



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Cape Fear River above Wilmington, NC (Navigation) (O&M)

FY 2016 Planned Actions:

- **Operate and maintain structures and recreation facilities**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 7

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Act of 1910, 1934, 1935, 1965; and Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944.
2. **PROJECT AREA:** The Cape Fear River Locks and Dams, located in Bladen County in southeastern North Carolina, consist of three federally built and maintained locks and dams. They are part of the Cape Fear River above Wilmington, NC project. Two of the locks and dams were constructed between 1915 and 1917, while the third was completed in 1935. Today, these locks and dams are in poor structural condition. The locks and dams were constructed to ensure a navigable channel for commercial barges from Wilmington to Fayetteville.
3. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR FY 2014:** \$531,000.
4. **FY 2015 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$481,000. Funds are being used to provide caretaker status of the locks and dams, periodic inspections, precise alignment and provide salaries, equipment and supplies at an acceptable level of service to protect customer safety, provide an healthful and accessible experience in a safe environment, ensure integrity of government assets and operate GSA vehicles and floating plant.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Cape Fear River above Wilmington, NC (Navigation, O&M) -
Continued

5. **FY 2016 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$772,000.

6. **ISSUES AND/OR STATUS:** Lock & Dam #1 was rated as a DSAC II structure in 2009 under the Dam Safety Action Code. Additionally, Lock #2 was rated a DSAC II in 2010. A DSAC II rated structure is defined as *urgent (unsafe or potentially unsafe)*. Since 1994, commercial traffic has practically ceased, raising questions about the economic viability and continued maintenance of the navigation project. The Corps of Engineers spends in excess of \$790,000 per year on the three locks and dams and the 111 miles of associated channels (according to a review of the past 10-year maintenance records). An initial appraisal report for a Section 216 study was approved by the Corps on 2 July 2009. Subsequent detailed studies under this authority would determine if modifications to this project were advisable due to significantly changed physical or economic conditions.

Also, a fish passage structure was completed at Lock No. 1 as an approved mitigation measure for deepening the Wilmington Harbor 96 Act Navigation channel project in FY 2013. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act construction funds and state of North Carolina required contributed funds were used to construct this feature in accordance with the project cooperation agreement on the Wilmington Harbor 96 Act project.