



Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet

- Home Port: Wilmington, NC
- Fleet operates along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the US
- Provides support to other Federal projects outside of the Wilmington District
- Capability to dredge shallow-draft channels (5 to 20 feet depth)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3, 7

DATE: 25 March 2019

1. **BACKGROUND:** The Wilmington District operates and maintains three dredges and one snagboat to serve coastal areas along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico seaboards. Many of the areas served are noted on the map on the last page of this fact sheet. Detailed descriptions of each plant follows:

2. **DREDGE MERRITT:** The MERRITT is the first dredge ever developed to employ the sidelaying method. It was designed and constructed in Wilmington, NC in 1964. The MERRITT is capable of dredging in 5.5-foot channels and with the fixed draft, it is able to work during high tide cycles to dredge shallower. The Merritt's critical mission is to dredge a pilot channel to allow the variable draft Murden and Currituck to follow the Merritt for continued dredging and nearshore placement.

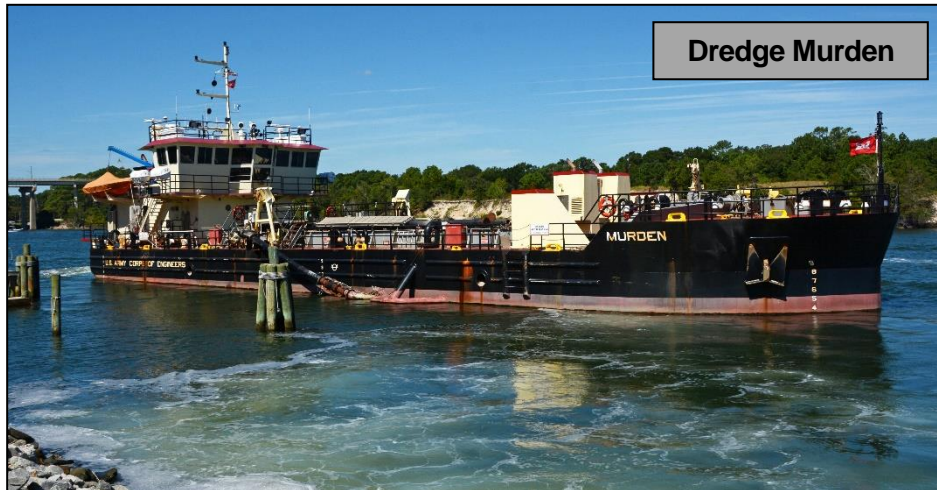


PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet – Continued

3. **DREDGE CURRITUCK:** The CURRITUCK is a split hull special purpose dredge that works in the shallow-draft ocean bar channels along the Atlantic coast. The CURRITUCK removes material from the channel and deposits it into the surf zone allowing it to continue its flow in the littoral zone. The hopper is capable of carrying 300 cubic yards of material with a draft of eight feet when fully loaded.



4. **DREDGE MURDEN:** The MURDEN was constructed in 2012, and began working in the Wilmington District fleet later that year. This vessel works in the shallow-draft ocean bar channels along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast. The MURDEN is capable of working in waters as shallow as 5.5 feet. The split hull configuration and shallow draft of the MURDEN allows removal of material from the channel followed by depositing it into the surf zone allowing it to continue its flow in the littoral zone. The hopper is capable of carrying 500 cubic yards of material with a draft of nine feet when fully loaded.



PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet – Continued

5. **SNAGBOAT SNELL**: The original mission of the SNELL was to perform clearing and snagging of navigation hazards and debris, as well as wreck removal in Federal channels. The SNELL also performs a wide range of marine construction, such as pile driving, fender system and mooring pile cluster repairs, and shoreline protection. The SNELL is a platform for geotechnical vibracore sampling as well as clamshell and hydraulic dredging for small critical shoals in Federal channels and adjacent non-Federal channels.



6. **OTHER INFORMATION**: The Engineer Repair Yard is located across from Wilmington, NC on the Cape Fear River. The yard is fully functional as a dockside shipyard for the shallowdraft dredge and survey fleet, with a machine shop, a welding shop, a warehouse, and a basin for vessel berthing. Considerable welding and mechanical work are performed on replacement and interchangeable dredging equipment and parts for the vessels SNELL, MERRITT, CURRITUCK and MURDEN. In addition, the yard is home to the Wilmington Survey Office and Survey Vessels Swart and Sanderson, and they perform emergency response and minor rehab and repair of the District's multi-purpose reservoir projects, locks, dams, and vessels.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington District Dredge Plant Fleet – Continued

