A Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing Survey of Bogue Inlet, Carteret County, North Carolina

Submitted to:

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Abstract

The Town of Emerald Isle is planning to dredge a new channel at Bogue Inlet. In order to determine the proposed project's impact on potentially significant submerged cultural resources, the consulting engineer, Coastal Planning & Engineering [CPE] of Boca Raton, Florida contracted with Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc., [TAR] of Washington, North Carolina to conduct a systematic proton precession magnetometer and side scan sonar survey of the proposed channel as well as a section of the existing channel. The proposed remote sensing survey was designed to locate and identify submerged cultural resources in the study areas and generate sufficient data to make an initial assessment of each target's significance and provide insight into the necessity for avoidance. Prior to the fieldwork, a program of historical and documentary research was conducted to provide a proper framework for submerged cultural resource assessment in the Bogue Inlet area. Field research was conducted on 1 January and 6 June 2003. Analysis of the remote sensing data revealed a total of three magnetic anomalies: one in Area 1 and two in Area 2. Of those targets, only the anomaly within Area 1 exhibited signature characteristics consistent with submerged cultural resources. However, because on-site disturbance will consist of the deposit of dredge spoil, it appears that there will be no adverse impacts to the material generating the target signature. The two targets within Area 2 appear to have been generated by single ferrous objects such as crab traps, small diameter pipe, small boat anchor or other modern debris. Based on the remote sensing survey no submerged cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. No further investigation is recommended in conjunction with the proposed project.