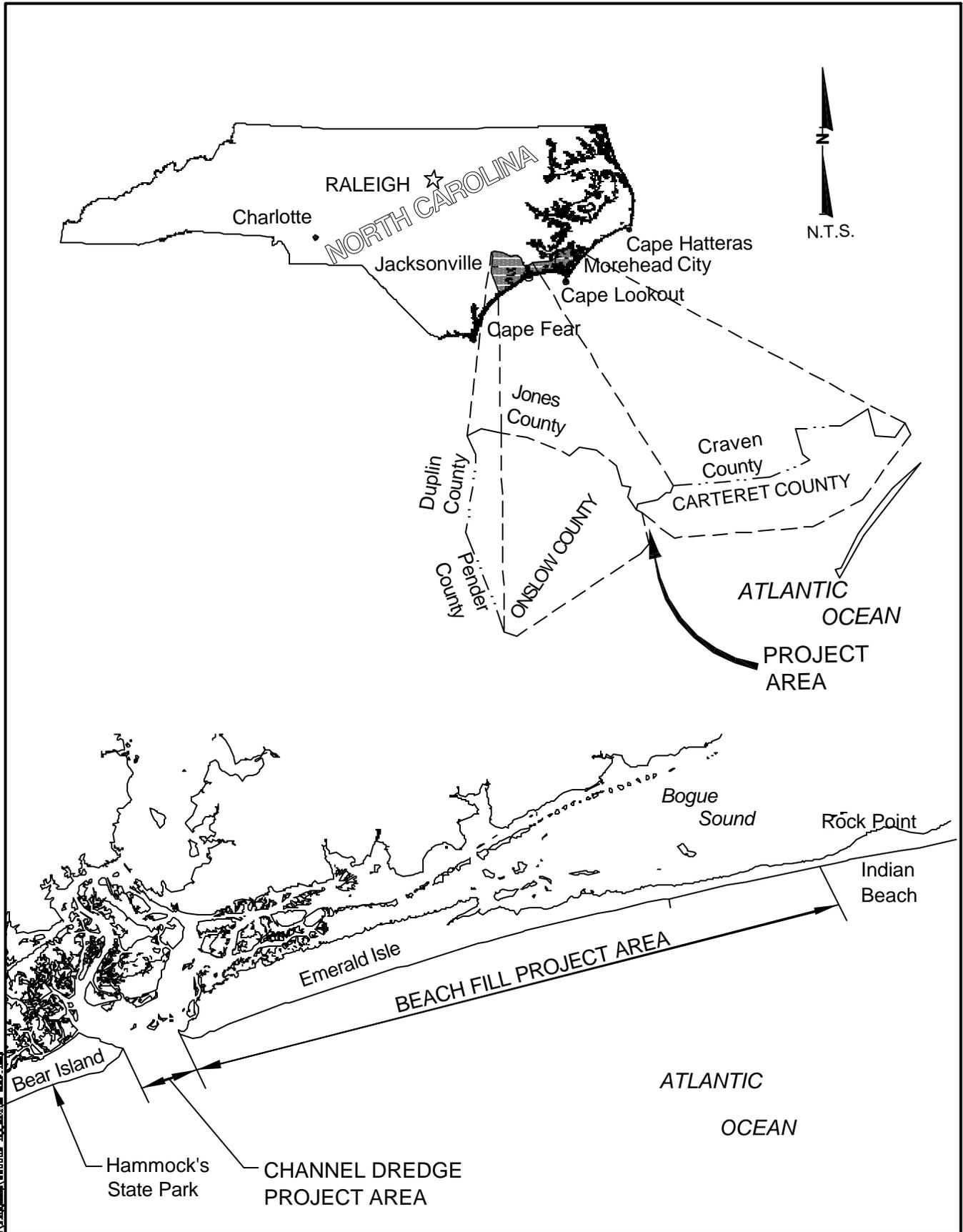


**Final Draft  
Biological Assessment  
Endangered Species Act**

**Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project  
Emerald Isle, North Carolina**

- 1. PROJECT PURPOSE:** The Town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, located along the western 11.2 miles of Bogue Banks (Figure 1.1) proposes to reposition the main ebb tide channel (or bar channel) through Bogue Inlet. This project is proposed to address a severe erosion problem that is threatening development and infrastructure located on the west end of the Town in an area known as The Pointe (Figure 1.2). The Bogue Inlet channel has been maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for commercial and recreational boating interest since 1981. The COE is authorized to maintain the channel at a depth of 8 feet mean low water (mlw) over a width of 150 feet. In addition to the inlet channel, the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project includes a 6-foot mlw x 90-foot wide connecting channel between the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) and the Bogue Inlet channel. The COE has maintained the inlet channel using shallow draft U.S. Government sidecast dredges, however, this maintenance activity is limited to the deepwater channel that exists at the time maintenance is performed. As a result, COE maintenance activities have been unable to stabilize the location of the channel. Any modification to the ebb tide delta channel location is subject to COE approval. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project.
  
- 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project design proposes to relocate the channel approximately 3,550 feet west of the current location to a position that is consistent with the 1976 and 1978 ebb channel locations. Relocation of the inlet channel will result in the removal of 1,009,500 cubic yards of material from the design position and placed in two locations on Bogue Banks as described below. The proposed position of the new channel is shown on Figure 2.1. An analysis of historic photographs of the inlet system indicates that the west end of Emerald Isle (The Pointe shoreline) has been eroding at a rate varying between 60 and 90 feet per year since 1984 in response to the easterly migration of the inlet channel. If the inlet shoreline continues to migrate to the east, over the next 10 years between 36 and 51 structures could be lost or severely damaged depending upon the rate of channel migration. In addition, large portions of several streets, including Inlet Drive, Bogue Court, Inlet Court, and Channel Drive (Figure 2.2), would be lost along with public utilities serving The Pointe subdivision. If the Town and individual property owners elect to construct temporary sand bag revetments to protect threatened properties, the rate of erosion could be reduced. However, as a result of the temporary nature of the sand bag structures (due both to structural stability limitations and State of North Carolina coastal regulations for such structures) the inlet shoreline would still migrate to the east destroying an estimated 29 structures and significant portions of the associated infrastructure.



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TITLE: **TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE  
 BOGUE INLET PROJECT  
 LOCATION MAP**

DATE: 4/21/03	BY: JRC	COMM. NO.: 4502.03	FIGURE 1.1
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