



US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: May 24, 2005  
Comment Deadline: June 21, 2005  
Corps Action ID #: 200500344

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) is holding a scoping meeting for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States that is proposed by the Town of North Topsail Beach. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands)

**Applicant:** North Topsail Beach  
C/o: Mr. Tom Cassell (Town Manager)  
2008 Loggerhead Court  
North Topsail Beach, North Carolina 28460

**AGENT (if applicable):** Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.  
C/o: Mr. Craig Kruempel  
2481 N.W. Boca Raton Boulevard  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

## Authority

The Corps will evaluate this project pursuant to applicable procedures to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor.

## Location

The project site is located at 34-29.99 and 77-24.29 on North Topsail Beach and will encompass approximately 7.25 miles, or 36,500 linear feet, of ocean shoreline, and approximately 2.0 miles of channel from the New River Inlet to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, in Onslow County, North Carolina.

## Existing Site Conditions

The ocean shoreline of the Town of North Topsail Beach encompasses approximately 11.1 miles along the northern end of Topsail Island. Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing a Federal shoreline protection plan for parts of North Topsail Beach. This Federal plan will only cover 3.85 miles of the southern part of the beach.

The remaining 7.25-miles of North Topsail Beach, with the exception of two small areas, is located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS), which prohibits the expenditure of Federal funds that would encourage development. Therefore, the Town is pursuing to develop this non-Federal shoreline protection plan that will preserve existing development and infrastructure along the 7.25 miles of shoreline.

### **Applicant's Stated Purpose**

The stated purpose of the project is to address a severe erosion problem that is threatening development and town infrastructure. The entire stretch of the Town's shoreline has experienced a considerable amount of erosion over the last 20 years due primarily to the impact of numerous tropical storms and hurricanes during the mid to late 1990's and due to impacts of the uncontrolled movement of the main ebb channel in New River Inlet. The Town has stated that the shoreline erosion and residual effects of the storms have left North Topsail Beach in an extremely vulnerable position with regard to its ocean front development and infrastructure. They have estimated that over \$250 million in property tax value as well as roads, water and sewer lines, and other utilities are at risk.

### **Project Description**

The Town of North Topsail Beach is proposing to nourish approximately 7.25 miles of beachfront, to reposition the New River Inlet channel, to implement an inlet management plan to control the positioning of the new inlet channel, and to dredge a portion of the New River (Cedar Bush Cut) from the inlet to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Plans show that the new channel will be centrally located and the proposal will be to maintain that position, which essentially will be located perpendicular to the adjacent shorelines of North Topsail Beach and Onslow Beach. The proposed source of the material for the nourishment will be dredged from offshore borrow area(s), from the repositioning of the inlet, and dredging the approximate 2.0 mile stretch of New River. The placement of beach fill along the Town's shoreline would result in the initial widening of the beach by 50 to 100 feet. The widened beach would be maintained through a program of periodic beach nourishment events with the material extracted primarily from the New River Inlet.

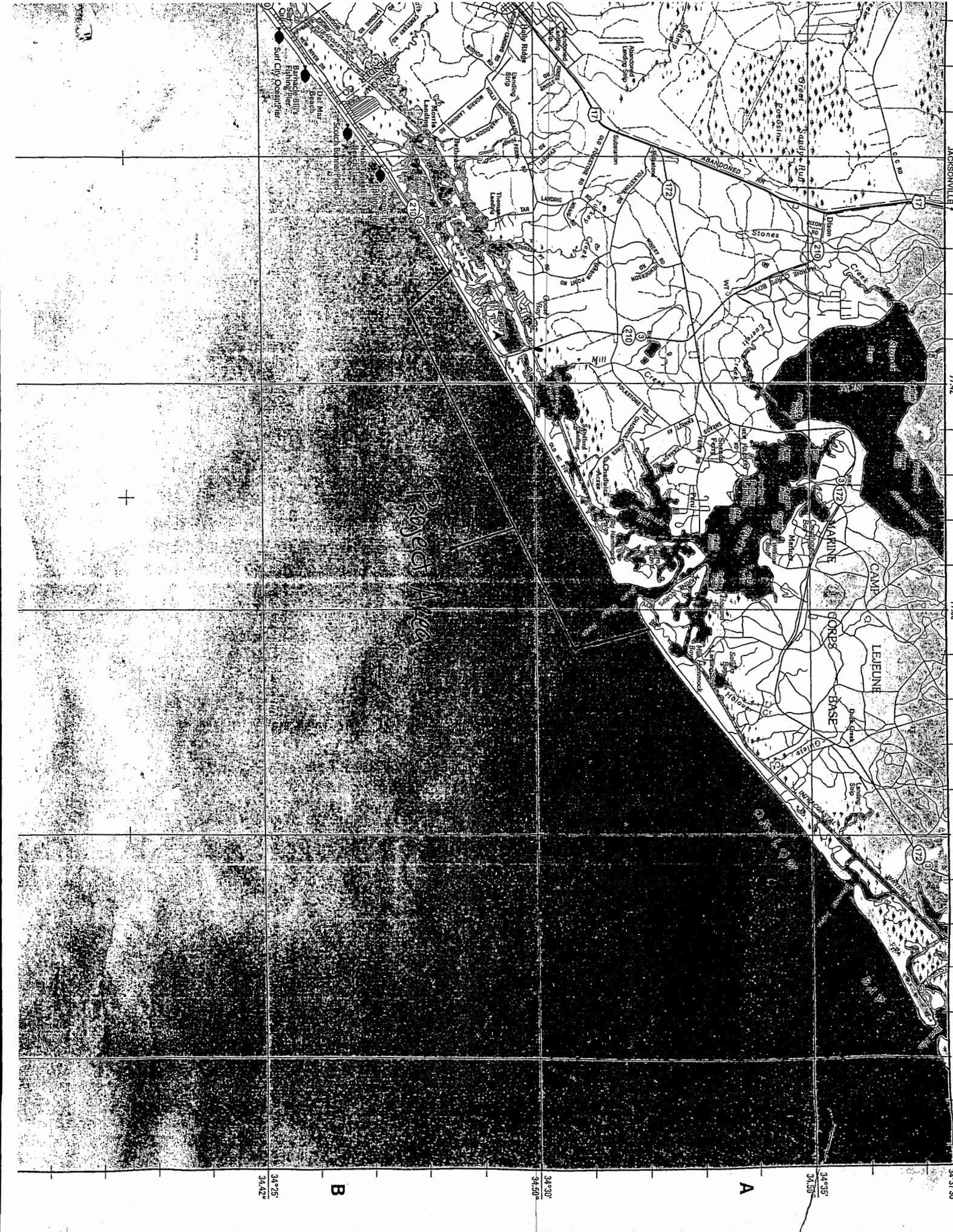
The project area is divided into the North Section and the Central Section (Note: the South Section is part of the Federal shoreline protection plan). The North Section is further divided into two parts. One comprises approximately 5,800 linear feet, or 1.1 mile, of the project and is located along the northern end of the island. This area will receive material solely from the dredging of the Cedar Bush Cut channel and New River Inlet when the channel is repositioned and realigned through the ebb tide delta. The new channel is expected to result in widening of the north end of the Town's shoreline as the shoreline responds to the ebb tide delta configuration that would accompany the relocated channel. In addition to the placement of the material in the North Section, a portion of the inlet material will be deposited on the southern end of Onslow Beach as part of the comprehensive inlet management plan in order to maintain the existing sediment budget on Onslow Beach. The second part of the North Section is approximately 14,200 linear

feet along the shoreline and will receive sand from the offshore borrow site(s). The Central Section is located both north and south of NC Hwy 210 Bridge and is approximately 16,500 linear feet. Material used to widened this section of the beach will also be obtained from the offshore borrow area(s).

The channel through New River Inlet has been maintained by the COE for commercial and recreational boating interest for over 55 years. The COE is authorized to maintain the channel in the inlet to a depth of 6 feet mean low water (mlw) over a width of 90 feet.

This notice is to inform interested parties of our issued May 23, 2005 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/a050519c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050519c.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 Dixon High School (in the school cafeteria), on US Highway 17, in Dixon Community (north of Holly Ridge), on June 8, 2005 at 6:00 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., June 21, 2005. Question can be directed to Mr. Sugg at (910) 251-4811, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.



JACKSONVILLE

3

77°25'  
77.42°

77°20'  
77.33°

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77.17°

34°37'30"

A

34.35  
34.36

34.30  
34.50

B

34.25  
34.42

+

