



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# North Carolina State Port Authority Port of Wilmington Turning Basin Expansion, New Hanover County, NC (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action:** Permit modifications issued
- **Current Concerns:** None at this time



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC-07

DATE: 01 APRIL 2022

1. **PURPOSE:**

To provide information regarding the current status of the North Carolina State Port Authority (NC SPA) project which further expanded the Port of Wilmington Turning Basin along the Cape Fear River, in Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina. Action ID: SAW-2015-02235.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. The NC SPA operates the Port of Wilmington along the Cape Fear River, which previously received DA authorization to expand the Turning Basin in 2016 and again in October 2019.

b. The permittee conducted dredging activities during the winter dredge window of 2019/2020 with a one-time moratorium relief request dated November 19, 2019, to allow dredging activities continue to March 31, 2020, due to initial construction delays. The request was coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division in accordance with Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements. The permit was modified on January 23, 2021.

PROJECT INFORMATION – NC SPA Port of Wilmington Turning Basin Expansion, New Hanover County, NC (Regulatory), Continued

c. Due to time constraints associated with initial construction delays and environmental moratoria, the dredge footprint was reduced to the removal of material within a 7- acre area rather than the removal of material within full 17.76-acre impact area. The Port does intend to construct the full project as authorized, however the timing is currently unknown. The USACE Regulatory permit expires December 31, 2029.

d. Onsite mitigation (permittee responsible mitigation) permitted by Nationwide Permit 27 dated April 6, 2020.

e. Permit modification requested October 14, 2020, to install 2 18” steel piles needed to moor the Water Injection dredge north of Berth 1. Work to be completed prior to March 2021. Request was coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, and the National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division in accordance with Essential Fish Habitat and Endangered Species Act consultation requirements. Permit modification issued December 30, 2020.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

a. Dredging ceased on March 31, 2020. King pile wall construction completed April 2020.

b. Onsite mitigation work started after a virtual pre-construction meeting (due to COVID-19) was held on April 15, 2020. The Corps conducted an onsite review of the mitigation site on May 27, 2020. Vegetation planting was completed in late July 2020.

c. Continued coordination/compliance of the onsite mitigation; November 17, 2021, site visit to review onsite mitigation progress

d. Offsite mitigation works not started.