



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Wilmington Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Maintenance dredging of Wilmington Harbor with placement of dredge material to the adjacent shoreline, upland, and offshore placement areas**
- **FY2022 Ocean Bar dredging event will dredge 930 thousand cubic yards of material with placement in the ODMDS**
- **NC State Ports Authority has made multiple infrastructure improvements in the past 5 years to increase tonnage in future years**



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 7

DATE: 01 APRIL 2022

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Act 1930, 1945, 1950, 1962, 1964, Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act 1960, WRDA 1986, WRDA 1996, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1998.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** The project is located on the southeastern coast of North Carolina in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. The existing project, including improvements made since August 1999, provides for a channel 44 feet deep through the ocean bar and an entrance channel changing to 42 feet deep extending to just downstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge at Wilmington, NC. Upstream of this point, the channel is 38 feet deep to the Highway 133 bridge; 32 feet deep to the Hilton Bridge over the Northeast Cape Fear River; and 25 feet deep from the Hilton Bridge to a point 1-2/3 miles above. The project also includes a northwestward connecting channel, 12 feet deep, from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway at Snows Cut to the main river channel.
3. **FY 2021 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$15,080,000 (includes supplemental and work plan funds)
4. **FY 2022 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$25,260,000. Final Bill: \$25,260,000. Funds are being used for routine operation and maintenance in support of navigation. In addition, this project has received \$10,250,000 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). IIJA funds are being used

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

for Wilmington Harbor Anchorage Basin Dredging (\$10,000,000) and DMMP Update (\$250,000).

5. **FY 2022 WORK PLAN:** TBD.

6. **FY 2023 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$21,657,000. These funds will be used to for routine operation and maintenance in support of navigation. Funds in the amount of \$2,200,000 could be used as for additional maintenance dredging of Anchorage Basin and adjacent channels.

7. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** The Corps plans to dredge the inner ocean bar channel every two years. Shoreline compatible material from this maintenance dredging action is placed on adjacent shorelines, as described in the sand management plan for the project. The sand management plan calls for a 1/3 to 2/3 split of material dredged from the inner ocean bar channel to be placed on Oak Island and Bald Head Island, respectively. To meet this requirement, the Corps rotates shoreline disposal locations among the adjacent islands, with Bald Head Island getting material from 2 of every 3 maintenance dredging contracts, with the third going to Oak Island. The latest maintenance dredging contract completed in spring of 2021 with the material placed on Bald Head Island. The next scheduled maintenance dredging contract is planned for the spring of 2023 with the material placed on Bald Head Island.

The District has coordinated with North Carolina resource agencies and received a conditional consistency determination to dredge entrance channels for three years with no environmental windows as part of implementing the FY2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion. Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service Environmental Fish Habitat is on-going and is scheduled to be complete in summer of 2023. This coordination will allow for maximum flexibility for this annual dredging contract, which is a part of the South Atlantic Regional Harbor Dredge Contract.