

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

CESAW-TS-PE-04-0014

August 26, 2004

INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
USE OF GOVERNMENT PLANT TO DREDGE IN
FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED NAVIGATION PROJECTS
IN NORTH CAROLINA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Use Of Government Plant To Dredge In Federally Authorized Navigation Projects In North Carolina is available. The (FONSI) has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The proposed action is the use of government dredge plant (the "Merritt" or "Fry" or similar side-cast dredge and the "Currituck" or similar special purpose dredge (shallow-draft small hopper dredge) to dredge small and/or isolated, regularly occurring shoals in federally authorized navigation projects (See Table 1) within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, (Corps) in North Carolina. The ability of the Corps to remove these shoals before emergency conditions arise will reduce potential groundings and other navigational hazards and mishaps that commonly occur as a result of these type shoals. The shoals addressed by this project usually consist of less than 30,000 cubic yards of sandy material.

The Environmental Assessment, Use Of Government Plant To Dredge In Federally Authorized Navigation Projects In North Carolina was circulated in March 2004 to federal, and state agencies and the public for a 30-day public and agency review period. After consideration of the comments received and adjustments to the proposed project as a result of comments received, the District Commander determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and signed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The FONSI is available on the Wilmington District's website at <http://www.usace.army.mil/environmental/index.htm>.

If you have questions or would like to request a copy of the FONSI, please contact Mr. Philip M. Payonk, Environmental Resources Section at the above address or at (910) 251-4589.

Date 8/24/04

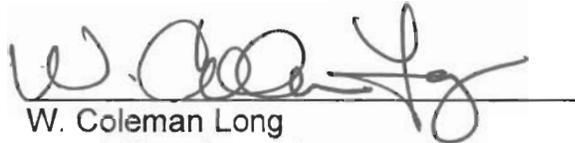

W. Coleman Long
Chief, Planning and
Environmental Branch

Table 1. Proposed dredging locations and methods

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dredging Method</u>	
	<i>Hopper</i>	<i>Side-cast</i>
The Shallotte River and the AIWW, Brunswick Co.		
Shallotte River Above AIWW	YES	NO*
AIWW	YES	YES
The Lockwoods Folly River and AIWW, Brunswick Co.		
Lockwoods Folly River	YES	NO*
AIWW	YES	YES
The AIWW at Carolina Beach Inlet, New Hanover Co.	YES	YES
Banks Channel/Topsail Creek and AIWW, Pender Co.		
New Topsail Inlet, Topsail Creek	YES	YES
Area North of New Topsail Inlet, Banks Channel	YES	NO*
Cedar Bush Cut, New River Inlet and AIWW, Onslow Co.		
New River Inlet & Cedar Bush Cut	YES	YES
AIWW	YES	YES
New River Above AIWW	YES	NO*
Bear Inlet to Brown Inlet portion of the AIWW, Onslow Co.	YES	NO*
Bogue Inlet, the connecting channel, and the AIWW, Carteret Co.		
Bogue Inlet Channel	YES	YES
AIWW	YES	NO*
Wainright Slough	YES**	NO*
Teaches Hole near Ocracoke Inlet, Hyde Co.	YES	YES
The Big Foot Slough ferry channel near Ocracoke Inlet, Hyde Co.	YES	YES
Hatteras Inlet and the area just behind Hatteras Island, Dare Co.	YES	NO*
Old House Channel to Oregon Inlet		
Hells Gate	YES	YES
Oregon Inlet Channel to Old House Channel	YES	YES***
Oregon Inlet	YES	YES

Notes:

NO* - These areas were included as side-cast areas in EA. However, due to agency comments, these areas have been deleted as potential side-cast areas addressed by this FONSI.

YES** - No disposal area(s) have been designated for this area. The Corps proposes working with the resource agencies to locate a suitable disposal area.

YES*** - Per agency comments received, the area south of Hells Gate in Old House Channel will not be dredged with a side-cast dredge.

Hopper Dredge – special purpose dredge –shallow-draft hopper dredge “Currituck” or similar

Side-Cast Dredge- “Merritt” or “Fry” or similar dredge