



Wilmington Harbor 96 Act, NC (Navigation) (Construction)

- **Sponsor: State of NC**
- **Construction initiated in Aug 1999**
- **Northeast Cape Fear River portion upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge deferred due to marginal Benefit-to-Cost Ratio (BCR)**
- **Completed harbor deepening to the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge in FY 2013**
- **Incremental dike raises being continued for Eagle Island dredged material disposal facility**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 7

DATE: 25 March 2019

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Water Resources Development Acts of 1986 and 1996.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** Wilmington Harbor is located in Wilmington on the southern coast of North Carolina in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties. The plan of improvements that have been completed consists of deepening the ocean bar and entrance channels from the authorized depth of 40 feet to 44 feet, deepening the authorized 38-foot project to 42 feet including the anchorage basin through the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, widening the existing 400-foot wide channel to 600 feet over a total length of 6.2 miles including Lower and Upper Midnight and Lower Lilliput reaches; widening five turns and bends by 100 to 200 feet; and widening the Fourth East Jetty channel to 500 feet over a total length of 1.5 miles.

Required mitigation features completed to date include a 30 acre tidal embayment and acquisition of about 700 acres of existing tidal swamp and upland area for habitat preservation to offset losses of wetlands and primary nursery areas. The rock ramp for fish passage at Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Cape Fear River has been completed to address the impacts to anadromous fish and the endangered short-nose sturgeon from rock removal by blasting during the harbor deepening. Construction has been completed on deepening the navigation channel from the state ports to the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The plan of improvement for the dredged material disposal facility consists of incrementally raising the dikes at Eagle Island from their current elevations to that prescribed in the draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). To complete these dike raises at Eagle Island with an

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acceptable factor of safety, toe berms are needed along the exterior of the current dike. The Corps completed an Environmental Assessment for the toe berm action, which required mitigation for the impacted wetlands within the toe berm limits. Wetland mitigation credits were purchased in 2018 for \$2,100,000 in order to construct future dike raises at the Eagle Island Dredged Material Disposal Facility.

3. **COST ESTIMATE:** \$372,184,000 (Federal)
2,238,000 (Other Federal agency – Coast Guard)
178,904,000 (non-Federal)
\$553,326,000 Total

4. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2018:** \$298,668,000.

5. **FY 2019 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. Carry-in funds are being used to develop plans and specifications and award two construction contracts for Eagle Island to complete a dike raise of cell 3, and construct perimeter toe berms for cell 2.

6. **FY 2019 WORK PLAN:** \$150,000. This funding will be used to develop plans and specifications for Eagle Island construction contract for cell 1 to include perimeter toe berms on the east and west side, increasing the dike to 46 feet, and repairing existing spillways used for operation of the disposal area.

7. **FY 2020 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. Carry-in funds will be used to continue construction management of the Eagle Island contracts awarded in FY 2019. Funds in the amount of \$9,500,000 could be used to award a construction contract for cell 1 to build perimeter toe berms on the east and west side, increase the dike to 46 feet, and repair existing spillways used for operation of the disposal area.

8. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** Since the portion of the authorized project upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is being deferred, construction of navigation deepening features are complete. All future maintenance dredging activities would be accomplished using appropriated Wilmington Harbor Operation and Maintenance funds.