

2.0 SCOPING AND ISSUES

In accordance with NEPA AND SEPA requirements, an early and open public forum process was initiated to determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. This section is designed to disclose comments, issues, and concerns elicited by the public and State and Federal agencies in the review of the proposal and the development of the EIS.

In a continual effort to include the public and all State and Federal agencies in the process, a Project Delivery Team (PDT) was assembled. Functions of the team were to: 1) provide input for the development of the EIS, 2) keep the public informed of project development 3) bring forth unknown project related concerns, and 4) identify resource areas in project area. The PDT is comprised of a broad based team of individuals that includes local, state and federal government officials; local fishermen, boaters and property owners; local university professors and students; as well as the project design team.

Meeting minutes collected during the May 29, 2002 (Public Forum Meeting) and PDT Meetings held on February 4th, February 19th, April 16th, June 11th and September 10, 2003 are provided in Appendix A – Subpart 1 (Public Forum Meeting and PDT Meeting Minutes). Project team members are listed in Table 1.

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Table 1
Project Team Members

NAME	REPRESENTING
Allen, David	NCWRC
Barrett, Tere	NCDCM
Bland, Sam	Swansboro
Cameron, Susan	NCWRC
Casey, Mary Helen	Lands End Condominium
Duval, Michelle	Environmental Defense Fund
Eaton, Lawrence	NCDWQ
Ellis, John	USFWS
Field, Don	NOAA-NOS-CCFHR
Fox, Becky	USEPA
Fussell, John	Orinthologist
Godfrey, Matthew	NCWRC
Haight, Erin	CPE
Hall, Howard	USFWS
Harris, Keith	USACE - Wilmington District
Huggett, Doug	NCDCM
Jarrett, Tom	CPE
Kilgore, John	Emerald Isle
Koroly, Jane M.	Cedar Point
Craig Kruempel	CPE
Lewis, Ron	Onslow County, Manager
Lutheran, Noelle	NCDWQ
Marshall, Mike	NCDMF
McCorcle, Justin	USACE - Wilmington District
McElhone, Sean	NCDPR
McHenry, David	NCWRC
Miller, Todd	NCCF
Murphrey, Ed	The Point Association
Rabon, David	USFWS
Rudolph, Greg "Rudi"	Carteret County Shore Protection Mgr.
Rush, Frank	Emerald Isle, Town Manager
Schools, Art	Emerald Isle, Mayor
Sechler, Ron	NMFS - HCD
Sugg, Mickey	USACE - Wilmington District
Tyndall, Ted	NCDCM
Vincent, Charles R.	BBBPA and NCSBPA
Wells, John	UNC - Chapel Hill

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The following opportunities were made available to the agencies and public to supply comments and concerns regarding the project and the development of the EIS:

- May 29, 2002 Public Forum Meeting
- October 29, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting and issuance of Notice of Intent
- PDT Meetings held on December 12, 2002; February 4, 19; April 16; June 11; September 10 and October 15, 2003

2.1 ISSUES EVALUATED IN DETAIL

During the fore mentioned meetings, several concerns and issues were identified, both written and verbally, in association with the project. Identified issues raised during the public meetings include shorebirds, colonial waterbirds, and other waterbirds, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shellfish. Additional written correspondence has been assembled in Appendix A - Subpart 2 (Pertinent Correspondence).

Summaries of the meetings held to date are listed below.

- The May 29, 2002 Public Forum Meeting included discussions regarding the scope of the project and alternatives, resources within Bogue Inlet, permitting needs, concerns and issues involved in with the project considerations.
- The October 29, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting included a presentation of the channel relocation alternative, as well as a discussion of considerations involved in the design. Attendees of this meeting were separated into several groups to voice statements, comments and questions surrounding the Bogue Inlet Erosion Control Response Project. The groups were divided up evenly with a facilitator to ensure that the discussions and issues presented remained well organized. The issues and concerns expressed from each group were then presented to all attendees of the Public Scoping Meeting and well documented for inclusion in the EIS.
- The December 12, 2002 PDT Meeting included summary presentations of the following: the geomorphic analysis of Bogue Inlet; geotechnical investigations; channel design considerations, beach fill designs; channel

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shoaling analysis; and pre and post project monitoring plans. This meeting included a discussion of the anticipated physical impacts associated with moving the channel to a central position between Bogue Banks and Bear Island. Meeting minutes are not available.

- The second PDT meeting, held on February 4, 2003, included a discussion of a full range of possible alternatives associated with the project. Meeting minutes are not available.
- A third PDT public meeting was held on February 19, 2003. This meeting included 1) a discussion of Endangered Species consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the status of the Biological Assessment, 2) Essential Fish Habitat consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, 3) a discussion of field data collected to date, 4) a discussion of available resources, 5) status of monitoring plans, and 6) a presentation of the geomorphic analysis conducted by Bill Cleary from the University of North Carolina – Wilmington.
- The April 16, 2003 PDT meeting included a discussion of the Permit and Project Area as defined by the USACE and Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc., based on the hydraulic analysis and predicted sediment transport associated with moving the main ebb channel to a more central location between Bogue Banks and Bear Island. Topics of discussion also included proposed beach nourishment activities along Emerald Isle, ownership of newly accreted lands, maintenance activities and existing recreational values associated with Bogue Inlet.
- The fifth PDT meeting held on June 11, 2003 included a site visit of Bogue Inlet, including the Eastern Channel and portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway north of Dudley Island. After the boat trip, a formal public meeting was held at the Cedar Point Town Hall. A presentation of proposed surveying and habitat mapping efforts were presented by Coastal Planning & Engineering. A discussion of development of the EIS and the project schedule was also presented at this meeting.
- The sixth public PDT meeting was held on September 10, 2003 at the Emerald Isle Town Hall. Discussions held during this meeting included the 1) status and organization of the EIS document, 2) predicted erosion rates on Bear Island and Emerald Isle, 3) direct and indirect impacts, and 4) mitigation and conservation measures.
- The seventh PDT meeting held on October 15, 2003, primarily focused on reviewing the Preliminary Draft EIS (PDEIS) submitted in September

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2003, and the discussion of any major concerns presented by the PDT members regarding this submission. Discussions held during this meeting include 1) status of the resource mapping, 2) issues and concerns regarding the bird and turtle information presented in Sections 4 and 5 of the PDEIS, 3) mitigation measures, and 4) ownership of newly created lands. Comments received during this PDT meeting are attached at the end of the meeting minutes.

Issues raised during the October 29, 2003 Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting and subsequent PDT meetings have been assembled into a matrix table. For a detailed disclosure of the issues see Appendix A - Subpart 3. This table also delineates the resolution of the issue either within the EIS document or supporting documentation prepared for the project.