



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Shallow Draft Inlet Maintenance Projects Regulatory Division

- **Regulatory Action:**
Evaluating requests from State/local governments to perform maintenance dredging in existing Federal channels.
- **Current concerns: Effects of maintenance dredging and disposal on Federal projects, navigation, aquatic life and nearby coastal resources.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC -3, NC- 7

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. PURPOSE

To provide information regarding the current status of the Shallow Draft Inlet Maintenance projects being proposed at Bogue Inlet, Carolina Beach Inlet, Lockwoods Folly Inlet, New River Inlet, New Topsail Inlet, and Shallotte Inlet, in North Carolina. ORM2 Action ID Numbers: SAW-2014-02004, SAW-2014-02006, SAW-2014-02007, SAW-2014-02012, SAW-2014-02005, and SAW-2014-02009, respectively.

2. BACKGROUND

a. Due to limited Federal funding for shallow draft inlet maintenance in NC, local inlet and AIWW crossing stakeholders are proposing to contract the maintenance dredging on their own. The authorized maintenance dredging at each inlet would mimic the ongoing, approved Corps maintenance dredging program for each inlet, which includes the AIWW crossings, connecting channels, and the inlet throats out through the currently authorized Corps' inlet linear distances beyond the Coast Guard collision regulation demarcation that only allows "ocean-certified" dredges. The authorizations would include currently approved dredged material management locations including shoreline beneficial placement, nearshore placement and/or upland confined disposal placement.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Shallow Draft Inlet Maintenance Projects (Regulatory), Continued

b. On December 6, 2012, the Corps met with staff from NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources to discuss permitting for local governments to maintain shallow draft inlets (e.g., Bogue, Carolina Beach, New River, New Topsail, and Lockwoods Folly) within the limits of the federally maintained projects.

c. Permitting options are to evaluate the projects under the CAMA GP291 process, or a 10-year authorization under an individual permit. The state has contracted with the Land Management Group (LMG) to prepare a report on the permits and environmental documents needed. The completion date for this report was provided to the resource agencies on December 31, 2013. The National Marine Fisheries Service notified the Corps of the report on February 20, 2014.

d. Based on a February 2014 CRC meeting, project proponents focused largely on the use of shallow draft inlets as sources of sand for beach disposal/protection. On October 15, 2014, the Corps attended a multiagency pre-application meeting. In that meeting, a new agent (O'Brien and Gere, Inc.) for 5 of the inlet projects presented a single CAMA application proposal. Onslow County also contracted an agent to assist them in permitting the proposed maintenance dredging of New River Inlet.

e. The inlets, local stakeholders, and approved dimensions are described in the following table:

Inlet	Local Stakeholder/Agent	Approved Dimensions
Bogue Inlet	Town of Emerald Isle Carteret County/O'Brien and Gere, Inc.	Inlet: 8+2 ft MLW ¹ ; 150 ft wide Connecting Channels: 6+2 ft MLW; 90 ft wide AIWW ² Crossing: 12+2 ft MLW
New Topsail Inlet	Town of Topsail Beach/O'Brien and Gere, Inc.	Inlet: 8+2 ft MLW; 150 ft wide Connecting Channels: 7+2 ft MLW; 80 ft wide AIWW Crossing: 12+2 ft MLW
Carolina Beach Inlet	New Hanover County/O'Brien and Gere, Inc.	Inlet: 8+2 ft MLW; 150 ft wide AIWW Crossing: 12+2 ft MLW
Lockwood's Folly Inlet	Town of Holden Beach/O'Brien and Gere, Inc.	Inlet: 12+2 ft MLW; 150 ft wide AIWW Crossing with widener: 12+2 ft MLW
Shalotte River Inlet	Town of Ocean Isle Beach/O'Brien and Gere, Inc.	CSDR ³ Borrow Area (AIWW to ocean): 15 ft MLW; width varies from 150 ft at AIWW to 1,400 ft AIWW Crossing: 12+2 ft MLW
New River Inlet	Onslow County/Coastal Planning and Engineering of NC.	Inlet: 10 ft to 12 +2 ft MLW; 90 ft wide

¹MLW = Mean Low Water

²AIWW = Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

³CSDR = Coastal Storm Damage Reduction

3. **CURRENT STATUS**

PROJECT INFORMATION – Shallow Draft Inlet Maintenance Projects (Regulatory), Continued

As of February 4, 2015, the Corps anticipates receipt of permit applications for dredging five of the six shallow draft inlets as one CAMA Consistency application. The New River Inlet will be received as a separate action. All proposed maintenance dredging will be conducted within the Federal project limits.