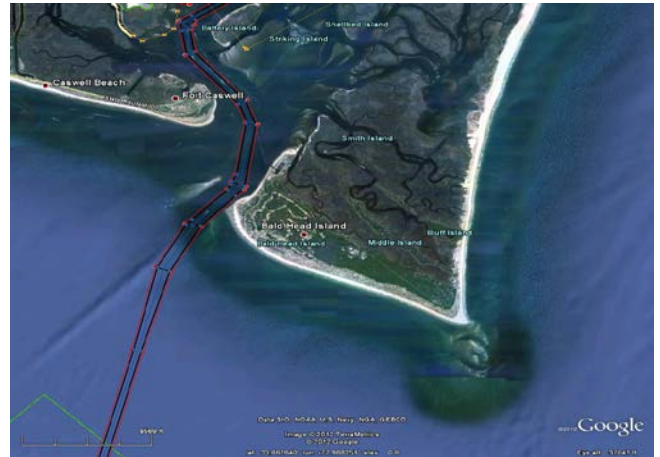




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Bald Head Island Terminal Groin Project Brunswick County, NC (Regulatory)

- The Village of Bald Head Island (VBHI) to construct a terminal groin on Bald Head Island
- The NC Division of Marine Fisheries and National Marine Fisheries Service expressed concerns regarding larval marine organism transport and Atlantic sturgeon were addressed during the Essential Fish Habitat Consultation
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service concerns regarding sea turtles and piping plover were addressed in a Biological Opinion
- Terminal groin construction scheduled to begin in spring 2015.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: February 23, 2015

1. PURPOSE.

To provide information regarding the status of the VBHI's proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the western end of South Beach, adjacent to the Cape Fear Inlet navigation channel, Brunswick County, North Carolina. Action ID: SAW-2012-00040.

2. BACKGROUND.

a. With the passing of Senate Bill 110, which allows for the installation of (4) terminal groins for the entire state of NC, the VBHI has obtained the proper permits to construct one of four terminal groins. The town has received authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, to protect residential houses and infrastructure along South Beach of the island by installing a terminal groin at the mouth of the Cape Fear River (along the navigational channel) at the southwestern tip of the island. The proposed terminal groin project would also include a beach nourishment component.

b. The Corps, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and the VBHI, reviewed the project proposal pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures with an EIS document being prepared by Land Management Group, Inc. (LMG), the selected third party contractor for this project. The scoping for this project was held in Southport, North Carolina on March 22, 2012. Two subsequent Project Review Team (PRT) meetings were held on April 24, 2012 and September 12, 2012.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Bald Head Island Terminal Groin Project, Brunswick County, N.C.
(Regulatory) – Continued

c. The project involves construction of a 1,900 foot terminal groin located at the west end of south beach, and disposal of suitable dredged material from one or more of the following sources: Jay Bird Shoals, Frying Pan Shoals, Bald Head Creek Shoals, and the Federal channel. A 1,300 foot groin would be constructed initially. An additional 600 foot extension would be predicated on performance of the 1,300 foot groin.

d. On January 10, 2014, the Draft EIS and a public notice were released for public comment. A public hearing was held on March 4, 2014. The Draft EIS comment period ended on February 24, 2014. Approximately 135 comments were received from the public, including neighboring Caswell Beach, and the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

e. Consultation pursuant to Section 7, Endangered Species Act (ESA), was concluded with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) on nesting sea turtles, manatee, piping plover, and shorebirds with issuance of a Biological Opinion on June 19, 2014. Essential Fish Habitat Consultation (EFH) was completed with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on June 10, 2014. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on historic and cultural resources was completed on July 1, 2014. Section 7 ESA consultation with NMFS concerning sturgeons, whales and sea turtles was completed on September 11, 2014.

f. On August 1, 2014, the Final EIS and a public notice were released for public comment. The comment period ended on September 1, 2014. Comments were received from the public, state and Federal agencies, and from neighboring Caswell Beach and Oak Island.

3. **CURRENT STATUS.**

The ROD was completed and signed on November 7, 2014, thus completing the regulatory review and NEPA process. The initial proffered permit was mailed to the applicant on November 7, 2014. The applicant signed the permit on November 14, 2014 and the final proffered permit was mailed to the applicant on November 19, 2014. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2015.

