

BOGUE INLET CHANNEL RELOCATION PROJECT

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ASSESSMENT

**Submitted To:
US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District**

**Prepared For
Town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina**

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Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	1
3.0	PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT	4
4.0	ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT DESIGNATION.....	4
4.1	Fishery Management.....	4
4.2	Managed Species	6
4.3	Habitat Areas of Particular Concern	6
4.4	Nursery Areas	21
5.0	ESTUARINE EMERGENT WELANDS HABITATS	23
5.1	Penaeid Shrimp	23
5.2	Coastal Sharks.....	24
5.3	Cobia	25
5.4	Summer Flounder.....	25
6.0	SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION	26
6.1	Gray Snapper	26
6.2	Red Drum.....	27
7.0	OYSTER REEFS AND SHELL BANKS	27
7.1	Red Drum.....	28
8.0	INTERTIDAL FLATS.....	28
8.1	Southern Flounder.....	29
9.0	ESTUARINE AND MARINE WATER COLUMNS AND CREEKS	29
9.1	Blue Crab	30
9.2	Spiny Lobster	30
9.3	Coastal Sharks.....	31
9.4	Bluefish.....	33
9.5	Snapper-Grouper Complex	33
9.6	Bluefin Tuna	37
10.0	SHALLOW SAND AND MUDDY BOTTOMS	37
13.0	SUMMARY	38
14.0	REFERENCES	39

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DRAFT ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ASSESSMENT**

**Table of Contents
(Cont'd)**

List of Figures

Figure No.

1.1	Town of Emerald Isle Bogue Inlet Project Location Map.....	2
1.2	Approximate Centerline of Proposed Channel and Dike Location	3
4.1	Bogue Inlet Fish Nursery and Closed Shellfish Areas.....	22

List of Tables

Table No.

4.1	Essential Fish Habitat Identified In FMP Amendments of the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic FMC's.....	5
4.2	EFH Species of the Atlantic Waters of North Carolina.....	7
4.3	EFH Species in Bogue Inlet Environments	
4.3A	Estuarine Emergent Wetlands.....	11
4.3B	SAVs and Seagrass Beds	12
4.3C	Oyster Reefs and Shell Banks.....	14
4.3D	Intertidal Flats	15
4.3E	Estuarine and Marine Water Columns and Creeks (Subtidal).....	16
4.3F	Sandy and Muddy Bottoms.....	19
4.4	Geographically Defined Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) Identified in the FMP Amendments Affecting the South Atlantic.....	21
9.1	Spawning Times for Representative Fish in the Snapper-Grouper Complex.....	35

List of Appendices

Appendix 1	NCDMF Shellfish Mapping Program Map C004
Appendix 2	NCDMF Average Collection Number of Bay Scallops 1984-2002

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, located along the western 18 km (11.2 miles) of Bogue Banks proposes 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 (Figure 1.1). Historically, Bogue Inlet channel has been maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for commercial and recreational boating interest since 1981. The USACE is authorized to maintain the channel to a depth of 2.4 m (8 feet) mean low water (mlw) over a width of 45.7 m (150 feet). The USACE Navigation Branch has attempted to maintain the inlet channel using shallow draft U.S. Government sidecast dredges. However, this maintenance activity is limited to the deepwater channel that exists at the time maintenance is performed. As a result, the USACE Navigation Branch maintenance activities have been unable to control the location of the channel.

The proposed project design includes using a portion of the dredged material 152,911 m³ (~200,000 cubic yards) to close the existing ebb channel with the balance of the material 634,810 m³ (830,300 cubic yards) used to nourish the beach along the west end of Bogue Banks (Figure 1.2). The Town of Emerald Isle presently has permits to nourish 51,100 feet (9.7 miles) of ocean shoreline using material from offshore borrow areas. The Emerald Isle beach nourishment project is part of an island-wide project sponsored by Carteret County. The County project covers approximately 27 km (16.8 miles) of ocean shoreline and begins at the eastern limits of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores and extends to the west to a point 8,000 feet (1.5 miles) east of Bogue Inlet. Phase 1 of the Bogue Banks Beach Nourishment Project, completed in April 2002, included the shorelines fronting the Towns of Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach as well as the County owned shoreline fronting the Village of Salter Path.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project design proposes to relocate the channel approximately 1,082 m (3,550 feet) west of the current location to a position that is consistent with the 1976 and 1978 ebb channel locations. The channel relocation project proposes to use a cutter suction dredge to cut through an area of the swash platform to create a new main ebb channel (13.5 NGVD X 500 feet). Relocation of the inlet channel will result in the removal of 771,818 m³ (1,009,500 cubic yards) of material from the design position and placed in two locations on Bogue Banks as described below. Approximately 152,911 m³ (200,000 cubic yards) of the dredged material will be used to construct a wide platform sand dike in the existing channel. The creation of this sand dike will assist in redirecting the main channel flow to the new inlet location, as well as provide and re-establish intertidal habitat to the inlet. The remaining material dredged from the swash platform will be used to nourish 6,096 m (20,000 linear feet) of beach along the oceanfront shoreline of Emerald Isle.

The project will be constructed during the winter months (November 16, 2004 – March 31, 2005) when species migration and spawning is at its lowest.

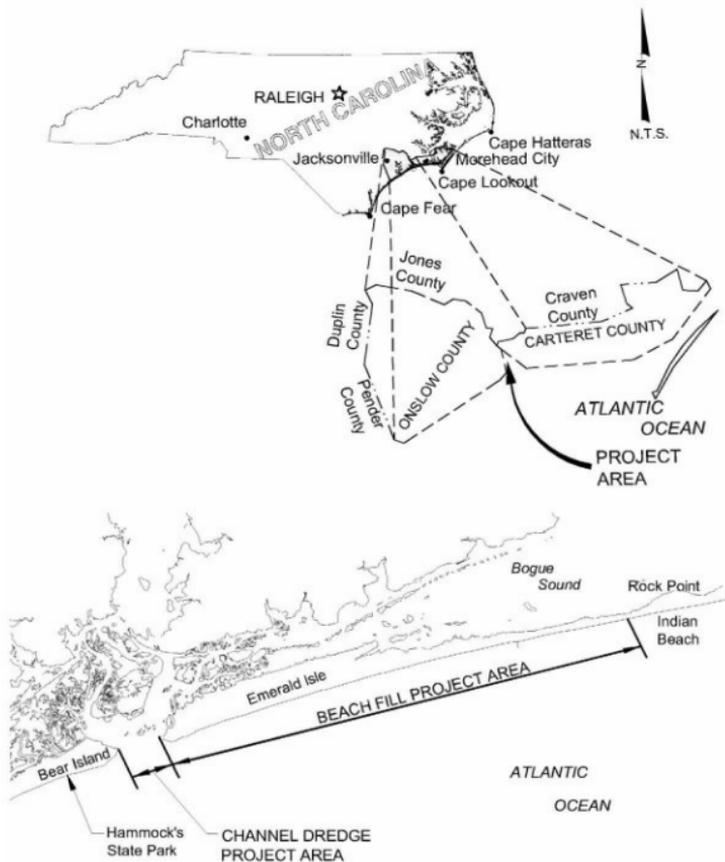


FIGURE 1.1

**TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE BOGUE INLET PROJECT
RELOCATION MAP**