US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

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: 01 APRIL 2022

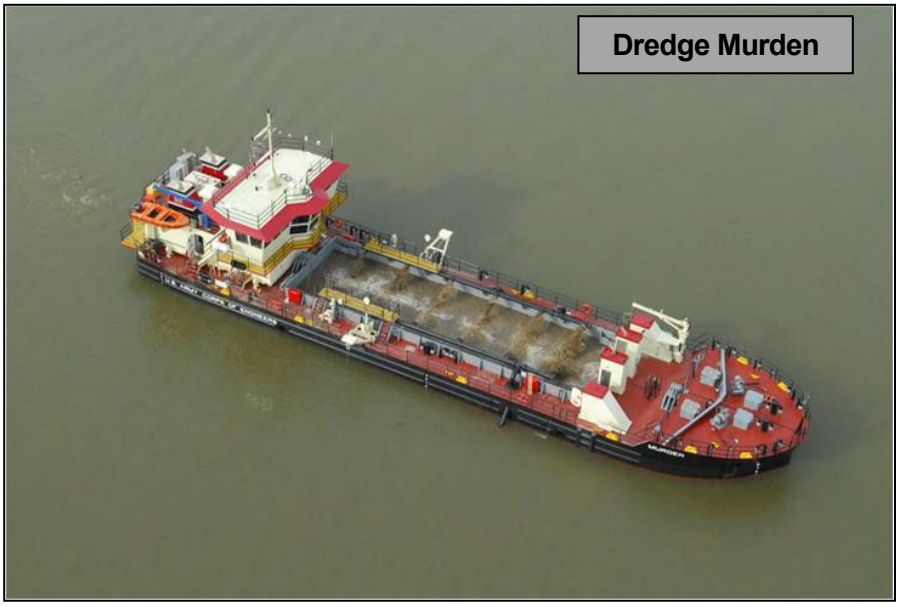
1. **BACKGROUND:** The Wilmington District operates and maintains three dredges and one debris boat to serve coastal areas along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico seaboards. Many of the areas served are noted on the map on the last page of this fact sheet. Detailed descriptions of each plant follows:

2. **DREDGE MERRITT:** The MERRITT is the first dredge ever developed to employ the sidecasting 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.

POC: Joen Petersen (910) 251-4983

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.



POC: Joen Petersen (910) 251-4983

5. **MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL 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, 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. The SNELL will be decommissioned in FY23 and replaced with the BRANDY STATION.


Multi-Purpose Vessel Snell

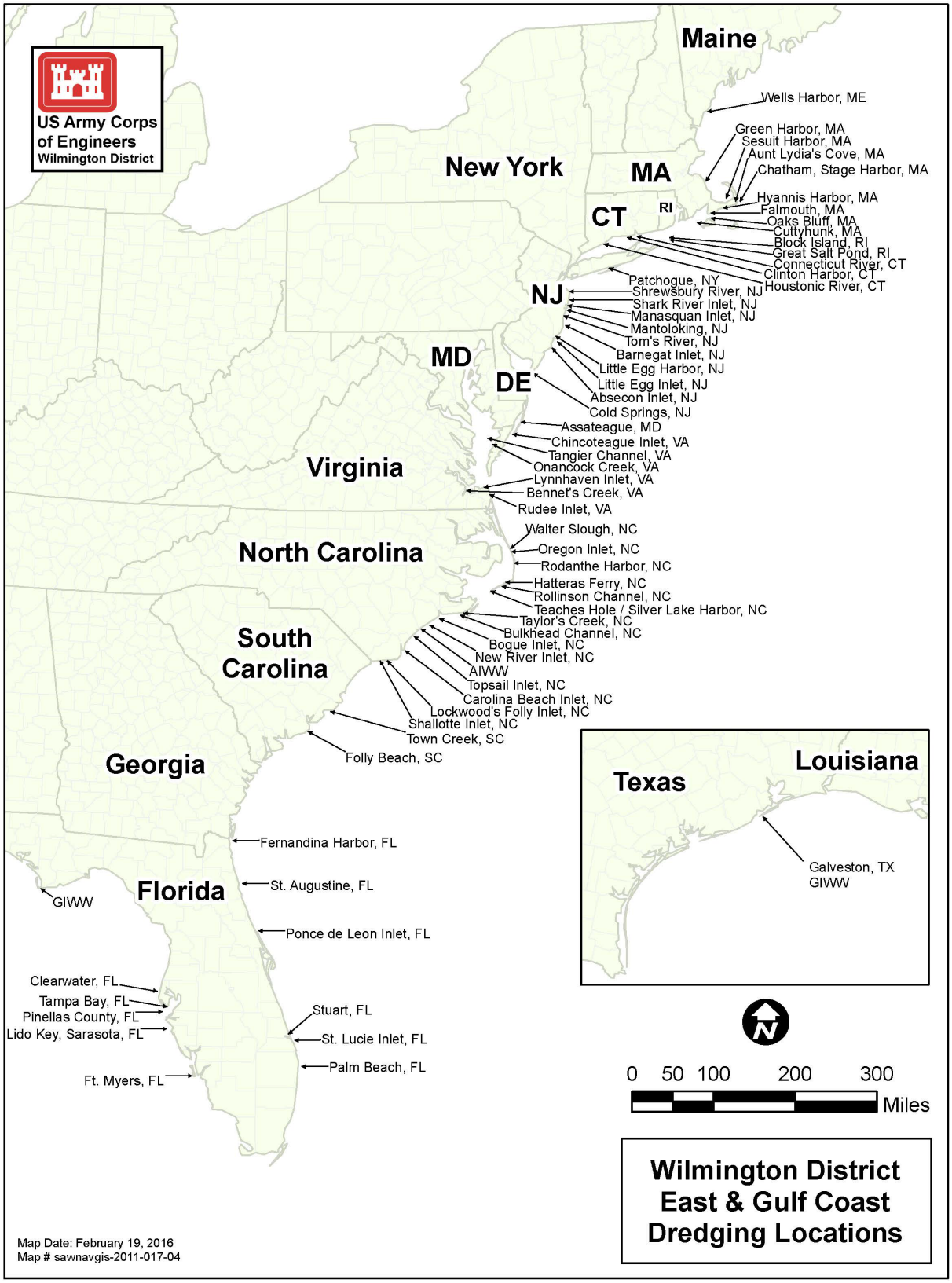
6. **MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL BRANDY STATION:** The BRANDY STATION will have similar mission capabilities as the SNELL to include marine construction (pile driving, fender system, mooring pile cluster repairs, and shoreline protection), navigation hazards removal, and clamshell and hydraulic dredging for small critical shoals in Federal channels and adjacent non-Federal channels. Additionally, the mission set of the vessel will include overseas capabilities to support maintenance and storm relief for US facilities and territories and maritime transport. The vessel is scheduled to be placed-in-service October 2022.


Multi-Purpose Vessel Brandy Station

POC: Joen Petersen (910) 251-4983

7. **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 shallow draft dredge and survey fleet. The facility consists of a machine shop, a welding shop, a warehouse, and a basin for vessel berthing. Considerable welding and mechanical work are performed on dredging equipment and parts for the vessels MERRITT, CURRITUCK, MURDEN, SNELL, and BRANDY STATION and District's numerous survey vessels. The yard periodically performs emergency response and minor repairs of the District's reservoirs projects, locks, and dams.

POC: Joen Petersen (910) 251-4983



POC: Joen Petersen (910) 251-4983