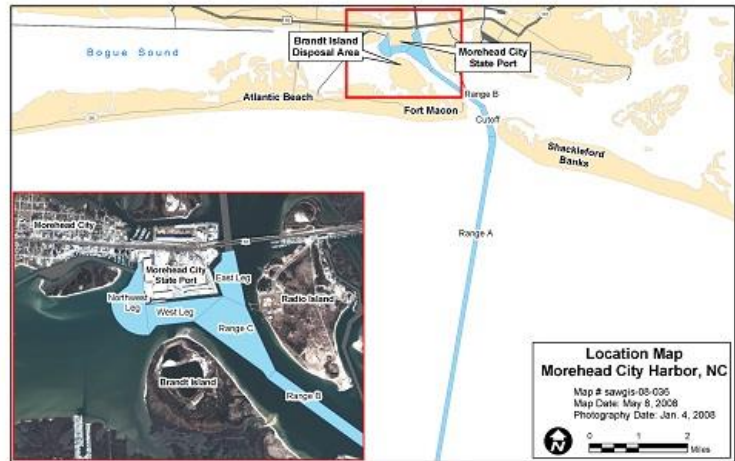




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor with disposal of dredged material to the adjacent shoreline, near-shore and off-shore disposal areas**
- **Draft restrictions continue to seriously affect the navigability of this deep draft channel**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3

DATE: 25 March 2019

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Acts of 1958 and 1970, and Section 101 of Water Resources Development Act of 1992.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** This navigation project is located at Morehead City (MHC), in Carteret County, midway along the North Carolina coast approximately 10 miles west of Cape Lookout. The project consists of a 47 feet deep by 450 to 600 feet wide entrance channel from the deep water in the Atlantic Ocean to the Beaufort Inlet gorge; a channel 45 feet deep by 400 to 600 feet wide from Beaufort Inlet gorge to the east facing berthing facilities of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA); and a channel 35 feet deep with varying widths to the south and west facing NCSPA berthing facilities.
3. **FY 2018 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$8,890,000.
4. **FY 2019 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET:** \$5,750,000. These funds are being used for routine operations and maintenance in support of navigation. An additional \$2,000,000 of hurricane supplemental funds are being used to restore the project to pre-storm conditions.
5. **FY 2019 WORK PLAN:** \$5,020,000. These funds are being used for additional maintenance dredging of the Inner Harbor portion to 75% project dimensions.
6. **FY 2020 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$7,540,000. These funds will be used for operation and maintenance dredging of the Ocean Bar to 50% project dimensions. Funds in the amount of \$9,500,000 could be used for additional maintenance dredging to 65% project dimensions (\$2,620,000), 85% project dimensions (\$3,380,000) and 100% project dimensions (\$3,500,000).

PROJECT INFORMATION – Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M) – Continued

7. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** Draft restrictions often affect the safe navigability to and from this deep draft harbor. Currently, the prevailing depth and width of the navigation channel in this reach of the project is approximately 30 feet deep and 200 feet wide, compared to the authorized dimensions of 45 feet and 600 feet, respectively. A FY-2019 awarded hopper dredge contract is expected to improve these conditions. Additional maintenance dredging is schedule for the Inner Harbor portion of the channel after the hopper dredging is completed in the spring.

8. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The approved MHC Interim Operations Plan (IOP) consists of a three-year maintenance cycle. The Corps has initiated an additional 3-year cycle while the Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) was being prepared; the DMMP was approved in June 2017. Year-1 includes entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal onto the adjacent shorelines of Ft. Macon State Park and Atlantic Beach. Year-1 work is being completed in FY 2017. Year-2 plan includes inner harbor maintenance dredging with disposal to either the ocean dredged material disposal site (ODMDS) or within the existing upland disposal facility and entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal within the near-shore placement area. The inner harbor portion was dredged in March 2017. The entrance channel portion was planned for maintenance dredging as part of the Regional Hopper Dredge Contract. Year-3 plan includes entrance channel maintenance dredging with disposal of dredged material to the near-shore placement area.

The Morehead City Harbor DMMP and Environmental Impact Statement was completed in June 2017. The recommended plan is to primarily dispose of beach-quality material that is dredged from the navigation channel in one of four areas: the beaches of eastern Bogue Banks, including Atlantic Beach and Fort Macon State Park, or one of two nearshore placement areas just offshore of these adjacent beaches, one on either side of Beaufort Inlet.