

Oregon Inlet Update SEPT 2003

In accordance with the decision to cease further work on plans for the construction of jetties at Oregon Inlet, the Corps and NOAA are working to improve navigation information by conducting depth surveys of the inlet's navigational channel at more frequent intervals, especially during the peak commercial fishing season. To assist in this effort, NOAA will enhance safety and vessel operational efficiency by identifying and posting critical chart corrections in advance of Coast Guard weekly notices to mariners. NOAA and the Corps have established a working group that includes staff and managers from NOAA Fisheries (D.C. and Charleston, SC), NOAA Office of Coast Survey, CEQ, USACE Headquarters, and USACE Wilmington District.

This group is tasked with developing two products: 1) web-based electronic information regarding the location and depth of the channel; and 2) hard-copy maps available for distribution at boat ramps, marinas, and other appropriate locations. To provide more up to date information to the mariner on the conditions of the Oregon Inlet in North Carolina NOAA and Corps staff on the working group have proposed that the Corps conduct more frequent surveys, and prepare hard copies of channel location, centerline coordinates/waypoints, water depths and existing buoy positions. The final details for presenting this data are still in development.