

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
POST OFFICE BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890

CESAW-TS-PE-03-16-002

May 2, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Environmental Assessment
Morehead City Harbor Section 933
Carteret County, North Carolina

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE), WILMINGTON DISTRICT, Wilmington, North Carolina, is planning to place beach quality material from the pumpout of Brandt Island and the maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor navigation channels on Bogue Banks, off the Atlantic Ocean (see Figure 1).

Background and Project Description: The maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor and the pumpout of the Brandt Island Upland Diked Disposal Area has created an opportunity under Section 933 for the beneficial use of sand for the Bogue Banks beaches. The beach communities of Atlantic Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, and Indian Beach (which includes Salter Path), and Fort Macon State Park are located on Bogue Banks and are experiencing severe storm damage and erosion problems. The proposed Section 933 project would place this same beach quality sand material along 70,000 feet, or about 13 miles of Bogue Banks beaches from Fort Macon State Park to Indian Beach, **if** the requirements of Section 933 are satisfied. The placement of beach quality sand from the maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor and the pumpout of Brandt Island on these Bogue Banks beaches may reduce the erosion and storm damage potential. The Section 933 project would be a **one-time** placement of maintenance material on Bogue Banks and renourishment of future maintenance **is not** provided under this authority. The proposed project is being undertaken under the authority of Section 933 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662), as amended.

This Public Notice serves as a Notice of Availability of the Draft Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Morehead City Harbor Section 933, Carteret County, North Carolina, dated May 2003.

The proposed action would involve the discharge of dredge materials onto Bogue

Banks, off the Atlantic Ocean. A Section 401 (PL 95-217) Water Quality Certificate from the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) is required for the proposed project, since waters of North Carolina would be filled. A Section 401 Water Quality Certificate has been requested from the NCDWQ and would be obtained prior to the start of work. An Evaluation of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, 40 CFR 230 is included in Attachment A of the above reference EA.

The project will take place in the designated coastal zone of the State of North Carolina. Pursuant to the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (PL 92-583), Federal activities are required to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the federally approved coastal management program of the state in which their activities would be occurring. Based on the information presented within this section, the proposed project is consistent with the North Carolina Coastal Management Program and the land use plan for Carteret County and the Towns of Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores. This determination is being provided to the State for its review and concurrence.

The proposed project has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The Wilmington District, in consultation with the NC Division of Archives and History Underwater Archaeology Unit, have considered both the potential impact of the project and the nature of the known resources, and have determined that the information does not support a recommendation for an archaeological survey of the entire beach area. However, it is possible during the course of construction that vessel remains will be encountered. Therefore, the Underwater Archaeology Unit has requested that Wilmington District personnel, contractors, and others be aware that the possibility exists that this work may unearth a beached shipwreck. In the event that such occurs, work should move to another area and the Underwater Archaeology Unit should be contacted immediately.

A list of Federal, State, and local agencies with whom this activity is being coordinated is included in the EA.

The decision whether to perform this work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof. These include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, wetlands, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership,

and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons. For accuracy and completeness of record, all data in support of or in opposition to the work should be submitted in writing, setting forth sufficient detail to support convictions. Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within **30 days** of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest, which may be affected, and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. All correspondence should refer to the title, number, and date of this notice. To receive a copy of the EA, please access our website at www.saw.usace.army.mil and download the document from Authorized Projects, Morehead City Harbor Section 933. For further information or if you prefer to receive a hard copy of the EA, contact Mr. Hugh Heine, CESAW-TS-PE, Environmental Resources Section, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, Post Office Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890, telephone (910) 251-4070 or e-mail address hugh.heine@usace.army.mil.

W. Coleman Long
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Attachment

CESAW-TS-PE/Heine/dr/4070
CESAW-TS-PE/Yelverton
CESAW-TS-PE/Adams
CESAW-TS-PS/Fascher
CESAW-PM-C/McIntosh
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PLEASE DO NOT MAIL -
CALL Brenda AT EXT. 4543
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