



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: September 21, 2012
Comment Deadline: October 22, 2012
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2011-01241

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 Ocean Isle Beach. Specific plans and location information are described below and are available on the Wilmington District Web Site at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/Projects/index.html>

Applicant: Town of Ocean Isle Beach
C/o: Ms. Debbie Smith (Mayor)
3 West 3rd Street
Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina 28469

Contracting Engineer: Coastal Planning and Engineering (CPE)
C/o: Mr. Brad Rosov
4038 Masonboro Loop Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28409

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this project pursuant to applicable procedures for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor; and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the proposal. The Corps will be coordinating with North Carolina Division of Coastal Management and North Carolina Division of Water Quality in the development of the EIS to ensure the process complies with all State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

Location

The project's general site location is 33.90 N, -78.39W, and encompasses approximately 0.80 mile of Ocean Isle Beach ocean and inlet shoreline, starting from the east side of Shallotte Inlet and moving westward near East 1st Street and Highpoint Street, in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

The Town of Ocean Isle Beach (Town) is an approximate 5.8-mile long barrier island with the Town of Sunset Beach located to the west and Holden Beach to the east. The island is a south facing island, bordered by Tubbs Inlet to the west, Shallotte Inlet to the east, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) to the north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. It is a typical North Carolina barrier island that has undergone a variety of natural and anthropogenic changes. Between March and May 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructed a federal beach fill project for storm damage reduction that covers 17,100 feet (3.25 miles) of the Town's shoreline beginning at Shallotte Boulevard on the east and extending to a point approximately 3,700 feet west of the Ocean Isle Beach Pier & Arcade. The westernmost 9,500 feet of the Town's shoreline was not included in the federal project as this area is rather stable and is fronted by an established dune system. The eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach between Shallotte Boulevard and Shallotte Inlet was not included in the federal project due to high rates of erosion and the inability to include a terminal structure due to the State prohibition.

Based on an evaluation of USACE survey data, erosion along the eastern 2,000 feet of the project has progressed into the design template prior to each maintenance event. Despite the completion of the initial construction of the federal project in 2001 and the installation of temporary sandbag revetments, the Town, the State, and private owners have been directly impacted by erosion at the east end of the Town both within the USACE Federal Project and east of Shallotte Boulevard.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

To implement an economically feasible and environmentally justified shoreline management solution that will provide long-term protection to residential homes and Town infrastructure along the east end of Ocean Isle Beach.

Project Description

The Town of Ocean Isle Beach is actively seeking shoreline protection measures to mitigate the chronic erosion problem on the east end of the island caused by Shallotte Inlet's influence on the movement of littoral sediment in the area. Given the failure of past efforts to address the erosion problem on the east end of the island with beach nourishment and temporary sandbag revetments, the Town is exploring alternatives to slow the rate of erosion by eliminating or reducing the influence of Shallotte Inlet on sediment transport in this area. Construction of a terminal groin on the east end of the island is proposed to reduce the influence of flood tidal currents on sediment transport near the shore. The applicant anticipates that the proposed project would also reduce the impact of Shallotte Inlet on sediment transport by allowing the beach directly west of the

terminal groin to assume an alignment comparable to the shoreline alignment farther to the west by retaining sediment in an area known as the accretion fillet.

The terminal groin structure would be designed to reduce periodic beach nourishment requirements along the east end of the federal project (Figure 1). The length of the structure seaward of the existing shoreline would be developed through the use of numerical models to minimize the overall cost of the project. The overall cost of the project would include initial construction and future maintenance cost of the terminal groin and cost associated with beach nourishment west of the terminal groin. The landward end of the structure would extend a sufficient distance landward of the existing erosion scarp line to prevent flanking.

Material to initially construct and maintain the beach fill immediately west of the terminal groin could come from either the existing borrow area in Shallotte Inlet or the AIWW at the Shallotte Inlet crossing (Figure 2). Regardless of which source is ultimately used, documentation of the quality of the borrow material and its compatibility with the native beach material as required by 15A NCAC 07H .0312 will be required as part of the major CAMA permit application.

This notice is to inform interested parties that a scheduled public scoping meeting for drafting the EIS will be held on October 3, 2012 at 6:00 P.M in the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall Public Assembly at 3 West 3rd Street in Ocean Isle Beach. 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.

Additionally, this notice announces that our Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for this project will be published in the Federal Register on September 21, 2012 and can be found on the Federal Register website, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR> . After connecting with the website, click through the dates to September 21, 2012 (Friday). Click on “Army Department”; and locate the Ocean Isle Beach project.

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: Emily B. Hughes, and received by October 22, 2012. Questions can be directed to Ms. Hughes at telephone (910) 251-4635, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.

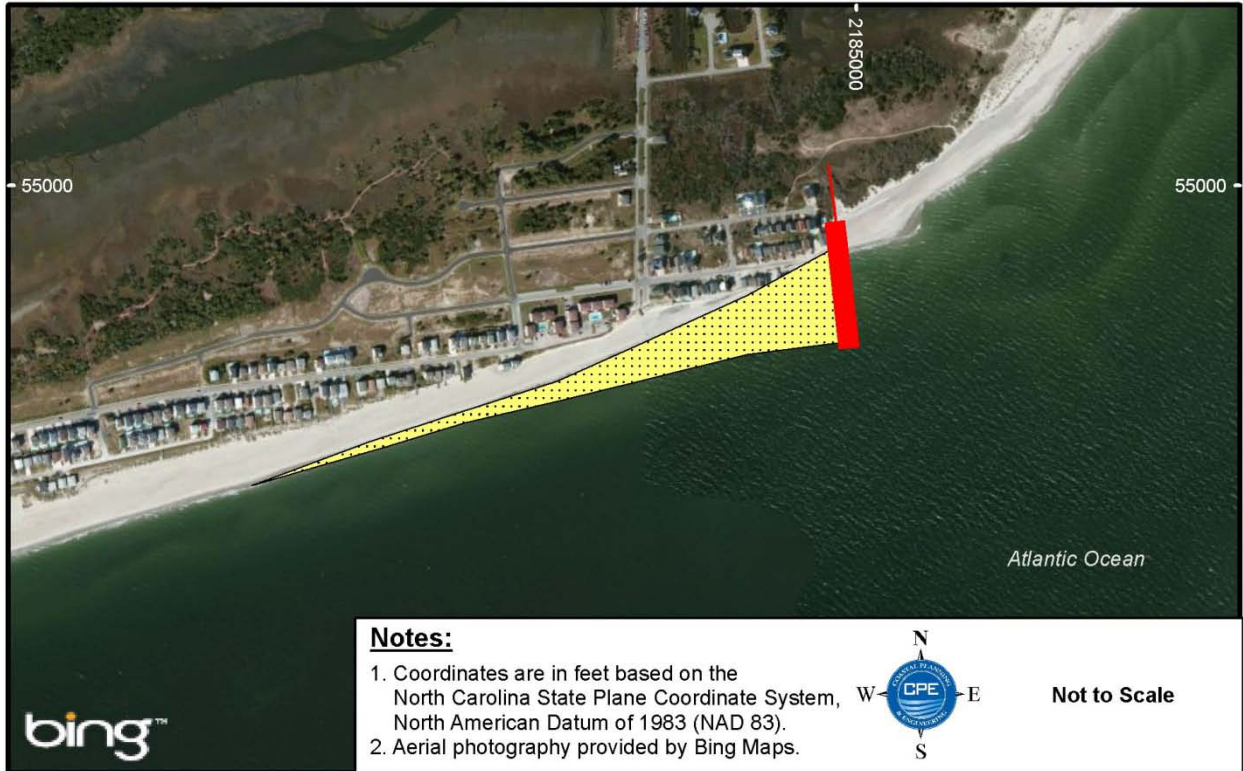


Figure 1. Proposed location of the terminal groin and fillet on Ocean Isle Beach (note: the depicted design and location is preliminary only)

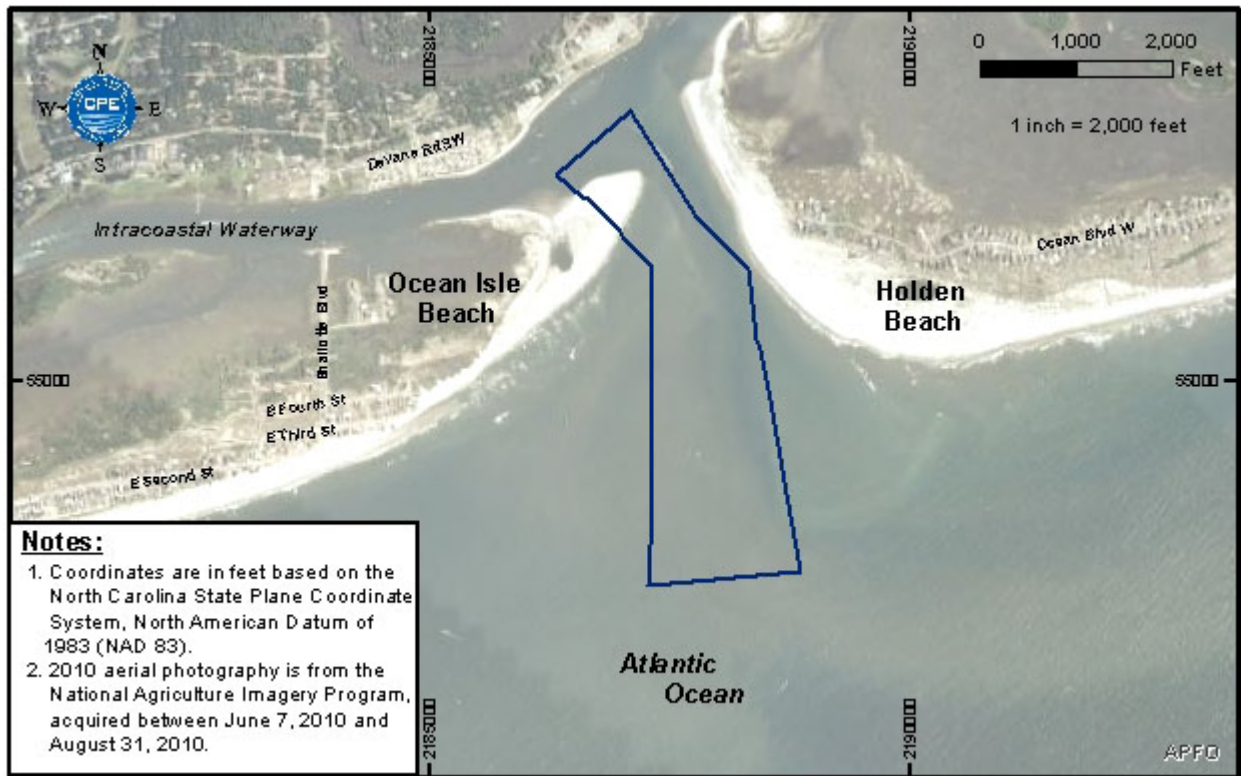


Figure 2. Proposed borrow area within Shallotte Inlet