

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

Action ID No. 200100632

October 21, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Wilmington District, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office has received a request for Department of the Army authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act, from the Town of Emerald Isle for the relocation of Bogue Inlet Channel to protect residential homes and town infrastructures, and to place the dredged material on approximately 4.0 miles of beach for nourishment. The project site for the relocation is in Bogue Inlet, between Emerald Isle and Hammocks Beach State Park (Bear Island), and the nourishment activity will take place on the beach of Emerald Isle, Carteret County, North Carolina.

The following description of the work is taken from data provided by the applicant. Proposed plans involve relocating the main ebb channel in Bogue Inlet to a more central location between the west end of Bogue Banks and the east end of Bear Island (Hammocks Beach State Park). The main ebb channel through Bogue Inlet presently occupies a position juxtaposed to the west end of the Town of Emerald Isle and is causing severe erosion that threatens development in the subdivision known as The Pointe. The relocation of the main ebb channel to a central location would restore the channel to a position it occupied in the late 1970's and is anticipated to eliminate the erosive impact of tidal currents on the east shoulder of the inlet. The dimensions of the relocated channel will be based on characteristics of the existing ebb tide channel, numerical model studies of tides and currents in the inlet, and channel stability criteria. A portion of the material removed to relocate the main ebb channel would be used to close the existing channel. The numerical model will also be used to evaluate the need for and impacts of closing the existing channel as well as assess the impacts of the repositioned channel on salinity intrusion and flow patterns throughout the entire inlet/estuary complex.

After closing the existing channel, the balance of the material will be used to nourish the beach shoreline, approximately 4.0 miles, on the west end of the Town of Emerald Isle. In regards to beach nourishment, the Town of Emerald Isle presently has permits to nourish 51,100 feet (9.68 miles) of ocean shoreline using offshore borrow areas. Approximately 5.8 miles of this shoreline is to be nourished between November 16, 2002 and April 15, 2003. The Emerald Isle beach nourishment project is part of an island-wide project sponsored by Carteret County.

The County project covers approximately 16.8 miles of ocean shoreline and begins at the east town limits of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores and ends at a point 8,000 feet (1.5 miles) east of Bogue Inlet.

The stated purpose of the project is to reposition the main ebb tide channel (or bar channel) through Bogue Inlet as a means to address a severe erosion problem that is threatening development and town infrastructure located on the west end of the town in an area known as The Pointe. The severe erosion at the Pointe is occurring as a result of the eastward migration of the main ebb channel of Bogue Inlet. An analysis of historic photographs of the inlet indicates that the midpoint of the channel has experienced movements to both the west and east with the latest trend being toward the east. Since September 1981, the channel midpoint migrated a total of over 3,900 feet to the east, however, a majority of this movement occurred between September 1981 and February 1984. From February 1984 to September 2001, the channel moved slightly more than 1,500 feet to the east, which represents an annual rate of 104 feet/year. The eastward movement of the channel has been accompanied by erosion of the Bogue Banks shoulder of the inlet (the Pointe shoreline) with the rate of erosion of this shoreline averaging 56 feet/year between February 1984 and September 2001. If this rate of erosion of the Pointe shoreline continues unabated, it is estimated that 30 to 50 structures could be lost or severely damaged during the next 5 to 10 years. In addition, 300 to 600 feet of Inlet Drive could be lost along with side streets and utilities serving the Pointe subdivision.

This notice is to inform interested parties of our issued October 16, 2002 Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, which can be found on the Federal Register website, [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/021016c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/021016c.html) (that is an underscore "\_" after su). Once you have connected with website, go to Engineers Corps to locate subject matter. Additionally, a scheduled scoping meeting for drafting the EIS will be held at the White Oak River Elementary School, on NC Highway 24, in Cape Carteret, on October 29, 2002 at 6:30 P.M. The scoping meeting is designed to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties to incorporate in the Draft EIS document. The purpose of these comments concerning public interest factors, ranging from navigation to biological resources to private and public lands, will identify issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS.

As disclosed in the Notice of Intent, any written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, must be submitted to this office, Attention: Mickey T. Sugg, until 4:15 p.m., November 24, 2002. Question can be directed to Mr. Sugg at telephone (910) 251-4811, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.