

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

CESAW-TS-PE-04-28-0003

October 29, 2003

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**EMERGENCY DREDGING TO FILL BREACH OF NC HIGHWAY 12
NEAR HATTERAS VILLAGE CREATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2003 BY
HURRICANE ISABEL, DARE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An inlet breached Hatteras Island northeast of Hatteras Village as a result of Hurricane Isabel that struck the area on September 18, 2003 (Figure 1). The storm surge over washed the narrow barrier island from the ocean to the sound and scoured a three-section breach approximately 1,700 feet wide. The breach severed North Carolina Highway 12 (NC Hwy 12) and utility connections to Hatteras Village.

The breach catastrophically severed NC Hwy 12 as well as electrical and water utilities. The severance of the highway and utilities represents a health and safety risk to the residents of Hatteras Village. Loss of this section of the highway also affects the tourism-dependent economies of Hatteras and Ocracoke Villages.

Due to the severity of the situation, on September 20, 2003, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill the breached area so the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) could reestablish NC Hwy 12. The NCDOT requested permission on September 26, 2003, from the National Park Service (NPS) to fill the breach and to re-establish the paved section of NC Hwy 12 that was destroyed by Hurricane Isabel. The NCDOT also requested authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill the breach.

A Department of the Army, Wilmington District Permit and Letter Modification to the Permit were obtained by NCDOT on September 26, 2003, as modified on October 7, 2003.

A North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Coastal Area Management Act Permit and Modification were issued on September 26, 2003, as modified on October 7, 2003. A Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC No. 3437) and modification to the certification were issued on September 29, 2003, as modified on October 6, 2003.

The National Park Service, Outer Banks Group, Manteo, North Carolina issued a Special Use Permit No. GOV03-CAHA-6000-189, for the purpose of filling the inlet between Frisco and Hatteras Village on September 27, 2003, as modified on October 7, 2003.

Work commenced mid-October 2003 and is expected to be completed in approximately 30 days. The final shaping of the fill and replacement of the road and utilities will take additional time. The breach fill will be designed to replace pre-storm conditions.

An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) has been prepared for the emergency activity and signed by the District Commander. The EA/FONSI is available on our website at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/notices/current-notices.html>. A Section 404(b)(1) (P.L. 95-217) Evaluation Report has been prepared and is included in the EA. If you have questions or would like to request a hard copy, please contact Ms. Trudy Wilder, Environmental Resources Section, at the above address or at (910) 251-4581.

DATE: _____

W. Coleman Long
Chief, Planning and
Environmental Branch