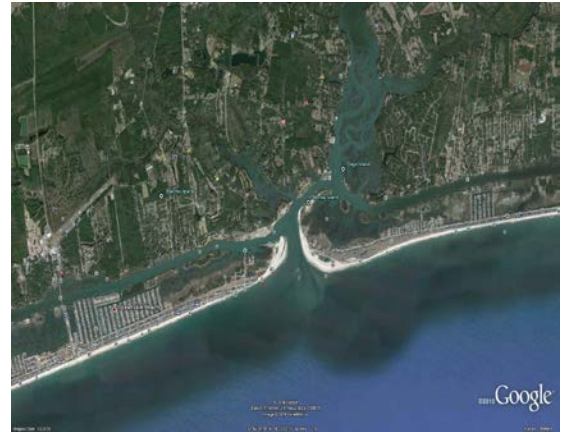




US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Ocean Isle Beach Terminal Groin Project Brunswick County, NC (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action: Evaluating the town's request to construct a terminal groin on Ocean Isle Beach, just west of Shallotte Inlet, under NEPA-EIS procedures.**
- **Current concerns: Direct and indirect effects of a terminal groin on oceanfront shoreline, fish and wildlife, and nearby coastal resources.**



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC - 7

DATE: 7 January 2015

### 1. PURPOSE.

To provide information regarding the current status of the town of Ocean Isle Beach's proposal to install a terminal groin structure on the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach, just west of Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, North Carolina. ORM2 Action ID: SAW-2011-01241

### 2. BACKGROUND.

a. With the passing of Senate Bill 110, which allows the installation of (4) terminal groins for the entire state of NC, the town of Ocean Isle Beach is vying to obtain the proper permits in order to be included as one of the four. The town will be pursuing Department of Army (DA) 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 the eastern end, which borders Shallotte Inlet.

b. The Corps, in coordination with the NC Division of Coastal Management and Ocean Isle Beach, has determined that this, as well as other proposed terminal groin projects, will be reviewed pursuant to the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) procedures with assistance in preparing the NEPA documents from a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contractor.

c. An interagency meeting was held on January 18, 2012 at the NC DENR Office in Wilmington to discuss their plans to protect the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach. Corps officials summarized the permitting process and steps needed for the applicant to select a 3rd Party Contractor to prepare the EIS document.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Ocean Isle Beach Terminal Groin Project, Brunswick County, NC (Regulatory), Continued

d. By letter dated June 8, 2012, the Corps approved Coastal Planning and Engineering to act as the third party contractor for preparing the DEIS.

e. On September 14, 2012, the Corps submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to hold a scoping meeting. A Public Notice (PN) and press release announcing the scoping meeting was distributed on 24 September 2012.

f. A scoping meeting was held on October 3, 2012. Most comments received were in support of the project.

g. The first PRT meeting was held on March 5, 2013 at which time the NEPA process was discussed.

h. There was very little activity on the project during the period from April 2013 through March 2014.

i. The town submitted a draft EIS (DEIS) on April 23, 2014. Corps completed its review of the DEIS on July 2, 2014 and provided comments.

j. A revised DEIS was submitted on September 3, 2014. Corps provided comments on October 10, 2014.

k. A further revised DEIS was submitted on October 22, 2014. Corps provided comments on December 12, 2014.

3. **CURRENT STATUS.**

Corps plans to release the DEIS in the Federal Register by January 23, 2014. The DEIS will be available for public review and comment for 45 days. A decision to hold a public hearing will be made prior to the release of the DEIS. Public comments will be used to develop the final EIS (FEIS). Corps will also pursue consultation with Federal resource agencies under the Endangered Species Act. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared following release of the FEIS to identify the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) and support final DA permit decision.