From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] As a birder, I"m concerned that tha Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:39:37 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Birds, not development!
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:20:27 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Cape Fear River channel
Date:	Thursday, June 20, 2024 4:09:21 PM

Good afternoon,

We live on Bald Head Island and face the river, so we are very concerned with the shipping channel. The vessels usually reach a speed of 10-12 knots as they pass us, going in and out. This obviously causes a "reaction" with the water as the channel is both narrow and deep. In fact, our beach is the "red marker" for the channel! Please advise me if I can help you in anyway.

Best regards,



Sent from my iPhone

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Cape Fear River channel comment
Date:	Saturday, June 22, 2024 3:39:37 PM

Deepening the shipping channel and expanding the harbor in Wilmington, NC will compromise water quality due to contamination and sedimentation from dredge material disposal - which is impacted by "forever chemicals" and other industrial contaminants. The activity of dredging itself can negatively impact water quality by stirring up heavy metals and other toxic materials that may be found on the bottom of the river.

Primary nursery areas, that serve the majority of commercially important fin fish and shell fish, will be reduced by the proposed widening and deepening of the Cape Fear River.

Sacrificing water quality and wildlife habitat for commerce will impair our quality of life.

Thank you,

Wilmington, NC

Sent from my iPad

From: To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Cc: Subject: Date:	[Non-DoD Source] Comments Concerns Regarding Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:58:14 AM

Good morning. I received notification of the request for comments on

Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS

First - please know the following about us and our businesses that are located in the Wilmington/New Hanover County area.

- We are residents of New Hanover County and have lived in downtown Wilmington, Castle Hayne and Carolina Beach, NC.
- We moved to Wilmington 25 years ago, by choice, over several other Southern US Cities.
- We created multiple businesses and operate them from New Hanover County.
- One of these businesses includes manufacturing product overseas and importing it by containers to the Port of Wilmington NC.
- We have imported containers each year for the past 8+ years through the Port of Wilmington NC
 - We choose the Port of Wilmington over other east coast ports due to its proximity to our warehouse and office.
 - This typically costs more than if we were to choose Baltimore, NYC, Charleston and West Coast ports.
 - We understand this is due to the limitations of the Port of Wilmington, as we must use smaller container ships, due to the size limitations of the Cape Fear River.

We have no issues with paying more for ocean freight due to these size limitations of the Port of Wilmington. We have no issues with that as we prioritize the conservation of the Cape Fear River and surrounding areas.

We not only live in and admire the Cape Fear area but enjoy the opportunities it provides with our family for outdoor recreation, hiking, mountain biking/fat biking, the beaches, fishing and kayaking through the local parks and public areas.

We DO NOT want to see the Port of Wilmington expanded by widening and deepening the channels currently used in the Cape Fear River.

The devastating impact on the river, including the species that rely on it for survival, is unacceptable and not worth the "opportunities" provided by this project. It is ok to leave the Port of Wilmington as it is with it inherent size and cargo limitations.

The U.S has over 50 ports and harbours, and that includes 8 Major Ports on the US East Coast.

If US businesses need deeper channels and wider cargo lanes, they already have them available up and down the East, West and Gulf Coasts. Wilmington NC does not need to compete with the Ports of New York and New Jersey, Savannah, Virginia, Charleston, Baltimore, as well as the Gulf and West Coast ports. All of these are in the Top 50 US Ports by Volume.

The Port of Wilmington is currently not ranked in The Top 50 US Ports By Volume. That is ok as we recently reached a new record volume with the Current Channel depth and width.

We will not overtake the Top 50 Ports in the US and the Port of Wilmington is already operating at Record Levels.

JULY 31, 2023

Wilmington, N.C. – The North Carolina State Ports Authority reported record operating revenue of \$79.3 million for Fiscal Year 2023 which is a 16.7% increase from the previous record of \$68 million set in Fiscal Year 2022. This strong performance was driven by year-over-year growth in throughput volume, a record year for general cargo, and strong annual intermodal growth.

The Most Important Question Is - Why do we need to expand the Port of Wilmington and without question, endanger and partially destroy the primary reason why people move to and choose to live in the Wilmington NC/Cape Fear area, when our port is already operating at record levels?

The Answer Is - We Don't Need To.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.



七転び八起き (*nana korobi ya oki*) ... "Fall seven times, get up eight." – Japanese Proverb

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Devastation to our River Environment
Date:	Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:08:21 PM

I am very concerned about the extremely negative environmental outcomes from deepening the river.

The biggest concern is salt water intrusion which will result in massive tree die-off.

As someone who has banded terns on one of the Cape Fear River islands, I worry that a deeper channel will inundate this critical nesting habitat.

Propellers from more and larger ships will no doubt mean more deadly strikes to mammals, turtles and fish.

Water quality will be greatly diminished from erosion and the churning of the river bottom, releasing PFAS and other toxins.

Thank you for the opportunity to give comments on this most important matter.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 12:50:14 PM

I say no to dredging Wilmington Harbor and development by the river.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 12:26:52 AM

I very action made and every choice affects millions. Humans, wildlife, animals, fish, futures. Please do not dredge our harbor. Enough is enough. We have to start looking at what is best for our planet and our future and stop letting dollars be the driving force of decision making. Kim Beller

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 12:05:22 AM

This project is not worth the cost. There are several other ports available for large shipping. Wilmington will never be able to compete.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:54:44 PM

The dredging you are considering for Wilmington Harbor will be devastating to our harbor and the ecology and habitats of fish and wildlife. Please do not do this dredging!

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:40:35 PM

In the 37 years I lived in Wilmington I was always amazed at its beauty. I showed off the city to visitors with great pride. The scenic landmarks include the waterway, the wetlands and so much more. To damage these gifts of nature all in the name of ?progress? would be criminal. Please take a drive and look around at what makes Wilmington and the surrounding area so beautiful and then try to visualize it all without that natural beauty. I pray that you all will come to the conclusion that this is wrong and terribly destructive. Be proud of your city and its natural resources, leave it alone. Thank you

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:31:09 PM

The dredging of our harbors does so much damage to life below water, and it?s never productive in the long run. Please use forethought for this issue!

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



@usace.army.mil
n"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
24 11:31:00 PM
)

I will add to the existing message, adding my plea to no dredging of the Wilmington Harbor! The increased development of this area on the Cape Fear River will affect wetlands, quality of water and our wildlife and this must stop! The Lord has provided our beautiful country and we are destroying it. Please refrain from this construction in our waterways and land.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:30:57 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:21:00 PM

For all the mentioned environmental concerns I don't see a net value to dredging this area unless there is a malevolent hidden purpose? Isn't the traffic at the port providing significant damage enough as is?

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:15:25 PM

We already have so many ghost forests, please don?t make it worse! The saltwater is ruining the wetlands, not to mention the town doesn?t need anymore flooding. Please don?t dredge.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 10:16:16 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 7:40:25 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 6:16:40 PM

This plan would result in disastrous impacts, which include:

- ? Stirring up and suspending PFAS and other toxic chemicals in the water column,
- ? Worsening saltwater intrusion, ghost forests, and sunny-day flooding,
- ? Destroying pristine and invaluable wetlands and increasing shoreline erosion,
- ? Destroying fish and wildlife habitats, including those of threatened and endangered species, and
- ? Degrading fisheries and migratory bird habitats on the river?s islands, shoals and mud flats.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:23:47 PM

When is it enough? When do we leave nature as it is, appreciate what we already use, and quit destroying more habitats? Probably never right!? Unless you change your mind now. Please weigh out the real pros and cons of this project and if all you see are dollar signs and more growth that Wilmington could do without, change your minds. Prove that Wilmington really does care about the wellbeing of the river, land, animals, and the people. Make it a mission to show the community that Wilmington does care about more than dollar signs?that Wilmington cares about local business, local art, its residents, and local wildlife and habitats. Please.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:18:57 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:15:56 PM

I am a concerned wilmington resident

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:02:30 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:36:08 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:23:49 PM

There?s too much at stake regarding people and wildlife. There is no need to do this as it doesn?t add anything to the port

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:17:26 PM

Environmental impact of dredging the Wilmington Harbor would have serious negative environmental impact on entire ecosystem of the river.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:16:27 PM

Environmental impact of dredging the Wilmington Harbor would have serious negative environmental impact on entire ecosystem of the river.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:15:54 PM

Please help the people and wildlife in Wilmington stay safe! No expansion of the port!

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:14:24 PM

Please do not destroy our natural waterway and habitats for many types of animals. We love it the way it is. We do not need another deep water channel for super tankers or cargo ships.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:08:11 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:49:44 PM

I agree with Sierra Club that dredging is unnecessary and destroys the environment.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



To: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:49:23 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	<u> WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil</u>
Subject:	Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Fhursday, July 11, 2024 2:41:43 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



DO NOT DREDGE PLEASE.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:21:02 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:14:28 PM

I am tired of commercial gains having priority over environmental concerns in our state and country. We need to improve our quality of life over greed.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:54:25 PM

Why must water quality, wildlife and other valuable and natural resources always be sacrificed for the bottom line? This dredging is not needed and will definitely do more harm where it counts to our environment, or water and our health. I urge you to drop this plan.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:48:32 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:48:01 PM

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:47:20 PM

Please consider the long-term effects on wildlife and their habitat before making this decision. Our natural treasures can't be replaced and this project will do serious damage. Some things are just more valuable than any dollar amount.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Don"t dredge Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 10:45:09 PM

No one can control the toxic chemicals that will be stirred up or the salt water intrusion that will happen to surrounding areas. T if the damage cannot be controlled then it shouldn?t be done I the first place.

As you finalize plans to expand the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to remove dredging of Wilmington Harbor from the project.

I understand the need for the Port to serve current and future commercial shipping. But the dredging plans are far in excess of what's needed and, importantly, are far outweighed by the devastating environmental impacts that will result, endangering people and wildlife.

Our drinking water will be damaged by PFAS and other toxic substances that will become suspended in the water column. Fisheries and wildlife habitats ? including those of endangered and threatened species ? will be disrupted. Flooding and saltwater intrusion will increase. Wetlands and shorelines will be irreperably harmed.

Please remove dredging from the Port of Wilmington expansion plan, which must give paramount consideration to our fundamental needs for clean drinking water and safe places to live for all living things in the region.

Sincerely,



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Dredging the Cape Fear River for Ports Authority
Date:	Monday, June 17, 2024 11:45:57 AM

Has adequate consideration been given to the aquifers lying under the river and the subsequent issues that would be created

if they are breached at any or multiple locations?

Please advise.

From: To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Even with expansion the port of Wilmington is pretty much destined to remain a shallow water port because it fills up with sand every 3yearsWilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 6:10:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Lower Cape Fear River Project
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 2:27:02 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Have we learned nothing from our past experiences with the long term effects on the environment caused by these "economic" projects! The results of projects such as this will be felt for decades to come. In all good conscience I cannot support this action based on the reasons given for its purpose.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Native Wilmingtonian against deepening the port
Date:	Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:27:09 PM

Being a native Wilmingtonian for over 60 years, I've watched habitats destroyed in the name of greed disguised as progress on land as well as along the shoreline. Deepening the port of Wilmington will be detrimental to our environment and our community. Every singe reason listed below is extremely valid and I hope you will consider a healthy environment is much more beneficial to everyone in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties than increased revenue for our port.

I encourage you to vote against deepening the channel as this will be an unwelcome intrusion for our communities.

Wilmington, NC 28409

Deepening and widening the Federal ship channel will:

- Negatively impact fish and wildlife habitats including threatened and endangered species and marine mammals;
- Degrade water and air quality;
- Increase flooding as more water can surge up the river during hurricanes and other extreme weather events;
- Cause more saltwater to intrude further up the river, changing salinity and killing trees;
- Increase wetland and shoreline erosion along the river and on adjacent oceanfront beaches. Long-term erosion trends along both Bald Head and Oak Islands have already been attributed to modifications to the ship channel. More deepening and widening of the channel, "softening" river bends, and extending the channel seaward would likely affect wave energy and sediment dynamics of the entire region. Larger wakes from bigger and more numerous ships which will increase already significant shoreline erosion.
- Result in more vessel strikes of turtles, mammals, and fish.
- Degrade fishery and bird habitats associated with estuarine islands, shoals and mudflats that provide essential bird resting and foraging habitats.

Natural attributes of the river that need protecting include:

- Spectacular barrier islands, tidal creeks, and marsh ecosystems teaming with wildlife. Fish habitats, vital to our state's economy, provide for a variety of species, including red drum, mackerel, cobia, bluefish, flounder, shrimp, ten shark species, and over fifty snapper-grouper species.
- "Primary nursery areas" where post-larval and juvenile development of young finfish

and crustaceans takes place, and the lower river is also designated as critical habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon, which can live up to sixty years and travels upriver to spawn.

- Turtles are commonly found near the Wilmington Port, and neighboring Caswell Beach and Bald Head Island are important nesting grounds for federally protected sea turtles, and within the river, sandy shorelines, shell rakes, and marsh edges are nesting sites for state-listed diamondback terrapins.
- Birds throughout the year include over 330 species spotted in this region, from bald eagles to piping plovers. Thousands of shorebirds stop over during spring and fall migration and to overwinter. Over 25% of the State's coastal waterbirds depend on the Lower Cape Fear River region for nesting.
- Water quality will degrade because of contamination and sedimentation from dredge material disposal which is impacted by PFAS and other industrial contaminants and the activity of dredging itself can negatively impact water quality by stirring up sediments and toxic materials that may be found on the bottom of the river.
- Harbor deepening can also reduce dissolved oxygen levels to unnaturally low levels on the river's bottom, as well as alter the salinity profiles of the river.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Nature is more fragile and its diversity more important than a ports expansion! ilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:07:09 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Opposed to deepening and widening
Date:	Thursday, June 27, 2024 7:20:08 PM

I am opposed to the proposed deepening and widening of the Cape Fear River channel because I believe the costs greatly outweigh the benefits. Of course, there are the financial costs of the dredging, but the environmental costs are even greater. These costs include increased beach and river shoreline erosion, worse flooding along the river, and more damage to the ecosystem of the Lower Cape Fear from increased salt water intrusion.

It is time for the ports of the world to unite and tell the shipping industry that they will not accommodate any further increases in ship size. Ships have gotten too big now. Any benefit from increased efficiency of larger ships is far outweighed by the environmental and dredging costs that are incurred to accommodate them. Excessive ship size increases the risk of accidents like the destruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge or the blocking of the Suez Canal.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Please consider bird impacts of the Wilmington Port expansion proposal
Date:	Thursday, June 20, 2024 2:08:43 PM

The proposed expansion of the Wilmington Port will have major impacts on the birds of the Cape Fear River. The river is home to 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

These birds nest on low-lying islands that already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites. Ultimately, it could put these bird populations in jeopardy.

I am particularly fond of the White Ibis colony at Battery Island. Thousands of these graceful wading birds nest on the island each year, but the habitat is already being eroded away. The expansion proposal would make it much worse. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Please evaluate the impact of the proposed Wilmington Port expansion
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:38:43 PM

As a constituent and someone who is concerned about our dimisihing wildlife, especially birds, I urge you to make sure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington. Please consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

25 percent of the NC's coastal waterbirds nest there, nearly all of them are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

This project would significantly compromise the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

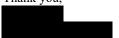
As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. These species will be put at serious risk by this project.

Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



<u>sace.army.mil</u>		
[Non-DoD Source] PLEASE		
3:39:00 PM		

DO NOT WIDEN or damage this environmental delicate poor little river. Stop, please, ruining this wonderful gift.....The Cape Fear River. Thank you,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Port Deepening Material Publication
Date:	Friday, June 14, 2024 4:04:11 PM

Good afternoon,

I wanted to follow up on my questions at the meeting yesterday at Sunset Elementary School where I asked when the materials shown at that meeting will be online for inspection. They are informative and will help frame questions and comments regarding the port deepening.

I would certainly appreciate being able to view them. Thank you for your help. The meeting and the webinars were very informative.

Thanks,

Roger



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Port expansion
Date:	Monday, June 17, 2024 8:41:19 PM

I am writing regarding the proposal to deepen the river for the Wilmington Port. I do not support the proposal primarily due to the effect on downtown Wilmington with flooding. Both the number of flooding events and volume/duration of water have increased downtown. A study conducted by The University of Central Florida stated Wilmington N.C. had the most severe tidal changes of all locations studied. It also stated this is " mainly due to extensive dredging, channel deepening, and associated reduction of hydraulic drag," according to the research.

In addition, the deepening of the river has had a significant and detrimental effect on the salinization of both the Cape Fear River and its tributaries.

Thank you,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Proposal by the State Port of Wilmington
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:37:12 AM

I am writing to oppose the proposal by the State Port of Wilmington to widen and deepen Wilmington Harbor.

This proposal would have a devastating and everlasting effect on the environment, wildlife and the community

of New Hanover County.

We need to protect against shoreline erosion! We need to provide protection for fish, turtles and birds that

inhabit this area! We need protection of water quality!

We need to keep Wilmington and New Hanover County as ecological sound environments for its citizens to enjoy

for years to come.

Thank you for doing the right thing......and oppose the proposal!

Concerned Citizen of Wilmington and New Hanover County

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] question/comment regarding beneficial use of dredge material form proposed channel deepening
Date:	Tuesday, June 4, 2024 9:36:08 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	image002.png
	image003.png
	image004.png

Please accept the following question/comment is that of me as a citizen, not that of

Recent research on PFOS/PFOA and other forever chemicals indicate more affinity for adsorption to sediment and storage in pore water than previously understood. With confirmed GEN-X contamination in the Cape Fear River water, the likelihood of impacted sediment is high. What procedures and criteria will be used to characterize the sediment for beneficial use (including secondary source to surface and groundwater after final disposition) and how will elutriate be evaluated (on what criteria) for impact of resuspended sediment and contaminants to water quality during dredging.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Cc:	
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] RE: Comments Concerns Regarding Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS
Date:	Saturday, June 22, 2024 8:56:59 AM

Thanks for taking the time to comment on this. I am hopeful our comments will be heard and taken into consideration. The destruction cycle has to stop for our future generations



----- Original message ------

From: Date: 6/20/24 10:57 AM (GMT-05:00) To: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil Cc:

Subject: Comments Concerns Regarding Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS

Good morning. I received notification of the request for comments on

Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS

First - please know the following about us and our businesses that are located in the Wilmington/New Hanover County area.

- We are residents of New Hanover County and have lived in downtown Wilmington, Castle Hayne and Carolina Beach, NC.
- We moved to Wilmington 25 years ago, by choice, over several other Southern US Cities.
- We created multiple businesses and operate them from New Hanover County.
- One of these businesses includes manufacturing product overseas and importing it by containers to the Port
 of Wilmington NC.
- We have imported containers each year for the past 8+ years through the Port of Wilmington NC
 - We choose the Port of Wilmington over other east coast ports due to its proximity to our warehouse and office.
 - This typically costs more than if we were to choose Baltimore, NYC, Charleston and West Coast ports.
 - We understand this is due to the limitations of the Port of Wilmington, as we must use smaller container ships, due to the size limitations of the Cape Fear River.

We have no issues with paying more for ocean freight due to these size limitations of the Port of Wilmington. We have no issues with that as we prioritize the conservation of the Cape Fear River and surrounding areas.

We not only live in and admire the Cape Fear area but enjoy the opportunities it provides with our family for outdoor recreation, hiking, mountain biking/fat biking, the beaches, fishing and kayaking through the local parks and public areas.

We DO NOT want to see the Port of Wilmington expanded by widening and deepening the channels currently used in the Cape Fear River.

The devastating impact on the river, including the species that rely on it for survival, is unacceptable and not worth the "opportunities" provided by this project. It is ok to leave the Port of Wilmington as it is with it inherent size and

cargo limitations.

The U.S has over 50 ports and harbours, and that includes 8 Major Ports on the US East Coast.

If US businesses need deeper channels and wider cargo lanes, they already have them available up and down the East, West and Gulf Coasts. Wilmington NC does not need to compete with the Ports of New York and New Jersey, Savannah, Virginia, Charleston, Baltimore, as well as the Gulf and West Coast ports. All of these are in the Top 50 US Ports by Volume.

The Port of Wilmington is currently not ranked in The Top 50 US Ports By Volume. That is ok as we recently reached a new record volume with the Current Channel depth and width.

We will not overtake the Top 50 Ports in the US and the Port of Wilmington is already operating at Record Levels.

JULY 31, 2023

Wilmington, N.C. – The North Carolina State Ports Authority reported record operating revenue of \$79.3 million for Fiscal Year 2023 which is a 16.7% increase from the previous record of \$68 million set in Fiscal Year 2022. This strong performance was driven by year-over-year growth in throughput volume, a record year for general cargo, and strong annual intermodal growth.

The Most Important Question Is - Why do we need to expand the Port of Wilmington and without question, endanger and partially destroy the primary reason why people move to and choose to live in the Wilmington NC/Cape Fear area, when our port is already operating at record levels?

The Answer Is - We Don't Need To.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.



七転び八起き (*nana korobi ya oki*) ... "Fall seven times, get up eight." – Japanese Proverb WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil

Subject: Date:

From:

Cc:

[Non-DoD Source] Re: Comments Concerns Regarding Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS Sunday, June 23, 2024 6:22:13 AM

Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & EIS

First - please know the following about us and our businesses that are located in the Wilmington/New Hanover County area.

- We are residents of New Hanover County and have lived in downtown Wilmington, Castle Hayne and Carolina Beach, NC.
- We moved to Wilmington 25 years ago, by choice, over several other Southern US Cities.
- We created multiple businesses and operate them from New Hanover County.
- One of these businesses includes manufacturing product overseas and importing it by containers to the Port of Wilmington NC.
- We have imported containers each year for the past 8+ years through the Port of Wilmington NC
 - We choose the Port of Wilmington over other east coast ports due to its proximity to our warehouse and office.
 - This typically costs more than if we were to choose Baltimore, NYC, Charleston and West Coast ports.
 - We understand this is due to the limitations of the Port of Wilmington, as we must use smaller container ships, due to the size limitations of the Cape Fear River.

We have no issues with paying more for ocean freight due to these size limitations of the Port of Wilmington. We have no issues with that as we prioritize the conservation of the Cape Fear River and surrounding areas.

We not only live in and admire the Cape Fear area but enjoy the opportunities it provides with our family for outdoor recreation, hiking, mountain biking/fat biking, the beaches, fishing and kayaking through the local parks and public areas.

We DO NOT want to see the Port of Wilmington expanded by widening and deepening the channels currently used in the Cape Fear River.

The devastating impact on the river, including the species that rely on it for survival, is unacceptable and not worth the "opportunities" provided by this project. It is ok to leave the Port of Wilmington as it is with it inherent size and cargo limitations.

The U.S has over 50 ports and harbours, and that includes 8 Major Ports on the US East Coast.

If US businesses need deeper channels and wider cargo lanes, they already have them available up and down the East, West and Gulf Coasts. Wilmington NC does not need to compete with the Ports of New York and New Jersey, Savannah, Virginia, Charleston, Baltimore, as well as the Gulf and West Coast ports. All of these are in the Top 50 US Ports by Volume.

The Port of Wilmington is currently not ranked in The Top 50 US Ports By Volume. That is ok as we recently reached a new record volume with the Current Channel depth and width.

We will not overtake the Top 50 Ports in the US and the Port of Wilmington is already operating at Record Levels.

JULY 31, 2023

Wilmington, N.C. – The North Carolina State Ports Authority reported record operating revenue of \$79.3 million for Fiscal Year 2023 which is a 16.7% increase from the previous record of \$68 million set in Fiscal Year 2022. This strong performance was driven by year-over-year growth in throughput volume, a record year for general cargo, and strong annual intermodal growth.

The Most Important Question Is - Why do we need to expand the Port of Wilmington and without question, endanger and partially destroy the primary reason why people move to and choose to live in the Wilmington NC/Cape Fear area, when our port is already operating at record levels?

The Answer Is - We Don't Need To.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

From:
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 2:09 PM
To: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Cc:

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Harbor Deepening Information on Storm Surge Water Level at Wilmington Gauge

Good afternoon,

At one of the webinar sessions last week on the modeling for water levels, SLR, etc. it was mentioned that the reference record high water level that is being used is the Hurricane Florence water levels. I mentioned in the session that Hurricane Isaias actually has the record for the highest measured water level at the NOAA Gauge at the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge/Wilmington. The actual data is for these two events is listed below. I like to use MHHW for illustration purposes for flooding on Eagles Island is why I use that instead of MHW or other.

Date	Height (Feet above MHHW)	Event Category	Event
August 4, 2020	4.35	Tropical Storm	Hurricane Isaias
September 14, 2018	3.60	Tropical Storm	Hurricane Florence

In addition, I mentioned about the historic rice canals and ditches located along the Cape Fear and tributaries as well as on Eagles Island. If you want to talk about those I would be happy to discuss that, too. They are very important.

If you have any questions on these please let me know.

Thank you for putting on the sessions. They were very informative.



From: Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 8:41 PM To: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Port expansion

I am writing regarding the proposal to deepen the river for the Wilmington Port. I do not support the proposal primarily due to the effect on downtown Wilmington with flooding. Both the number of flooding events and volume/duration of water have increased downtown. A study conducted by The

University of Central Florida stated Wilmington N.C. had the most severe tidal changes of all locations studied. It also stated this is " mainly due to extensive dredging, channel deepening, and associated reduction of hydraulic drag," according to the research.

In addition, the deepening of the river has had a significant and detrimental effect on the salinization of both the Cape Fear River and its tributaries.

Thank you,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Cc:	
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Section 403 Wilmington Harbor Project, Scoping Comments
Date:	Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:12:31 PM
Attachments:	Scoping Comments June 2024 Letterhead Engineering.docx

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the commenting opportunity! Feel free to call with questions and/or clarifications.





NEW HANOVER COUNTY

ENGINEERING

230 Government Center Drive, Suite 160, Wilmington, NC 28403 P: (910) 798-7139 | F: (910) 798-7805 | NHCgov.com

Tim Lowe, County Engineer

11 July 2024

Attention: Bret Walters, Planning/Environmental Chief Wilmington District, US Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Wilmington Harbor Section 403 Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement New Hanover County Scoping Comments

Via: <u>WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil</u>

New Hanover County (NHC) recognizes and supports the waterborne commerce that the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA), Port of Wilmington (POW) brings directly to NHC as well as the economic engine the NCSPA supports in NC and surrounding Regions. NHC would like to provide the following comments associated with the Section 403 study.

NHC would like the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure by sampling, modeling and/or monitoring the following elements of the proposed Wilmington Harbor Project (WHP) improvements.

- 1. Ensure the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority's (CFPUA) freshwater intake system behind Lock and Dam One is not jeopardized by an increased saltwater wedge moving upstream resulting from a larger volumetric tidal inflow.
- 2. Define project effects associated with maintaining Carolina Beach Inlet in terms of increased volumes of both water and sediment, the potential increase of "sunny day flooding" events within Carolina Beach Harbor and future operations & maintenance efforts within Snow's Cut.
- 3. Ensure the protection of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach potable groundwater aquifers and provide potential mitigation strategies.
- 4. Include the Cape Fear River's middle reaches within a dredge material management plan benefiting the Carolina Beach and Kure Beach coastal storm damage reduction projects.

We appreciate the opportunity and support prudent strategies ensuring successful results.



NHC, Shore Protection

Cc: <u>tlowe@nhcgov.com</u>

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Think of the birds!
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:06:55 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,	_	

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Widening and dredging
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:26:54 PM

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing to echo the concerns regarding widening the Wilmington Harbor and deepening the federal ship channel. The NC Coastal Federation has point by point elucidated the detrimental impact this project will wreak upon the Cape Fear River and the negative effects upon Bald Head Island and Oak Island. I concur with the NC Coastal Federation and adamantly oppose this project. I am an Oak Island resident and have already witnessed how our coast line has been negatively impacted by erosion. I want to protect my coast and my property value. Again, I am in strong opposition to the project.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor, please stop the destruction
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:06:14 AM

How do we save what's left of our sensitive ecosystem? Greed has taken over this beautiful area. This project would have devastating impacts on the environment, including harming fish and wildlife habitats and some of our threatened and endangered species! Please reconsider, for the sake of nature, the animals who can't speak for themselves, all aquatic life. Haven't we destroyed it enough?

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion impacts nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:25:14 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 2:51:15 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 11:44:48 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River. Why is there a need for another port at this time? Hasn't the NC coastal region been developed and ruined enough? From the horrific lumber/pulp industry to CAFOS to rampant building in towns like Wilmington, there is nothing left for wildlife. No new port!!!!



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 10, 2024 10:01:14 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 10, 2024 2:20:00 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 9, 2024 11:23:45 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:58:28 AM

Please act responsibly and deliberately.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 8, 2024 4:06:34 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 8, 2024 10:11:53 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 8, 2024 9:06:18 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird-nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of white ibis, brown pelicans, and royal and sandwich terns. Nearly all these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal bird life. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibises soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 8, 2024 8:31:42 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Sunday, July 7, 2024 7:01:31 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Sunday, July 7, 2024 3:28:39 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Sunday, July 7, 2024 10:44:51 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 8:07:51 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 3:28:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 2:27:19 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 2:10:53 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 1:37:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 1:28:47 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 11:56:07 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, July 6, 2024 11:03:14 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 5, 2024 7:28:12 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 5, 2024 3:12:15 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 5, 2024 1:13:27 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 5, 2024 1:10:19 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 5, 2024 12:32:46 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 11:08:39 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:09:33 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:30:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:20:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 5:03:44 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 3:24:14 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 2:43:45 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 2:01:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 12:46:56 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and other wildlife and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

Sincerely,	

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 12:16:49 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 12:10:36 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 11:38:01 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:48:20 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:40:26 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:25:49 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:01:20 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 9:40:47 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 8:21:32 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 8:03:37 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:47:28 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:45:39 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:26:36 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:55:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:34:21 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:26:14 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:16:16 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:02:40 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:53:42 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:45:56 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:33:40 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 5:53:47 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:42:02 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Big commercial ships vs the natural things that God gave us to appreciate. This is a true crime against Nature.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:40:32 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:30:59 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:22:28 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:19:36 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:00:29 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 3:13:19 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 3:09:39 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:54:42 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:54:01 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

I am not an Audubon member but am a native North Carolinian raised near lock #3 and a wildlife artist and birder. In my lifetime I have seen so much habitat loss and bird populations decline. I am certain you know restoring habitat is expensive and takes years to be effective. Please don't let economic interests overrule a project that will likely destroy what cannot be replaced.

Thank you, John Sill

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:53:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:46:14 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:27:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 2:19:02 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:59:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:47:44 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:12:43 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:07:49 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, please pay attention to the crucial place of the Cape Fear River to birds. Your project would severely damage their nesting grounds, and after periodic reports of the billions of birds lost over past decades, every nesting ground must be preserved.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:56:53 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:39:05 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:32:13 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:18:25 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:08:58 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:00:44 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:59:51 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:59:10 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:52:00 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:49:20 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:28:40 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:23:15 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:23:00 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:06:44 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:05:44 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:00:08 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:54:49 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:48:43 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:40:38 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:18:03 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:14:56 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:12:55 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:06:40 AM

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not the right agency to evaluate the impacts of a major expansion of the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:04:49 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 10:03:15 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:53:28 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:41:30 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:39:34 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:39:12 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:34:00 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:31:29 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:28:38 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:25:27 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:24:24 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:21:22 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:08:45 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

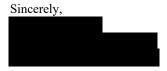
As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:00:25 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:58:18 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:53:16 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:51:20 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:49:09 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:48:11 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:47:10 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:41:37 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:40:28 AM

Dear Sirs,

As area residents we are deeply concerned by the idea to expand the port to support larger vessels. As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:40:21 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:39:07 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:29:18 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:26:44 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:23:57 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:08:37 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8:05:15 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:57:19 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:44:04 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:44:02 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:35:18 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:33:31 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:29:03 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:26:02 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

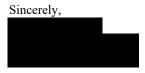


From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:24:01 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:16:04 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:00:58 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:36:29 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:33:00 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 5:44:02 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 5:44:00 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 5:43:56 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 5:33:29 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:42:53 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:40:40 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:24:26 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:18:31 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:14:56 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:04:28 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:37:26 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:36:30 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:23:28 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:00:17 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:41:06 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:37:17 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

The complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river host 25 PERCENT OF ALL OF NORTH CAROLUNA'S COASTAL NESTING WATERBIRDS! Some of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

I certainly hope that the Army Corps is seriously and completely following NEPA's requirements in its analysis of this project. The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. The Army Core must design this project so that it will not lead to even bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

North Carolina's coastal birdlife will be put at serious risk by this project if it is not properly designed and implemented. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:27:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:20:39 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Wilmington doesn't need to accommodate larger ships. The online shopping bubble will burst soon enough. Endless expansion is a waste.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:13:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 11:08:22 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:54:17 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:52:09 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:45:18 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:40:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:31:47 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:29:12 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:27:03 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:26:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:21:01 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:18:59 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:12:55 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:08:11 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have a negative impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:05:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I respectfully urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:05:28 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:01:05 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:54:59 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

We have a finite window to preserve these bird populations.

Julia McCollum

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:51:59 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:48:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:46:55 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:35:51 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:25:06 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:24:49 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:15:41 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Thanks for your consideration.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:11:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:10:51 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:08:45 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:56:00 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:52:59 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,

Liz Dyer

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:52:38 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:49:55 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:45:08 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

We have lost so many bird and other species that we simply can't afford any more destruction of their habitats. I hope your creativity can lead any projects you have for construction in the area to a way to protect the bird and other wildlife so that both humans and animals can thrive with minimum loss to either. Of course no loss at all would be the best outcome.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:41:10 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:40:11 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

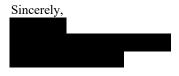
As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:20:32 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:19:07 PM

Please protect our water birds' nesting areas as you consider how to expand the port! As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:19:01 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:12:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:12:01 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:08:56 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would be very harmful to nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:08:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:06:09 PM

I'm writing today about the proposed deepening and widening expansion of the Cape Fear River at the Port of Wilmington, to which I'm much opposed because I don't believe that the Corps has fully considered the impact on nesting shorebirds, some of them very much endangered. I ask that the Corps consider these impacts very seriously and commit to a different plan with less impact on the waterbirds.

As I very much hope you know, low-lying island sanctuaries in the Cape Fear River host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds. Let's just pause for a moment to be sure we all understand the magnitude of this percentage: that's 25% of the state's total--a HUGE percentage. These colonies include white Ibis, American oystercatchers, brown pelicans, and threatened terns--state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extinction in NC. The fact that they may survive elsewhere does not excuse us, that is, North Carolinians, from our responsibility to protect them here--not when these populations represent such a large percentage of our breeding coastal waterbirds.

As I also hope you know, these nesting islands already suffer from erosion; current ship wakes and rising seas only increase this threat. Deepening and widening the Cape Fear River channel will lead to bigger wakes, more waves, and substantially increased erosion of these sites.

I know the temptation to increase shipping and shipping-related profits is seductive, and perpetual. But profits can be gotten elsewhere. Royal and Sandwich terns? 25% of North Carolina's nesting coastal waterbirds? Not so much. We tend to think of such resources as "free" because the planet doesn't charge us for them in dollars and cents, when the reality is that they are irreplaceable and--literally--priceless.

Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River and protect these nesting sites by choosing another plan--either for more moderate expansion of the channel, or for no expansion at all. Once gone, these waterbirds won't return.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:06:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:05:44 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:04:24 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 7:58:02 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:26:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:25:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:24:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:24:28 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:24:13 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:23:57 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:23:52 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:22:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As a retired US Army Colonel, I certainly appreciate and support the US Army Corps of Engineers and their magnificent efforts supporting our infrastructure.

However, I am also an engaged coastal North Carolinian, Audubon member, and lover of North Carolina wildlife. Not only is wildlife--particularly seabirds and shorebirds--essential to a healthy ecosystem; it is also an essential draw for visitors and their tourism dollars: essential to the economic health of the region.

While the port expansion project will benefit commerce, it will have the unintended consequence of jeopardizing species habit and nesting areas.

I urge you closely evaluate the impacts of port expansion on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:22:13 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:22:11 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:22:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:21:45 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:21:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:20:46 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:19:34 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River. We must preserve our natural resources which includes the delicate wildlife.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:19:17 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:19:07 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:18:39 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:18:12 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:18:11 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:17:18 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:17:16 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:17:15 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:16:33 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:16:18 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:16:09 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:44 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:43 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:34 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:31 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:16 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:13 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:10 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:09 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:15:03 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:43 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:37 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:27 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:14:03 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:13:30 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:13:28 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 1, 2024 11:41:23 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Monday, July 1, 2024 11:30:37 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Sunday, June 30, 2024 3:17:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Sunday, June 30, 2024 2:25:53 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, June 29, 2024 2:09:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, June 29, 2024 11:04:39 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

You have gotten similar messages from NC Audubon, so I won't reiterate why there is such concern. When I retired and developed a passion for birds it really opened my eyes to how the birds tell a story about the damage we can do to the environment. The price we pay down the line for commercial interests now can be devastating. I hope you will look very carefully at how this expansion will affect the habitat used by so many nesting birds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,	_		

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Saturday, June 29, 2024 10:35:04 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Please don't allow something this precious to be destroyed!



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 10:45:11 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 5:51:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 5:14:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 3:51:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 3:06:50 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 2:57:45 PM

A big NO to anything that will harm the nesting water birds on the Cape Fear River. This is no small project that will destroy low lying island sanctuaries and egregiously harm the birds that depend on them.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerery,		

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 2:51:26 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 2:23:24 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 2:02:57 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 1:27:16 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 1:23:47 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:55:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:44:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:42:49 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:41:09 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:35:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have Negative Dramatic Impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:11:52 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:05:13 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 11:55:05 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 11:53:27 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 11:53:21 AM

PLEASE PROTECT OUR INCREDIBLE NC WILDLIFE!!!

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Sincerely,			
	om	L	

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 11:49:56 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:12:21 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Thursday, June 27, 2024 2:27:47 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



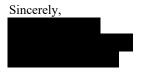
From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:31:31 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:11:19 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:03:13 PM

The Cape Fear River should be left as is and not ruined by expansion on your port project! As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:24:02 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

Beyond the birds, there are many reasons why this area SHOULD NOT be developed!!! Please reconsider!



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:23:47 PM

Human beings are becoming more and more proficient at thriving, moving goods, and building as years go by and as our population grows. Unfortunately, our wildlife are paying the price for all this human progress. Beautiful birds like Brown Pelicans and White Ibis are in the bullseye for this project! As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:28:48 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:27:06 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 10:58:42 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 6:53:25 AM

STOP THIS. It is imperative to consider wildlife. Find a way to improve the Port without without threatening any species that luves or breeds in these waters.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 6:36:09 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:37:33 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:28:29 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:34:12 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:05:31 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:56:04 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:48:06 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:08:45 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:07:49 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic and negative impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:12:37 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:54 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:30:02 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:18:35 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:55:09 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:43:55 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
To: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil	
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on new	sting birds
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:48:26 AM	

Hi,

Please keep in mind the importance of our natural resources.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:41:29 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:16:28 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:13:32 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:59:59 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:58:08 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:33:06 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:20:16 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:11:47 AM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port expansion would have dramatic impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, July 12, 2024 4:33:19 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.

As an Audubon member and lover of North Carolina wildlife, I know that I'm not alone in my passion for our amazing coastal birdlife. A trip to the beach or the river wouldn't be the same without the strings of pelicans and ibis soaring overhead. But these species will be put at serious risk by this project. Please closely evaluate the impacts that the expansion will have on the birds of the Cape Fear River.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Port impact on nesting birds
Date:	Friday, June 28, 2024 12:12:37 PM

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the impacts of a major expansion at the Port of Wilmington, I urge you to consider the importance of the Cape Fear River to birds and the significant impact the project would have on their nesting grounds.

Audubon North Carolina monitors and manages a complex of low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries on the lower portion of the river. These sites host 25 percent of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds, including large colonies of White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Nearly all of these species are state-listed species of concern, meaning they are already at risk of serious decline and even extirpation from North Carolina.

The nesting islands already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes and rising seas. This project would lead to bigger wakes, more waves, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these sites, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat there, and thus the larger population of these species in the state.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Comment to USACE re: Wilmington Harbor project, July 16, 2024
Date:	Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:15:57 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	7.16.24 LB Ltr to USACE re Wilmington Cape Fear River - Environmental Impact Statement.docx



July 16, 2024

Colonel Brad A. Morgan Commander, USACE Wilmington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re: Public Comments on Scoping for Wilmington/Cape Fear River Harbor Deepening Project

Dear Colonel Morgan,

As I did with your predecessor, I write to express serious concerns regarding the proposed Wilmington Harbor expansion project. As the owner and steward of Orton, an historic 17,000-acre property along the lower Cape Fear River's west bank, I have a vested interest in the river basin's ecological integrity and the wellbeing of surrounding communities.

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act authorized this expansion, and since then, the Orton team has carefully monitored the project's progression, including the consistent funding received through the annual federal appropriations process. Our stake in this matter is not merely as a private property, but as custodians of a rich cultural and natural heritage. Orton encompasses over 13,500 acres under conservation easements and actively participates in federal conservation programs such as the Safe Harbor Agreement.

Through an ongoing collaboration with the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Orton supports critical archaeological research into the lives of enslaved people who worked the area's rice fields. We are restoring 300 acres of North Carolina's last intact rice field system, preserving this vital historical legacy.

The Orton Foundation, which is active throughout the Cape Fear River basin, further supports these conservation efforts by partnering with local organizations to combat river degradation through improved water quality policies and natural restoration strategies.

Yet, rising sea levels and more frequent and intense hurricanes already have led to more flooding and erosion along the riverbank. Adding more water to a deeper channel will exacerbate this problem, as will bigger and more frequent ships to displace that water, not to mention more fatal strikes of marine life. The proposed changes to the channel, including "softening" river bends and seaward extension, likely will alter regional wave energy and sediment dynamics to untold consequences.

At the same time, higher salinity levels further upstream will harm freshwater ecosystems, potentially killing trees and altering wetland habitats. Dredging activities and disposal of potentially contaminated sediment (including PFAS and other industrial pollutants) threaten to significantly impair water quality throughout the river basin.

These factors combine to create a potentially devastating cycle. The loss of natural buffers will leave the region more vulnerable to flooding, and increased erosion will necessitate more frequent dredging, further stressing the ecosystem.

We urge you to conduct a comprehensive assessment that accounts for these wide-ranging and long-term impacts. Your evaluation must consider not only the immediate effects but also the compounding challenges of climate change, rising sea levels, and intensifying storm patterns over the coming decades.

The Cape Fear River Basin is a delicate and invaluable ecosystem. Any alterations to it must be approached with the utmost caution and foresight. We stand ready to engage in further dialogue and to provide any additional information that may assist in your deliberations.

With best regards,

LOUIS M. BACON

July 16, 2024

Colonel Brad A. Morgan Commander, USACE Wilmington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re: Public Comments on Scoping for Wilmington/Cape Fear River Harbor Deepening Project

Dear Colonel Morgan,

As I did with your predecessor, I write to express serious concerns regarding the proposed Wilmington Harbor expansion project. As the owner and steward of Orton, an historic 17,000-acre property along the lower Cape Fear River's west bank, I have a vested interest in the river basin's ecological integrity and the wellbeing of surrounding communities.

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act authorized this expansion, and since then, the Orton team has carefully monitored the project's progression, including the consistent funding received through the annual federal appropriations process. Our stake in this matter is not merely as a private property, but as custodians of a rich cultural and natural heritage. Orton encompasses over 13,500 acres under conservation easements and actively participates in federal conservation programs such as the Safe Harbor Agreement.

Through an ongoing collaboration with the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Orton supports critical archaeological research into the lives of enslaved people who worked the area's rice fields. We are restoring 300 acres of North Carolina's last intact rice field system, preserving this vital historical legacy.

The Orton Foundation, which is active throughout the Cape Fear River basin, further supports these conservation efforts by partnering with local organizations to combat river degradation through improved water quality policies and natural restoration strategies.

Yet, rising sea levels and more frequent and intense hurricanes already have led to more flooding and erosion along the riverbank. Adding more water to a deeper channel will exacerbate this problem, as will bigger and more frequent ships to displace that water, not to mention more fatal strikes of marine life. The proposed changes to the channel, including "softening" river bends and seaward extension, likely will alter regional wave energy and sediment dynamics to untold consequences. At the same time, higher salinity levels further upstream will harm freshwater ecosystems, potentially killing trees and altering wetland habitats. Dredging activities and disposal of potentially contaminated sediment (including PFAS and other industrial pollutants) threaten to significantly impair water quality throughout the river basin.

These factors combine to create a potentially devastating cycle. The loss of natural buffers will leave the region more vulnerable to flooding, and increased erosion will necessitate more frequent dredging, further stressing the ecosystem.

We urge you to conduct a comprehensive assessment that accounts for these wideranging and long-term impacts. Your evaluation must consider not only the immediate effects but also the compounding challenges of climate change, rising sea levels, and intensifying storm patterns over the coming decades.

The Cape Fear River Basin is a delicate and invaluable ecosystem. Any alterations to it must be approached with the utmost caution and foresight. We stand ready to engage in further dialogue and to provide any additional information that may assist in your deliberations.

With best regards.





*** Moore Capital Management, LP Legal Disclaimer and Other Information***

Moore Capital Management, LP is an investment management firm, and we buy and sell equities and other financial instruments. **Please do not provide us any inside information or material nonpublic information.** We may buy or sell financial instruments based on the information you provide. We intend our securities and futures trading to remain unrestricted, and we do not agree to restrict our activities in any way. Please do not send us any information you are obliged to keep confidential, are not authorized to disclose to us, or are not authorized to have, whether any such restriction is imposed by law, agreement, government or company policy. This applies to information you obtain from any source. We are under no obligation to keep any information we receive from you confidential unless we sign a confidentiality agreement in advance. We ask that you provide to us only information that fully complies with these requirements and restrictions and that does not constitute inside information or material nonpublic information.

Moore Capital Management, LP and affiliates are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and are members of the National Futures Association.

To view the full Legal Disclaimer and other information, click here

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Comments on Port Deepening Cape Fear River
Date:	Monday, July 22, 2024 11:08:43 AM
Attachments:	Comments on Cape Fear River Port Deepening Shew.pdf

Good morning,

Attached are my comments and thoughts on the topics where I believe there may be impacts with Port Deepening. I appreciate the opportunity to make comments and I really appreciate you providing the learning sessions and the public meeting to help the community understand the potential impacts and why deepening is being considered. I also appreciate you addressing the shortcomings in the 203 study as the deepening proposal needs to have, as you've said, a full review and complete EIS.

Thank you, and if there are questions on my thoughts, I would be happy to try and address them.

Roger



Summary Impacts and Considerations of Port Deepening on the Cape Fear River Estuary



The Wilmington Harbor 403 EIS purpose, as stated by the USACE, is to "contribute to national economic development by addressing transportation inefficiencies for the forecasted vessel fleet, consistent with protecting the Nation's environment." The latter means that studies must fully address all environmental impacts in all the alternatives and that mitigation measures must also be formulated. The following are some of the important impacts that may occur with deepening as well as in some parts of the river where the river will be widened and straightened. All of these factors lead to reduced hydraulic drag that makes it easier for waters to move into and out of the river. The 203-study highlighted some of these likely changes that the USACE is more fully exploring. But the 203 study was also deficient in several regards including economic assessment such as rail and truck cost estimates, sea level rise information, and general impacts on the estuary.

Please consider potential impacts of the following issues and provide detailed models to support best decisions and mitigation for groundwater/aquifers, river margin and island impacts from wake, dredging, and deposition of dredge material on the islands and marshes, analysis of sediment contaminants, and impacts on natural communities including marginal wetlands, nursery grounds, and species impacts adjacent to the river as well as within the water column and in the substrate.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Tides. We know that tides have approximately doubled in Wilmington since 1870 with the deepening of the river. We know this as Wilmington tides have increased while those in Southport have only increased slightly (Familkhalili and Talke, 2016). Estimates with deepening to 47 feet is that the tidal range will increase by another 4 inches, which includes 2 inches of higher high tide and 2 inches of lower low tides.

Storm Surge. There is likely to be an approximate 1-inch storm surge increase. Storm surge occurs when onshore winds "push" waters into and up the river. These may occur in storms or with onshore winds from frontal passages. The onshore winds also hold the water in the river leading to rising water levels.

Although these tidal and storm surge increases sound small, they are dramatic. Consider adding 2 or 3 inches of water onto already low areas that are impacted by compound flooding such as Eagles Island, Point Peter, and downtown Wilmington. And as sea level rise is accelerating, with Wilmington having one of the larger rises in sea level on the East Coast since 2000, this will have even more impact in the future.

Salinity. Saltwater intrusion into the estuary is more pronounced with deepening. Saltwater is denser than freshwater and deepening allows for a saltwater wedge to move further upriver. Model studies indicate that surface waters near Wilmington will increase in salinity by 1 ppt but that waters along the bottom of the river will increase by up to 5 ppt. The USACE will need to perform hydrologic models to determine any project impacts on wetlands adjacent to the river and tributaries. This will involve mitigation determinations as well.

Salinity changes have already led to changing ecosystems along the river and up its tributaries including the NECFR, Smith Creek, Town Creek and more. Ghost forests are an obvious indicator of salinity increase. However, the insidious migration of more salt tolerant plant species to replace freshwater tidal swamp forest and marshes has been recognized with the current deepening and will be even more significant with further

deepening. As one example, bottomland swamp forests were lost and converted to marsh grasses for a 2 mile stretch along Town Creek from 2006 to 2021. Much of this is likely a result of increased salinity following the deepening to 42 feet in the early 2000s. Migration of these communities may only progress so far upstream as increasing elevations may preclude further migration.

Salinity increases are also changing the fauna within the river to more brackish forms. For instance, Blue Crabs are moving further up the estuary.

One other factor that should also be considered with salinity change is that "saltier" waters lead to the breakdown of freshwater organics/mud in the soils. This could of course lead to even more erosion and subsidence in the adjacent land areas dominated by the freshwater marshes. An increase of 1 - 5 ppt of salinity is important and modeling must provide details on the impacts to the flora and fauna at the river bottom, within the water column, and in areas adjacent to the river, including tributaries and wetlands.

Habitat, Vegetation, and Primary Nursery Ground Changes. Estimates in the 203-Study were that vegetation changes may include the loss or modification of 242 acres of tidal swamp forest, 98 acres of tidal freshwater marsh, and 62 acres of cattail dominated marsh. In addition, 33 acres of significant Primary Nursery Grounds will be impacted. Primary Nursery Grounds occur all along the Cape Fear Estuary including at and upstream of the Ports. These are critical to our finfish and shellfish. One of the studies that will need to be done will be to assess the impact of deepening on threatened and endangered species such as the Atlantic and Short-nosed Sturgeons, and for that matter, all of the species such as anadromous fish species in the river. And at the lower end of the estuary turtles and birds could be impacted with the dredging activities and the placement of sand on the beaches.

Of note, there have been minimal studies within the Cape Fear River estuary to look at hard bottoms, soft bottoms, shellfish, and if there is any submerged aquatic vegetation present. This is stated for review in the EIS but was not fully addressed in discussions in the USACE forums on the topic. Remember, there will be a very large volume of sediment and rock removed from the river if dredged to 47 feet, and this will change habitat and foraging for multiple species.

Sea Level Rise. The USACE is including a wider range of sea level rise estimates in their EIS than that used in the 203-Study – this is a good thing. Low to high levels from NOAA and USACE will be used even up to 6 feet by 2100. This is necessary as our tide gauge data illustrates an acceleration of sea level rise along the East Coast and even a higher rise here in Wilmington. And there are factors with our changing climate that may lead to very high increases. Sea level rise is one of the compound flood issues for our area, but higher water will also impact the ports and infrastructure needed for the port.

Climate Change. It goes without saying that climate change is impacting many things we do as well as hazards that we are facing. This is true of the Cape Fear Estuary. But for this project we need to look at the future state of and vulnerability of the estuary to changes that may occur. We have seen the impact of 500 and even 1000-year flood events in our area that have been caused by heavier rainfall events; warm air holds more moisture. And when coupled with the higher tides, storm surge, and sea level rise, our area businesses, property, and lives are even more at risk.

Florence is used by the USACE as the storm of record for our area with its associated flooding and rainfall. It is certainly our "disaster storm" of record. However, it is important to note that Isaias in 2020 actually had a 9-inch higher flood stage at downtown Wilmington. As the Zurich Insurance Group said, "think how bad it can be and plan for worse".

Dredge Material and Use of Dredge Material. As mentioned previously, deepening of the river to the currently preferred alternative of 47/49 feet will lead to the removal of a large volume of material from the riverbed: 4.2 million cubic yards of rock and 22.7 million cubic yards of sediment. Studies are underway to determine the location and properties of sediment and rock along the river, but more needs to be done in my opinion to fully analyze potential use and/or harm.

Excavation may of course lead to some issues for habitat and species as discussed above, but it also leads to issues of what to do with the material. Past dredging has led to placement of material onto the south end of Eagles Island in the dredge spoil area, some placement on islands within the river, and placement of some material on beaches and on borrow sites offshore. Part of the sediment/rock may be placed in some of these locations again. However, there has been discussions by the USACE to consider "beneficial uses" of the dredge materials. What might these be and what are the concerns?

One potential use of dredge material would be to expand and/or raise the level of some of the islands in the river. These could include the important bird sanctuary islands in the lower estuary such as Pelican, Ferry Slip, Battery, etc. Of course, this would require lots of planning and discussion with the Audubon Society that manages these important bird habitats. Other uses of some of the sediment could be for renourishment on beaches at the mouth of the river. And as for the rock, some of it could potentially be used for rip-rap and for Snow's Cut, which is currently being studied by the USACE for cliff stabilization. Erosion has led to hazardous conditions and loss of land along the Cut. Some have even suggested some of the rock could be used along the river for living shorelines for mitigation of wave action and erosion that is generated by these ever-larger ships' vessel wake. Wave run-up and erosion is occurring along the river edge in multiple locations and will be worse with larger ships. One notable erosion site is near Brunswick Town.

One other beneficial use that the USACE is considering is for thin or thick bed placement of sediment in areas such as marshes. The idea is to raise the elevation of the marshes to match rising water levels to maintain marsh function. There have been some examples of this (https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/news/thin-layer-sediment-placement-boosts-marsh-growth-in-new-experimental-study/). However, we need to know the properties of the area that is being considered as well as any areas that should be eliminated from this type of deposition. For instance, knowledge of the presence of historically significant rice canals is essential. One other consideration is what are the properties of the sediment such as containing toxic substances (see below for water quality).

One consideration that many people want to know is: what is the impact of blasting rock from the river bottom. This is of course of concern but, done right, the impacts are minimal if the blasting is confined. This may be done with controlled blasting that minimizes the impacts by drilling the hole and setting the explosive and capping that with gravel to confine the blast to the subsurface as much as possible. The USACE will evaluate potential effects, though, including any impacts to ecological or cultural resources.

Wake and Erosion. As mentioned above, the large wake has had and may have even more impact on the estuary margins and on islands within the estuary. Erosion of the river banks could lead to significant loss of land and land value and the erosion and even inundation of some of the bird nesting islands in the lower estuary could be very problematic. We not only need to look at impacts but ways to mitigate that impact, perhaps with beneficial use of dredge material. Again here knowing the content of the material is important.

Water Quality. Comparison of before and after water quality is an essential component of the assessment. We know there will be salinity changes but other properties such as turbidity (cloudiness of the water that will lower

sunlight penetration and, in some cases, make filter feeding more problematic), temperature, and dissolved oxygen may be impacted. Dredging will definitely lead to turbidity issues, at least in the short term.

But one aspect that we know little about is what is in the sediment/rock that will be removed. We know that toxic substances such as PFAS have been found in soils and sediments along the Cape Fear. We need to know what is in the materials that will be dredged. This is of course important for two reasons. First, will toxic substances be released into the river that may impact species in the river. And second, if we do use some of these sediments for thin-bed application in marshes, do they contain toxic substances that will be spread on marshes or other habitat restoration areas. We would not want to place contaminated sediments on sensitive areas.

One other consideration is that additional maintenance dredging will be needed to maintain these deeper depths. These sediments will continue to potentially have high levels of toxic materials such as PFAS. There is still PFAS in the river and sediments. One other potential source of more concentrated PFAS in the river is that the Brunswick County Northwest Water Treatment Plant will soon have a reverse osmosis treatment facility in operation. Reverse osmosis effectively removes toxins from the drinking water, but the effluent will be more concentrated in PFAS. The effluent will be dumped into the Cape Fear River. CFPUA's GAC treatment facility removes the PFAS but it is not dumped back into the Cape Fear.

Groundwater. Part of the Cape Fear River Estuary is already "grounded" in the Castle Hayne Limestone as some rock was removed in the 2000 – 2002 dredging operation. With the proposed 5 feet of further deepening, there is some concern that the groundwater will be impacted. One of the largest concerns is saltwater intrusion into the aquifers but groundwater levels and flow direction changes with pressure changes are also considerations. The USACE plans to do a detailed groundwater model to predict these impacts that will include river level increases with sea level rise and what may occur with future changes in water well withdrawals. Although our area gets most of its water from the river at Lock and Dam #1, a large and growing number of people rely on groundwater as their source of water. This will be a complex and large model study, but this assessment is critical.

Cultural, Historical, and Environmental Justice Considerations. There has been minimal coverage of these topics other than to list these as socioeconomic resources. But it is very important that we safeguard these resources and our heritage. There are many aspects to this that may be impacted including our maritime artifacts and Gullah Geechee corridor and rice culture that includes the many historic rice canals that line the river and tributaries.

In summary, this is not intended to be an exhaustive look at or in depth scientific assessment of the 203 study nor of the USACE's Wilmington Harbor 403 scoping letter and EIS. It is only to bring the issue to the attention of the community to help you stay involved in the process. It is a long process but an important one for our economy and environment.

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Comments regarding the Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report & Environmental Impact Statement
Date:	Monday, July 15, 2024 3:40:28 PM

As a retired USACE Senior Project Manager, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the below comments for your consideration and incorporation in the USACE 403 Study to deepen the Cape Fear River.

Comment 1. AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE USACE REPORT AND EIS, THIS USACE SECTION 403 REPORT MUST RECOGNIZE AND ADDRESS ALL RELATED "CLIMATE CRISIS" IMPACTS CAUSED BY BOTH THE HISTORIC, CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPACTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY) OF DEEPING THE CAPE FEAR RIVER. On January 27, 2021, the President of the United States signed an Executive Order (EO) addressing the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad¹. The EO directed the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other federal agencies to prioritize the "profound climate crisis" in US foreign policy and national security. This order presents a significant challenge for the USACE Wilmington District as they work on environmental compliance tasks for a proposed project. However, it seems that the Wilmington District has previously overlooked or disregarded the significance of this EO in its public outreach efforts. This important EO has not been mentioned anywhere in the posted outreach materials as well as how the USACE will comply with this vital EO.

Footnote 1: <u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/</u>

Comment 2. THE USACE SCOPE FOR THIS PROJECT IS TOO NARROWLY DEFINED AND FAILS TO ENCOMPASS A GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT WHERE OTHER VASTLY MORE FAVORABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERNATIVES PRESENTLY EXIST. The NEPA requires the Corps to evaluate the Section 203 report for the Port of Wilmington, as well as any feasible alternatives that would meet the project's basic needs and requirements. The USACE is responsible for identifying all reasonable options within the project's geographical area, assessing their feasibility, and determining the least environmentally damaging alternative among the practical ones. Additionally, the USACE is not only required to review and evaluate the Port of Wilmington's Section 203 Report but also to explore potential alternatives beyond the defined project boundaries in the 203 report to find other options that would result in positive economic and environmental benefits.

Comment 3. THE USACE WILMINGTON DISTRICT'S PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT IS FAR TOO NARROW TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF NEPA. It is well known that according to NEPA, both the secondary and cumulative effects are directly related to the purpose and need of the proposed project. In this case, any action, activity, or improvements related to "deeper depths that allow more cargo to be carried," as Mr. Bret Waters, Wilmington District's Chief of Planning mentioned. Additionally, secondary effects refer to those that occur later or farther away but are still easily predictable due to a single action like deepening the Cape Fear River "to allow more cargo to be carried" to the Port of Wilmington and beyond.

One of those secondary effects not mentioned in the Port's Section 203 report is the current plan to relocate the current "hairpin" rail alignment to accommodate the anticipated longer and more frequent trains coming from the Port. According to a 2018 Benefit-Cost Analysis Memorandum² prepared by AECOM for the City of Wilmington, increasing the number and length of trains through the city could make delays, emissions, and vehicle operating costs at crossings worse. The Wilmington Rail Realignment Project, also known as the Beltline, aims to improve freight rail operations, safety, and regional transportation mobility which are all linked to the Port's Deepening Project. This rail realignment project will also impact critical floodplains, wetlands, and historic sites dating back to the 1700s.

In addition to the rail realignment project, there is an anticipated increase in the volume of trucks heavily laden with "more cargo" resulting from the deepening of the Cape Fear River. Both secondary effects will also have a wide range of consequences, such as changes in land use, climate change, compound flooding, water quality, economic stability, loss of culturally sensitive areas, and impacts on fisheries and ecosystems. Some of these secondary effects, when combined with other directly related past and foreseeable future actions related to the deepening of the Cape Fear River may be less defined than other secondary impacts and can be difficult to detect. However, over time, they can accumulate and eventually lead to a measurable environmental change. One example of cumulative effects is the effect of compound flooding on the Cape Fear River.

Included in the USACE analysis must be the cumulative effects of this purpose and need which range far beyond that stated in the Port's Section 203 report and are the direct result of incremental consequences of the deepening of the Cape Fear River.

The proposed rail realignment and Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement projects are intended to facilitate the future movement of the increased amount of cargo resulting from the proposed river deepening. The proposed Wilmington Rail Realignment Project (\$500 million +) and the proposed NCDOT Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement (\$500 million +) are both ancillary to the proposed river deepening. It is essential to note that secondary effects are "caused by an action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable" {40 CFR 1508.8}. Additionally, the Port's Section 203 report is far too narrowly focused and seems to purposely not address the necessary mitigation requirements for the rail realignment project and building a new Cape Fear Memorial Bridge that can handle the increased freight traffic caused by the deepening of the Cape Fear River.

These two critically important secondary effects are directly related to the river deepening, yet they remain untethered and unmentioned in the 203 Report.

Footnote 2.

https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/files/assets/city/v/1/government/documents/rail/technicaldocuments/benefitcost-analysis-2018.pdf

Comment 4. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT FAILED TO IDENTIFY OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES – 600 ACRE PORT OWNED PROPERTY NEAR SOUTHPORT: It's essential to consider all potential outcomes when examining different options. In the early 2000s, the Port of Wilmington approached USACE Wilmington District to investigate the feasibility of moving the Port to a 600-acre property owned by the Port on the west bank of the Cape Fear River, near Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal. This property is located 26 miles south of Wilmington, in Brunswick County, and upstream of the City of Southport. According to page 158 of the Port's Section 203 Report, "NCSPA conducted an initial study to assess the viability of constructing a container terminal on a 600-acre tract of land in Southport, NC, near the federal navigation channel to Wilmington and closer to the ocean entrance." The "feasibility study", a reconnaissance-level effort by the Corps, was intended to establish if there would be federal interest in such a project. Furthermore, the 203 Report claimed, "Relocation of the Port of Wilmington container terminal to Southport, or construction of a new container terminal at Southport, does not substantially reduce channel improvement costs, such as channel deepening, because existing water depths are shallow. The overall cost for container terminal development at Southport was estimated to be \$2.5 billion in 2008. In addition, the environmental impact of dredging a deepwater access channel to Southport could be substantially larger than the impact of deepening the existing channel to Wilmington."

The benefits of relocating the Port of Wilmington 26 miles downstream from its current location were not given adequate consideration within the proposed alternatives outlined in the 203 Report. However, this option holds practical and significant value for a range of primary and secondary reasons. Some of the obvious benefits of relocating the Port to this location could:

1. Eliminate further deepening of the Cape Fear River for the 26-mile reach to Wilmington.

2. Reduce future dredging requirements, thus allowing the river and floodplain ecosystems to naturally heal and restore over time.

3. Reduce the upstream impacts of storm surges and compound flooding.

4. Reduce ecosystem impacts from saltwater intrusion and allow upstream ecosystems to repair.

5. Leverage and multipurpose the existing Sunny Point rail system thus eliminating the secondary effect need to build a proposed rail realignment project and new rail bridges through the historically significant and ecologically sensitive Eagles Island floodplain and wetlands.

6. Leverage Sunny Point / Port of Wilmington dredging projects into one

combined multi-use federal project.

7. Eliminate the secondary effect needed for the proposed high-rise Cape Fear River crossing toll bridge. NC DOT has recognized this bridge proposal as one of the main benefits to the Port of Wilmington to redirect future freight trucks to and from that facility.

- 8. Reduce ship travel and exposure time on the river.
- 9. Increase Port traffic loading and unloading turnaround time.

10. Reduce cargo ship fuel costs, air quality impacts, and carbon footprint.

11. Could prevent catastrophic risks and operational challenges posed by larger cargo container ships in the Cape Fear River between Southport and Wilmington. Accidents involving these giant vessels can have devastating consequences, far more severe than those involving smaller ships. The grounding of the Ever Given, a 20,000 TEU vessel, caused a six-day blockage of the Suez Canal in March 2021, leading to a rise in vessel and cargo delays and contributing significantly to global supply chain disruptions throughout the year. Given the recent increase in megaship accidents, it is essential to consider the possibility of a similar event occurring in the Cape Fear River and incorporate it into the NEPA risk and uncertainty analysis.

12. Leverage the significant amount of land currently available in Brunswick County for the economic development of commercial/industrial opportunities. New Hanover County is rapidly building out available land with residential growth along the east side of the Cape Fear River.

Comment 5. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT FAILED TO IDENTIFY OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES – PORT OF MOREHEAD CITY: When examining the geographic region identified in the 203 Report, it appears that the Port of Morehead City, located only 80 miles to the north, may also be a suitable option for consideration for the following reasons:

1. In terms of available acreage for port operations, the Port of Wilmington and the Port of Morehead City are equal in size.

2. The Port of Morehead City lies just four miles from the open ocean.

3. The depth of the approach channel and inner harbor at the Port of Morehead City can be dredged by an additional two feet. This option is much more feasible, far more cost-effective, and would cause far less damage to the environmental and cultural resources compared to doing so in the Cape Fear River.

4. Considering the Port of Morehead City as an alternative to deepening the Cape Fear River would eliminate the need to relocate the rail around the City of Wilmington. This is because the deepening of the Cape Fear River would require longer trains to handle the increased freight traffic which is a significant secondary impact that has been overlooked in the Port's Section 203 report.

5. The lower Cape Fear River would benefit by reducing the upstream impacts of storm surges and compound flooding, reducing ecosystem impacts from saltwater intrusion, and allowing upstream ecosystems to repair.

6. Leverage and optimize the Port of Morehead City's rail system thus

eliminating the secondary effect needed to build Wilmington's proposed rail realignment project and new rail bridges through the historically significant and ecologically sensitive Eagles Island floodplain and wetlands.

7. Eliminate the secondary effect needed for the proposed high-rise Cape Fear River crossing toll bridge. NCDOT has recognized this bridge proposal as one of the main benefits to the Port of Wilmington to redirect future freight trucks to and from that facility.

8. Travel time to the Port of Morehead City would be far less than the Port of Wilmington along with quicker traffic loading and unloading turnaround time.

9. The Port of Morehead City has a readily available and upgradable rail head.

10. Consideration of the Port of Morehead City alternative would offer reduced cargo ship fuel costs, and air quality impacts, as well as a reduced carbon footprint.

11. The current Port of Wilmington's rail realignment project could be eliminated, and the rail system could be modified for public transportation purposes.

12. As reported in an article published by Coastal Review, on 10/03/2023 by Brad Rich, a recent public flyer stated that "the proposed project (at the Port of Morehead City) is to support new industry opportunities to the State and the authority" and "for the generation of jobs and the labor income to improve employment, increase median income, decrease the poverty rate in Carteret County and the region and transition N.C. to a clean energy economy. Additional actions include roadway and rail improvements and a natural gas line from Morehead City to Radio Island."

Comment 6. THE PORT OF WILMINGTON'S SECTION 203 REPORT FAILED TO PROPERLY AND COMPLETELY ANALYZE THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS STATED IN THE USACE CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE POLICY AND NEPA. NEPA requires that USACE consider all the relevant impacts, both primary and secondary, on the citizens who reside and work in the area. In the June 2015 update of the USACE Climate Preparedness and Resilience Policy Statement, *"It is the policy of USACE to integrate climate change preparedness and resilience planning and actions in all activities to enhance community resilience [bold emphasis added] with our water-resource projects and ensuring the effectiveness of our military support mission, and to reduce the potential vulnerabilities of those communities and missions to the effects of climate change and variability."³*

The USACE's Section 403 analysis and decisions regarding the proposed deepening of the Cape Fear River will greatly impact our community's physical and environmental character for generations to come. Our community is still in the process of recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricanes Matthew, Florence, and Isaias. As eyewitnesses to the destruction caused by these natural disasters, we understand firsthand the immense toll that hurricanes, floods, and climate change can have on our region. Despite the courageous efforts of many citizens and community leaders, we were all taken aback by the unexpected frequency and severity of these lifealtering events and the accompanying risks posed by extreme weather patterns and tidal fluctuations. With that, USACE has an essential duty to inform Congress and our citizens about the potential hazards and impacts that may arise from further deepening of the Cape Fear River.

Footnote 3: https://www.usace.army.mil/corpsclimate/Adaptation-Policy-Plan/

Comment 7. THE PORT OF WILMINGTON'S SECTION 203 REPORT COMPLETELY IGNORED RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE AND RISK ASSESSMENT AND RESILIENCE PLAN. In June 2020, North Carolina released the North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan⁴. In the foreword of that plan, Governor Cooper issued a stark warning: "*The latest climate science emphasizes what we already know firsthand. There will be increased temperatures, rising sea levels, more precipitation, more intense hurricanes, more severe thunderstorms, and more storm surge flooding.*" A group of scientists, engineers, and educators collaborated to help our elected officials, decision-makers, and the public better understand the natural and man-made hazards we face in our area so that we can plan, prepare, and mitigate them. Here are some key findings from the experts who developed that plan, none of which were even remotely addressed in the Port's Section 203 Report:

Section C - Climate Hazards Facing North Carolina. Heavy Precipitation and Storms:

• Heavy precipitation accompanying hurricanes and other weather systems is likely to increase, thus increasing the potential for flooding in inland and coastal areas.

• Energy infrastructure located along inland watersheds and coastal areas will be further subject to changes in river discharge and flooding from heavy precipitation events.

• Heavy precipitation from more intense and frequent storms can cause significant damage to public and private structures such as homes, roads, utility services, etc.

• Vulnerable populations are most at risk of flooding and may have difficulty evacuating when necessary.

Coastal Flooding and Coastal Erosion:

• It is **virtually certain [bold emphasis added]** that sea level along the North Carolina coast will continue to rise due to the expansion of ocean water from warming and melting of ice on land.

• It is **virtually certain [bold emphasis added]** that rising sea levels and increasing intensity of coastal storms will lead to an increase in storm surge flooding in coastal North Carolina.

• High tide flooding will be a near-daily occurrence at some points along the coast in the future.

• Cultural resources in fixed locations are inherently sensitive to flooding and it is difficult to reduce sites' exposure to flooding.

• Sea level rise and flooding will limit available land that is in

high demand for both human (economic) and ecosystem services.

• More frequent coastal flooding will impact coastal habitats, fisheries, and the protective services that natural areas provide to local communities.

• Increased storm surges will erode shorelines and kill vegetation in maritime grasslands, tidal marshes, estuaries, lower reaches of coastal plain rivers, and low-lying wetlands near estuaries.

• Coastal erosion will reduce habitat for freshwater tidal wetlands, maritime uplands, and maritime wetlands.

• Endangered and threatened species that are vulnerable to storm surges and erosion on beaches are likely to decline.

• Coastal erosion will leave properties further at risk of flooding and storm damage, due to land or natural buffers being lost. **Hurricanes:**

• The intensity of the strongest hurricanes is likely to increase with a warming of the oceans and atmosphere, leading to greater damage to people, communities, our economy, and natural resources from more intense hurricanes and accompanying flooding and precipitation.

• More intense hurricanes will further damage wetlands and natural barriers which help to protect infrastructure and communities from storm surges, increasing the vulnerability to subsequent storms.

• Stronger hurricanes will destroy or damage public and private buildings and property.

Inland Flooding:

• Increases in extreme precipitation are likely to increase inland flooding in North Carolina.

• Inland communities across the state are at risk from flooding due to extreme precipitation and outdated and/or undersized storm drainage infrastructure.

• Increased inland flooding caused by extreme precipitation events will further increase economic and agricultural losses after a flooding event.

• More frequent flooding will impact inland habitats, fisheries, and the protective services that natural areas provide to local communities.

• Flooding will continue to damage archaeological and historic sites on floodplains across all three physiographic regions and within every river basin in the state.

• Increased or more frequent flooding may inundate and potentially destroy more cultural resources.

Ecosystems and Habitat Loss:

• Harmful algal blooms may increase due to warmer temperatures.

• The loss of organisms that rely on calcium-based shells such

as oysters and clams, and organisms dependent upon them for food or habitat will be harmed by ocean acidification.

• Loss of wetlands due to sea level rise will result in habitat losses that will impact both commercial and recreational fisheries, decrease buffering capacity, adversely impact water quality, and reduce the resilience of coastal communities.

Saltwater Intrusion:

• Higher water levels due to sea level rise threaten otherwise productive land, leading to agricultural and economic losses.

• Increased saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise is expected to change the salinity of estuarine communities and convert lower coastal floodplains from swamp forests to wetlands.

• Saltwater intrusion due to climate change will make drinking water from both groundwater and surface waters more vulnerable to contamination and/or expensive to treat and secure.

• Intrusion in freshwater sources can cause crop yields to decline and farmland to be unsuitable for growing crops due to high salinity and less available freshwater, leading to a loss of revenue in agriculture.

Comment 8. THE REFERENCES LISTED BELOW PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE COMPILATION OF REPORTS, RESEARCH, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND FACTUAL EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DEEPENING OF THE CAPE FEAR RIVER FOR ANY PURPOSE IS NOT JUSTIFIED.

NC-specific plans and resources:

✓ <u>Southeastern North Carolina Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Updated</u> January 2021)

✓ <u>NC Green Growth Toolbox Handbook</u>

✓ <u>NC Coastal Federation Living Shorelines Website</u>

New Hanover County/Brunswick County-specific documents:

✓ <u>Community Resilience Pilot Project for Wilmington, NC (2013)</u>: Developed in coordination with New Hanover County and contains important information related to the impacts of sea level rise, vulnerability, and implementation of mitigation strategies.

 ✓ Sea Level Rise Hazard Assessment for New Hanover County, NC (2016):
 Publication in UNC-W's Explorations: The Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities for the State of North Carolina.

✓ *Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Kerr-McGee Superfund Site:*

Tools for identifying and mapping locally relevant hazards:

- ✓ <u>NOAA's Storm Events Database</u>
- ✓ <u>NC Emergency Management Digital Elevation Models (DEMs)</u>
- ✓ <u>The Climate Explorer (U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit)</u>

✓ Locally Relevant Sea-Level Rise Projections (Legacy Sentinel Site Cooperative <u>Program</u>) ✓ <u>Carolinas Precipitation Patterns and Probabilities (CP3) (NOAA Carolinas</u> <u>Integrated Sciences and Assessments)</u>

✓ <u>NC Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network (NC Floodplain Mapping</u> <u>Program)</u>

- ✓ <u>USGS Coastal Vulnerability Index</u>
- ✓ <u>TNC's Coastal Resilience Mapping Portal for NC</u>
- ✓ <u>Climate Central's Surging Seas Risk Zone Map</u>
- ✓ <u>NOAA SLR Viewer</u>
- ✓ <u>CDC Social Vulnerability Index</u>
- ✓ 2019 Census Community Resilience Estimates for Equity and Disasters

Footnote 4: <u>https://www.deq.nc.gov/energy-climate/climate-change/nc-climate-change-interagency-council/climate-change-clean-energy-plans-and-progress/nc-climate-risk-assessment-and-resilience-plan</u>

Comment 9. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT DISREGARDS THE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS OF FUTURE SEA LEVEL RISE ON THE WILMINGTON AREA AND LOWER REACH OF THE CAPE FEAR RIVER, AS WELL AS THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED DREDGING

PROJECT. In 2022, NOAA published the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report⁵, which presented updated projections for all U.S. coastal waters up to the year 2150. This report concluded that *"Sea level along the U.S. coastline is projected to rise, on average, 10 - 12 inches in the next 30 years (2020 - 2050), which will be as much as the rise measured over the last 100 years (1920 - 2020). Sea level rise will vary regionally along U.S. coasts because of changes in both land and ocean height."* It is crucial to consider the future state of the Lower Cape Fear River about its vulnerability to natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, and sea-level rise. These occurrences can result in severe flooding, which can be extremely damaging when occurring simultaneously. This poses a significant threat to the economy, businesses, as well as the lives and property of those in the Wilmington area and beyond. Additionally, the heightened levels of inundation lead to water pollution that impacts the daily lives of families and visitors in the Lower Cape Fear region. <u>USACE must address these challenges as an integral part of the NEPA process to safeguard the river and its surroundings for future generations.</u>

Footnote 5: <u>https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/sealevelrise/sealevelrise-tech-report.html</u>

Comment 10. AND THE REFERENCE IN THE BACK OF THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT, "THE EFFECT OF CHANNEL DEEPENING ON TIDES AND STORM SURGE: A CASE STUDY OF WILMINGTON, NC: THE ALTERATION OF TIDES AND STORM SURGE." R. FAMILKHALILI, S. A. TALKE, First published: 17 August 2016. https://doi.org/10.1002/2016GL069494. Detailed in this document, model results suggest that tide propagation into the system has been strongly affected by increases in channel depth from 7m to 15.5m over the last 130 years, leading to a doubling of the tidal range in Wilmington. The anthropogenically altered bathymetry also increases the modeled storm surge: the same tropical cyclone making landfall today will produce significantly larger water levels than in the nineteenth century.

Comment 11. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT DOES NOT ADDRESS **RESTORATION, REMEDIATION, OR MITIGATION MEASURES FOR FLOOD EVENTS** THAT HAVE ALREADY WORSENED DUE TO THE CONTINUOUS DREDGING OF THE **CAPE FEAR RIVER.** The USACE's creation of a dredged spoil pile on Eagles Island has had adverse effects on the floodplain, wetland habitat, and archaeological sites above and below this site. This has led to increased flood risks in Wilmington's waterfront region as well as the USS North Carolina Battleship area which is now undergoing major improvements to adapt to the increasing threats of flooding. The proposed secondary impacts of this project are expected to raise the expense of public tax money for costly flood control projects and disproportionately affect minorities and low-income residents. The Cape Fear River's flooding has become more intense and frequent due to sea level rise, storm surges, and heavy rainfall, compound flooding, causing increased instances of local flooding. The deterioration of the Cape Fear River environment due to pollution, saltwater intrusion, and flooding, as well as lobbying for intensive buildout in fragile wetlands and floodplains, resulting in higher insurance homeowner rates are all pressing issues completely ignored in the Port's Section 203 Report.

Comment 12. UNCERTAINTY RELATED TO THE FUTURE CONTAMINATION OF DREDGE SPOILS BY PFAS. To quote EPA's publication: Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS⁶. "Exposure to PFAS May be Harmful to Human Health. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time, especially in children." There are ongoing studies to understand the health risks associated with exposure to PFAS. Brunswick County will soon start operating a 60 million gallon per day low-pressure Reverse Osmosis water treatment plant designed to remove the per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that currently contaminate our drinking water. When operational, it will discharge nearly five million gallons per day of highly concentrated PFAS-loaded wastewater. The discharge pipe of the water treatment plant is situated on the Cape Fear River, approximately three miles upstream of the Port of Wilmington. This concentrated PFAS waste discharge could range from 120 parts per billion (ppb) to well over 300 ppb, far exceeding EPA's public health standards. This highly concentrated stream of PFAS pollutants will settle within areas that need to be dredged for the potential deepening and widening of the channel prism in the future if this project is approved. The issue of PFAS contamination of dredged spoils and its impact on public health and the environment is yet to be resolved by the EPA and the State of North Carolina and poses a significant uncertainty for future dredging activities in the Lower Cape Fear River.

Comment 13. THE RISK AND UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS PRESENTED IN THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT IS INSUFFICIENT AND INCOMPLETE. USACE must conduct an independent analysis of risk and uncertainty for the proposed work in the 203 Report, as well as any other potential alternatives in the surrounding area, such as relocating the Port to Southport or Morehead City. This analysis should consider and analyze all secondary and cumulative effects for each of these potentially viable alternatives, including compound flooding, rising sea levels, loss of habitats, impacts on floodplains, damages to public and private infrastructure, and more. The risk and uncertainty analysis in the 203 Report is far too limited in addressing all the secondary and cumulative effects associated with the proposed plan for the Port. Despite the significant discussion about the economic benefits of deepening the Cape Fear River to accommodate larger cargo vessels, the Port's 4,053-page Section 203 report fails to consider the crucial matter of analyzing the tradeoffs involved in making such a decision and evaluating the long-term consequences of such an effort. One example of long-term consequences can be seen in the effects of deepening Boston Harbor, as outlined in a Washington Post article dated Feb 19, 2020, by Steven Mufson, titled "Boston Harbor brings ashore a new enemy: Rising seas - Facing climate change, Boston must gird itself for an era of rising water - or be inundated." The article states, "Boston is raising streets, building berms, and even requiring that new high-rise condominium developments on its harbor acquire aqua fences — portable metal barriers that can be dragged to the street and anchored to the pavement to deflect incoming waves." Former Mayor Martin J. Walsh vowed to spend more than \$30 million a year, equal to 10 percent of Boston's five-year capital budget, to defend the city from a watery future that is expected because of climate change. The USACE must conduct a thorough tradeoff analysis to ensure that decision-makers and communities are fully aware of the long-lasting impacts of deepening the Cape Fear River. Without this analysis, important public information regarding future secondary effects and cumulative impacts on downtown Wilmington may be overlooked or possibly understated.

Comment 14. THE PORT SECTION 203 REPORT NEGLECTED TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE PORT'S OPERATIONS AND ASSOCIATED ECONOMICS.

Like other ports on the East Coast, historical data has already shown that the Port of Wilmington and its neighboring communities are highly susceptible to hurricanes, compound flooding, storm surges, fog, and heat waves. Additionally, the Port of Wilmington faces significant risks due to climate change. Maersk, one of the world's largest shipping companies, has recently identified climate change as the most significant threat to its business. A study analyzing 107 of Maersk's key land-based assets (such as port terminals, inland warehouses, and data centers) revealed the extent of their exposure to climate risks over the next 30 years. The study concluded that the average cost of physical damage and business interruptions caused by climate change hazards is expected to increase by 130 percent by 2050 compared to a 2020 baseline. It is essential to include such a detailed analysis in the USACE Section 403 Report to fully understand the primary and secondary economic impacts on port operations.

Comment 15. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT FAILED TO ADDRESS THE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES ASSOCIATED WITH VESSEL OPERABILITY FAILURES WITHIN THE CAPE FEAR RIVER NAVIGATION CHANNEL. Ships traveling in U.S. waters are required by federal law to report any loss of propulsion to the nearest Coast Guard command. According to research by The Washington Post on ships over 400 feet in length, the Coast Guard has recorded 103 instances of vessels experiencing a loss of propulsion near a port, bridge, or other infrastructure. These incidents were caused by various factors such as total loss of electrical power, malfunctioning valves, failed seals, clogged filters, and other mechanical and equipment failures. It is crucial to add such critical issues to a risk and uncertainty register.

Comment 16. THE PORT'S SECTION 203 REPORT FAILED TO ADEQUATELY EMPHASIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SECTION 106 HISTORIC PRESERVATION. It is crucial to honor and safeguard the history, culture, and heritage of previous generations who have lived and worked along the Lower Cape River. A dedicated chapter highlighting this aspect should have been included in the report. It is important to acknowledge that the Port of Wilmington and the wealth it generated were built upon the labor of enslaved West Africans. In 2006, Congress recognized the contributions made by the Gullah Geechee, by establishing the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Public Law 109- 338), Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act, passed by Congress on October 12, 2006. Congress has declared the Gullah Geechee Corridor as a National Heritage area, one of fifty-five (55) authorized heritage areas in the country. The geographic footprints of New Hanover and Brunswick Counties reside entirely within that corridor. The Corridor was created to:

• Recognize, sustain, and celebrate the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans, known as the Gullah Geechee, who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

• Assist state and local governments and public and private entities in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida in interpreting the story of the Gullah Geechee and preserving Gullah Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music.

• Assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with Gullah Geechee people and culture for the benefit and education of the public.

The 203 Report overlooks the significant role that numerous rice plantations played in shaping the geography and economy of the Lower Cape Fear River. These plantations laid the foundation for the Port of Wilmington and contributed to the City of Wilmington becoming one of the most prosperous communities on the Atlantic Coast. It's important to note that this prosperity was primarily built on enslaved labor, specifically, the Gullah Geechee people. Many remnants of these old rice fields still exist, especially in and around the northern portions of Eagles Island. Additionally, slave ships were built in Wilmington and sailed out to West Africa. There are also unconfirmed reports of slave cemeteries along the Cape Fear River, and other culturally important historical artifacts of these plantation rice fields continue to serve as important nursery sanctuaries for fish and shellfish. The Eagles Island area holds significant historical and cultural importance, especially for the Gullah Geechee descendants and their relationship with the Lower Cape Fear River. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the federal government must prioritize sustainable solutions for preserving and protecting the environment, history, culture, and heritage in and around the study area. The opportunity to celebrate this rich heritage should not be missed.

The USACE has made commendable efforts to address the importance of environmental sustainability outlined in its Environmental Operating Principles (EOP). However, defining sustainability in terms of the environment can be challenging, especially when weighed against the demands of economic growth. The USACE EOP principles rightly emphasize the need to preserve and protect critical natural resources such as clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems for future generations. Unfortunately, for many years, the pursuit of economic prosperity has been at the expense of these resources. The consequences of this trend are now evident in the form of rising sea levels, frequent and intense rainfall and runoff, and compound flooding that threaten to deplete these resources and harm the well-being of those who depend on them.

The USACE is responsible for defending and safeguarding the air, land, and waters in and around the Lower Cape Fear River. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this crucial endeavor. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

From Andy Wood in the Wrightsville Beach Magazine, November 2013, titled <u>Ghost Trees – Stoic Reminders of</u> <u>Bygone Time, Climate and River</u>, "Cape Fear's ghost trees are silent reminders of a bygone era, a bygone climate, and a bygone river. The ghost trees we see throughout Cape Fear's lower reaches died as a result of saltwater intrusion that proved toxic for the freshwater trees and the habitats they once helped support. Saltwater continues to flood into and up the Cape Fear River, just as it has done for thousands of years. What is different today is the increased rate at which salty water is drowning the Cape Fear River; a rate hastened by the engineered deepening of the rivers connection to the ocean."

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Deepening and Widening Wilmington Harbor
Date:	Monday, July 22, 2024 10:03:28 AM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-

Thank you for the opportunity as a citizen of New Hanover County to speak about the proposed deepening and widening of the Wilmington Harbor.

As a member of North Carolina Coastal Federation, this proposed project is of great interest to me. The number one

industry in New Hanover County is tourism, not the shipping industry. When one crosses the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, the view is a charming city on a hill, and one does not notice the cargo ships down south of Wilmington. The infrastructure is not there to serve mega container ships. The traffic congestion from more trucks would be a disaster for our already crowded roads. Also ships must navigate twenty six miles up the Cape Fear River to our port, when other ports have easier access such as Charleston SC, Morehead City NC, Norfolk Va, Savannah Ga and others.

On the environmental side, there are many impacts. Some of the most important are, negative effects on fish habitats, degrading water and air quality, increase flooding as more water surges up the river, more saltwater intrusion changing salinity and killing more trees, increasing wetland and shoreline erosion along the river and on adjacent oceanfront beaches, more vessel strikings of turtles, mammals and fish, and degrading fishery and bird habitats associated with estuarine island, shoals and mudflats.

This is a very important decision which will have lasting impacts on our historic river and the lives of the citizens of New Hanover County. I know you will give this decision all the serious consideration that it needs and hopefully will decide that is not in the best interest to widen and deepen Wilmington Harbor.

Respectfully-



From:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
To:	[Non-DoD Source] EPA Comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a
Cc:	Letter Report for the Wilmington Harbor North Carolina Project, Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, North
Subject:	Carolina
Date:	Friday, July 19, 2024 6:30:58 PM
Attachments:	Wilmington Harbor NOI Comment Letter (signed).pdf

Good afternoon,

Attached are the EPA comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Letter Report for the Wilmington Harbor North Carolina Project, Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, North Carolina.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4

National Environmental Policy Act Section NEPA & Special Program Coordination Branch



ATLANTA, GA 30303

July 19, 2024

Ms. Andrea Stolba U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District ATTN: Wilmington Harbor 403 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

> Re: EPA Comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Letter Report for the Wilmington Harbor North Carolina Project, Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Stolba:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Letter Report for the Wilmington Harbor North Carolina Project, Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, North Carolina, in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. In 2020, the North Carolina State Ports Authority prepared a feasibility study evaluating transportation improvements for the Wilmington Harbor Navigation Project, including deepening and widening the navigation channel. According to the NOI, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District intends to prepare an EIS to address conditions for implementing section 203 studies authorized for construction pursuant to section 403 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

The notice states that the integrated section 203 study and environmental report for potential navigation improvements to the Wilmington Harbor federal navigation channel leading from the Atlantic Ocean to the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina, was prepared in 2020 by the NCSPA under the authority granted by Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The Port's study area was the existing Wilmington Harbor federal navigation channel that originates offshore and extends approximately 38 miles through the Atlantic Ocean and up the Cape Fear River to the City of Wilmington, where it services the Port of Wilmington. This project aims to address increases in cargo volume and the size of vessels calling at the Port of

Wilmington since the USACE completed the last significant channel improvements under the Wilmington Harbor Project authorized under WRDA of 1996.

The USACE has identified two preliminary action alternatives and one non-action alternative for inclusion in the EIS. The no action alternative maintains the existing authorization channel depth of 38 feet mean lower low water at the Anchorage Basin, 42 feet MLLW in the Mid-River reaches, and 44 feet MLLW through the ocean bar reaches and entrance channel. The 47-foot action alternative, conditionally authorized in section 403 of WRDA 2020, would lead to the channel deepening to 47 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to 49 feet MLLW in the ocean bar reaches and an extended and realigned entrance channel deepening to 46 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to 48 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to 48 feet MLLW in the ocean bar reaches and an extended and realigned entrance channel deepening to 46 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to 48 feet MLLW in the ocean bar reaches and an extended and realigned entrance channel; and channel widening in some reaches.

Based on the EPA's review of available information, the following comments are provided for your consideration:

(1) Wetlands: The proposed harbor deepening project has the potential to impact acres of wetlands along the North Carolina coast and the Cape Fear River. Aquatic resources in the coastal plain have historically experienced significant losses from development and degradation. These losses and threats, such as climate change, increase the value of the existing aquatic resources and their contributing functions in the watershed.

<u>Recommendation:</u> The EPA recommends that the draft EIS include a detailed assessment of wetland impacts anticipated for each proposed alternative to inform avoidance, minimization, and mitigation decisions. Additionally, the EPA recommends that the immediate impacts from project activity (i.e., those that will be realized as soon as dredging begins) should also be accurately assessed and discussed.

(2) Shoreline Protection: The EPA supports the use of natural and nature-based features (NNBF) along with stormwater best management practices such as Low Impact Development design- a proven engineering design approach to manage stormwater runoff as part of green infrastructure. LID emphasizes the conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality¹. Where areas along the length of the Cape Fear River may undergo additional disturbance from vessel wakes, shorelines and riverbanks may experience additional stress from and potential for erosion. The EPA recognizes that each situation will be unique, and some solutions may require hardened and nature-based measures to ameliorate current and future risks. Through the lens of the Clean Water Act, particularly Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting, restoring/enhancing, and/or mimicking nature are generally preferred solutions to manage flooding over the use of hardened infrastructure.

¹ https://www.epa.gov/nps/urban-runoff-low-impact-development

An NNBF alternative, in many situations, may be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative when compared to hardened infrastructure, and potentially more cost-effective considering long-term maintenance. NNBF alternatives are more likely to promote the study objective of increasing community resiliency because actions often achieve co-benefits such as protecting groundwater and other drinking water sources, improving or correcting water quality (i.e., improving/maintaining circulation, increasing nutrient capture, reducing toxics/pollutants, reduce pathogens, etc), increasing the extent and functional condition of wetland/ aquatic habitats, and improving regional sediment management while meeting the action's primary objective.

<u>Recommendation</u>: The EPA recommends the use of living shorelines whenever appropriate and most suited for the depth, breadth, and salinity of the water. These methods may include oyster sills, breakwater marshes, reefs, and other constructed habitat that may be self-sustaining especially in the event of continued sea level rise over the projected life of the project. Wholly constructed revetments and bulkheads using man-made materials such as rip-rap is the least preferred method and only recommended where living shorelines cannot be established or shown to be less protective. The EPA recommends that the USACE evaluate NNBF alternatives to hardened structures in the NEPA analysis.

(3) Biological Resources: The project area may include wetlands, estuarine emergent marsh, hardbottom, and submerged aquatic vegetation, and Essential Fish Habitat that may contain threatened and endangered species.

<u>Recommendation</u>: The EPA recommends early coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The NEPA analysis should include the analysis of the effects (including direct, indirect, and reasonably foreseeable effects) of anticipated navigational improvement activities on essential fish habitat and managed species. Additionally, the project is likely regulated by NMFS's 2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion. The 2020 SARBO requires that a project meet all relevant project design criteria and that the dredging equipment, timing, and minimization measures be evaluated under the umbrella of risk-based adaptive project management, as outlined in the 2020 SARBO Section 2.9.2 and the 2023 SARBO Project Assessment for Dredging and Material Placement in Fiscal Year 2023, Fiscal Year 2024, and Subsequent Fiscal Years.

(4) Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal: The USACE Manual 1110-2-5026 Beneficial Uses of Dredge Material requires that the beneficial use of dredged material be maximized within the coastal system. In general, using dredged material for beach nourishment and other environmentally sensitive applications is encouraged and supported by the EPA. Identification of efficient priority placement locations for sediments may maximize beneficial use and minimize costly transport to Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites. Beach nourishment may also be compatible with more efficient pipeline dredging vessels that cannot be used when disposal is necessary at an ODMDS. A dredged material management plan should include an assessment of dredging and sediment placement locations, with input from local marine sediment transport modeling and sediment characterization. Please include this plan in the NEPA analysis. Where sediments from navigational dredging are not suitable for beach nourishment, construction, or appropriate placement identified for erosion control, approved sediments should be placed in a permitted ODMDS.

<u>Recommendations:</u> The EPA recommends that the USACE not rely on the previous sediment suitability determination to meet current ocean dumping criteria, because new work material that underlies routine shoal material may not meet Ocean Dumping Criteria requirements. Where improvements include deepening, widening, and/or extending the entrance channel, the capacity of the ODMDS should be considered. Expansion of the current ODMDS would likely be a lengthly process, if feasible. Designating a new ODMDS may take longer than expansion of the existing ODMDS and be more difficult to complete. Identification of possible beneficial use, or re-use options should be a priority. The EPA also recommends that the USACE coordinate with Military Ocean Terminal-Sunny Point regarding potential improvements at this site that may affect ODMDS capacity.

(5) Air Quality: The project is located in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, North Carolina, which are in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

<u>Recommendations:</u> The EPA recommends the USACE coordinate with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality regarding local air quality and impacts resulting from vessel and port operations within 3-nautical miles of the North Carolina coast. Channel expansion has the potential to improve air quality by encouraging the use of larger, more modern vessels over less efficient ones. Channel expansion will increase container throughput and likely lead to a subsequent increase in truck traffic that may impact local air quality standards. The NEPA analysis should evaluate these impacts and identify mitigation measures. If the project includes the installation of new equipment, the port should consider zero-emission or low emission options, including electrified cranes. The EPA also recommends that the USACE require contractors to use clean dredge technology to the maximum extent possible. A preference should be given to dredge fleets operating Tier 3 or greater diesel engines.

(6) Environmental Justice: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, signed February 11, 1994, directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.

EO 12898 was supplemented by EO 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, signed April 21, 2023, which directs federal agencies, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law: to identify, analyze, and address disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards of Federal activities, including those related to climate change and cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens on communities with environmental justice concerns. Section 3 (b)(i) of EO 14096 also directs the EPA to assess whether each agency analyzes and avoids or mitigates disproportionate human health and environmental effects on communities with environmental justice concerns when carrying out responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7609.

<u>Recommendation:</u> The EPA recommends the USACE conduct a complete EJ analysis of the proposed alternatives, consistent with EO 14096, to identify people of color and low-income communities within the project area, assess the potential impacts of the project on these communities, and determine whether such impacts are disproportionately high and adverse. The EPA also recommends meaningfully engaging communities with EJ concerns early and throughout the NEPA process. To address potential barriers to meaningful engagement, consider using adaptive and innovative approaches to both public outreach and participation to meet the needs of the local community and businesses (i.e., engage local community leaders and groups in project planning, share project information at community events/meetings, virtual meetings, etc). The Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group's Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews², dated March 2016, provides guiding principles agencies can consider. Furthermore, the EPA recommends the environmental document describe how community concerns or recommendations are used to develop proposed mitigation options or to further avoid or minimize impacts to human health and the environmenta.

The EPA encourages the use of EJScreen³, the EPA's nationally consistent environmental justice screening and mapping tool, when conducting environmental justice scoping efforts. The tool provides information on environmental and socioeconomic indicators as well as pollution sources, health disparities, critical service gaps, and climate change data. The EJScreen is a useful first step in highlighting locations that may be candidates for further analysis. For purposes of the NEPA review, a project is in an area of potential EJ concern when an EJScreen analysis for the impacted area shows one or more of the twelve EJ Indexes at or above the 80th percentile in the nation and/or state. An area may also warrant additional review if other information suggests the potential for EJ concerns. An EJScreen analysis which does not reveal the potential for EJ concerns should not be interpreted to mean that there are definitively no EJ concerns present.

² <u>https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-08/documents/nepa_promising_practices_document_2016.pdf</u>

³ https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

(7) Climate Change: The EPA recommends that the NEPA analysis quantify contributions to climate change from initial and maintenance dredging activities, as well as changes to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from increases to operational efficiencies related to navigation channel expansion and roadways that support port operations. The NEPA analysis should also consider sea level rise and engineering techniques to offset rise, promote resiliency and adaptation measures such as including shoreline improvements and other resources in the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit⁴.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the NOI document and looks forward to continued participation in the development of the Wilmington Harbor Navigation Project. If you have questions regarding our recommendations, please contact Amanetta Somerville, of the NEPA Section, at <u>somerville.amanetta@epa.gov</u> or 404-562-9025.

Sincerely,

Acting NEPA Section Manager

⁴ <u>https://toolkit.climate.gov/</u>

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Kure Beach Comments
Date:	Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:19:20 AM
Attachments:	Wilmington Harbor 403.pdf

Attaches are the concerns the Town of Kure Beach has with the channel deepening project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Allen

Mayor Town of Kure Beach

https://www.townofkurebeach.org/

Allen Oliver Mayor

Connie Mearkle Commissioner

Dennis Panicali Commissioner



David Heglar Mayor Pro Tem

John Ellen Commissioner

Mandy Sanders Director of Administration

TOWN OF KURE BEACH 117 Settlers Lane ° Kure Beach, NC 28449 (910) 458-8216 ° Fax (910) 458-7421 www.townofkurebeach.org

July 15, 2024

To whom it may concern:

The Town of Kure Beach Mayor and Town Commissioners on behalf of the Citizens of the Town would like to formally go on record with the following comments/concerns for the Wilmington Harbor 403 Study. We will address the areas covered in the online and in- person meeting conducted during the month of June 2024.

Economic – First and foremost, the Town understands the importance of the North Carolina Port as an economic engine for the County, Region and State. We fully support the mission and purpose the Port provides businesses and industries. We are proud to be a supporter of their operation.

Ecological – We have concerns and would like to ensure that the following items are fully studied and an action plan for mitigation and management are totally vetted for the future. We have not conducted extensive studies for these areas, but we want to be sure that we voice our concerns.

- Increase Salinity of the Cape Fear River
- Loss of critical habitat for all living creatures.
- Ground Water Contamination
- Reduction in Wetlands
- Erosion Control

Physical Resources – The Town of Kure Beach has its own water system made up of a series of wells from the Castle Hayne Aquifer. Our systems provide Drinking water and Fire Suppression/Support for the 2200 full time residents along with an additional 2000 homes that are either vacation or rental homes. We have several areas of concern that the deepening of the navigational channel will cause the following:

- Saltwater Intrusion
- Increased potential for contamination by hazardous chemicals either in the water or sediment in the Cape Fear River

While we have not conducted studies to support these concerns, we do test our water supply on a regular basis, currently our water supply is safe for public use per NC DWQ guidelines.

We are fearful that the deepening of the channel by dredging and/or blasting will fracture the dome of the aquifer and cause serious health, environmental and financial hardships on the Citizens of Kure Beach. If the deepening project is approved, we are requesting a mitigation protocol that will test our water supply on a regular basis (TBD) and will develop a remediation plan paid for by the Port Authority / State of North Carolina if our water supply become contaminated. It is our position that the Citizens shouldn't bear the cost if a water treatment system is required.

We have a responsibly to the future of our Town to be good stewards of our Town resources, to ignore this would not be in the best interest of the town.

Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials – The Town would be interested in using dredge materials to enhance our Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (CSDR) program administered by the USACE. We would request that before we would agree to the placement that the materials would be tested for hazard's containments. Also, the use of dredge materials in thin layer placement in other adjacent areas of the Cape Fear does not cause pollutants to damage critical habitat or contaminate ground water by their placement.

We hope you see we are passionate to protect our little end of New Hanover County. We thank you for the ability to provide these comments.

Mayor	Mayor Pro Tem
Commissioner	Commissioner
Commissioner	

Sincerely,

From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] No to Port dredging
Date:	Monday, July 15, 2024 8:29:18 PM

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I do not want the port to be dredged to increase the depth. The known and unknown environmental effects do not outweigh the potential economic benefits. The saltwater intrusion from previous deepening projects continues to destroy the unique and valuable coastal ecosystems along the mouth of the river. Wilmington will continue to be a port hub regardless of this change and is there for not worth the degradation of habitat and abuse of our natural resources.

Thank you,

From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Please DO NOT deepen the Port of Wilmington harbor
Date:	Monday, July 22, 2024 10:27:33 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a Brunswick County resident who lives near a tributary of the Cape Fear River and who has had to worry for years now about PFAS contamination of ground and well water, I am firmly opposed to the deepening of the Cape Fear River to expand the Port of Wilmington. For years, residents of these counties have struggled with one roadblock after another to get their water tested, to get Chemours and other responsible parties to fix the problem, and even just to get good, reliable information. These issues are already challenging enough for residents of the greater Wilmington area. Deepening the river and disturbing sediment contaminated with PFAS will only make these problems worse. I don't care how much increased revenue the Port thinks it will get (emphasis on *thinks*) from having bigger container ships; it's not worth the trouble and heartache and probable increase in cancer rates it will result in.

Not to mention, deepening the river in the past has already led to saltwater intrusion that has killed thousands of trees and caused lots of bank erosion and habitat destruction up and down the river and its tributaries. Deepening the river again will just make this problem worse, and cause it to spread in to new places.

Rather than deepen the river, here's a better idea: just leave it alone. Economic development and growth won't be arrested just because the port stays the same size. There are other ways to grow an economy, but there's virtually no way to undo the destruction and disruption that would be caused by deepening the river. Just leave it alone.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] USACE Wilmington Harbor 403 Expansion Comments
Date:	Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:35:47 AM

Good morning,

I hope this finds you well. My name is **exercise**, and I am a resident of Wilmington, North Carolina. I am writing to express my concern over the proposed expansion of Wilmington Harbor.

I am one of the "rare" residents of Wilmington who was born and raised here, so this community and the local ecosystems are very special and important to me. I have seen the city and surrounding areas change a lot, and while I understand economic development is a big push for these changes, including those proposed by this initiative, I urge you to consider the negative impacts of such a decision as it is currently planned.

I grew up hearing that Wilmington did not have the infrastructure to support continued development, and that is still the case given the geography of the area. Earlier in the spring (2024), the NCDOT completed repairs on the city's Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, which crosses the Cape Fear River and is a main point into/out of the city. The amount of additional traffic that was created from such repairs was unbelievable. This project only lasted a couple of months, whereas the aforementioned USACE proposal will take approximately four years as it progresses up the Cape Fear River. Additionally, the USDOT recently awarded North Carolina a grant that will be put towards replacing the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge (PCD article). While the timeline for this project is unknown as of right now (to this local citizen, at least), the potential for any overlap of these projects or for the bridge to be replaced after the initial impacts (both positive and negative) of the USACE project have already settled would be irresponsible and short-sighted.

The above example is just one of many that I and fellow citizens can cite in expressing our concern for this development. Barring the possibility that the expansion will take place, one suggestion that I have and hope I would like to express is that you collaborate with local environmental nonprofits, such as Cape Fear River Watch (<u>https://capefearriverwatch.org/</u>), NC Coastal Federation (<u>https://www.nccoast.org/</u>), Bald Head Island Conservancy (<u>https://bhic.org/</u>), and others, in order to not only discuss the environmental implications of this project, but to foster conversations and discussions about things that directly impact our community and ecosystems, which in turn affect the rest of the state due to the importance of the Cape Fear River ecosystem. While the opposition to this project from these organizations may be obvious in some respects, understanding and mutual respect are important parts of collective action and progress.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts and concerns. I hope you have a nice day.



From:	
То:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor 403 comments from Audubon North Carolina
Date:	Saturday, July 20, 2024 11:00:59 AM
Attachments:	Audubon NC early scoping comments 6-30-2023.pdf
	CFR census AMOY 2013-2022.xlsx
	CFR CWB 2014-2023 - updated.xlsx
	CFR REKN incidental sightings fall 2021- summer 2024.xlsx
	2024-07-22 Audubon NC scoping comments.pdf

Hello,

Attached please find Audubon North Carolina's comments on the Wilmington Harbor 403 letter report and EIS.

Thank you,

Lindsay



WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
[Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor 403 Project Comments
Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:54:58 AM

I would like to thank Mr. Bret Waters and other USACE staff for providing public engagement opportunities including the eight hours of webinars and the Open House during this phase of the Wilmington Harbor analysis.

I ask that the EIS adequately addresses the following concerns.

<u>Ensure there are no negative impacts on the low-lying bird nesting sanctuaries in the lower</u> <u>Cape Fear River so that the bird colonies can continue to thrive.</u> These sites host 25% of the state's coastal nesting waterbirds including white ibis, brown pelicans, and two species of terns. Extensive mitigation efforts are likely needed and should be addressed in the EIS since the nesting islands already suffer from erosion and from overwash of nests from ship wakes and water displacement. Dredging the channel will lead to a wider tidal prism and more storm surge leading to increased erosion of the bird sanctuaries. The channel deepening will allow larger, heavier vessels to call at the port, further exacerbating erosion. The EIS should also address timing of dredging to minimize impacts on nesting birds.

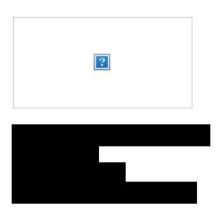
<u>Material to be dredged should be tested for PFAS.</u> At the Open House we were told that the material to be dredged would not be tested for PFAS because there are no actionable standards for PFAS in sediment. While this is true, the U.S. EPA has classified PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, prohibiting their release into the environment. Reconnaissance testing of sediment should be part of the EIS process to determine whether there may be adverse effects from possible reintroduction of PFAS before deciding whether some of the material can be used for beneficial uses you discussed such as raising levels of wetlands and habitat restoration. The local communities have heightened concern about PFAS given the long-term contamination of the Cape Fear River and consequently our drinking water with GenX.

The economic assumption that the dredging will not increase the volume of cargo entering and <u>leaving the port relative to a no action scenario does not seem reasonable</u>. This assumption limits the analysis to channel impacts only. However, it is contradicted by the NC Ports Authority on their website: "A more efficient channel would modernize the Port, attract more import and export business, ..." The EIS should include modeling of several scenarios for volume of truck and train traffic. There are residential areas near the Port that would be directly impacted especially by increased emissions.

Thank you,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	[WARNING: UNSCANNABLE EXTRACTION FAILED][Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor 403 Public Scoping Comments
Date:	Monday, July 22, 2024 10:45:10 AM



July 22, 2024

USACE Wilmington District 69 Darlington Avenue Wilmington, NC 28403 Attn: Wilmington Harbor 403

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of Bald Head Island Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on Bald Head Island, NC (BHI), to relay concerns and share information about the Wilmington Harbor Port Expansion Project during this Scoping Period of the 403 Process. Our organization has focused on our mission to Discover, Learn, Conserve, and Preserve Bald Head Island for 40 years. We specialize in sea turtle nesting biology and barrier island conservation, and conduct a number of environmental monitoring projects and studies on behalf of the Village of Bald Head Island. Our staff includes specialists in marine and environmental science (3 PhD level, 1 MS, 1 BS), and we collaborate closely with state and federal conservation organizations and academic institutions throughout North Carolina and the region. Our education and outreach programs serve the Brunswick and New Hanover county populations beyond just BHI; for example, we provide all sixth graders in Brunswick County (~1,000 students) with a science-focused field trip to BHI each year, and we offer overnight summer science camps to underserved Wilmington youth. Our Director of Science participated in Early Scoping Expert Workshops hosted earlier this year.

The goal of this letter is to share potential impacts of the Port Expansion project that should be fully considered during the 403 process, and to also offer data and resources to the project as needed. Bald Head Island, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River adjacent to the current Cape Fear channel, is in a vulnerable location relative to this proposed project. Bald Head Island also consists of rare and special ecosystems that should be preserved and protected. We are also concerned about river-wide impacts that have been more broadly discussed already, which would undoubtedly affect the natural resources throughout the entire watershed,

including BHI.

Specifically, our concerns include:

•

Impacts of channel deepening to shoreline sediment dynamics at the river mouth. Erosion of BHI beaches and sediment movement from east to west (from BHI's south and west beaches to the river channel) were severely underestimated during the 2000 channel realignment. This is a complex and vulnerable area and great care should be taken to be as accurate as possible with predicted impacts. Sediment fluxes along BHI's incredibly dynamic south and west beaches need to be carefully measured, and the Delft 3D model of sediment movement at the river mouth and along the lower Cape Fear barrier islands should be built with ultimate care, using *current* and location-specific data to parameterize, calibrate, and validate the model. The model presented in the 203 report was far from sufficiently detailed, and thus far, the results of the current Delft 3D model are not yet available to comment on. For example, the 203 report used beach profiles of BHI published in 2013 for its wave model, and the model did not predict wave directions around BHI accurately since there are two dominant wave directions at BHI. It is unclear if/how the GenCade 1D shoreline model will incorporate nonlinear drivers of shoreline change, such as storms and changes in wave/wind direction. It is important that this model accurately predicts erosion around BHI, because impacts of erosion include:

a.

Loss of beach nesting habitat for listed species of concern, including Loggerhead, Green, and Kemps Ridley sea turtles, and shorebirds such as Least Terns, American Oystercatchers, and Wilson's Plovers. Tides/storms have been the largest threats to BHI sea turtle nests over the past 5 years, and these impacts are also expected to increase with climate change and sea level rise.

b.

Impacts of erosion and beach loss to individual home and business owners and the local and state economy

c.

Increasing vulnerability of barrier islands (BHI, Oak Island) and other coastal communities to climate change related sea level rise and predicted increased storminess

d.

Impacts of erosion and sediment dynamics on back-barrier creeks and marshes, including tidal flushing and water quality

•

Impacts of channel deepening to the freshwater aquifer. A location-specific 3D model of aquifer-surface water dynamics should be created, including scenarios for channel deepening/widening at different potential depths, and the impacts of sea level

rise. This model should include potential impacts to the Castle Hayne and PeeDee aquifers, but also interactions with specific semi-confined aquifers on barrier islands. The model should also include scenarios for changes to riverine tides and salinity that will result from changes to the hydrogeography. It is unclear what the spatial extent of the existing groundwater model is, and whether it included the barrier islands. The existing model from the 203 report stated that saltwater intrusion into the Castle Hayne aquifer is unlikely, but since it was lacking in detail, this is difficult to evaluate. Concerns specific to BHI include:

a.

Saltwater intrusion into BHI's semiconfined aquifer is already occurring on BHI's west and south beaches (we have data supporting this contention). Further encroachment of salinity caused by channel deepening/widening will reduce the size of BHI's only freshwater source for island ecosystems.

b.

BHI's maritime forest (Bald Head Woods Coastal Reserve) is fed by this aquifer, is the second-largest maritime forest in the state of North Carolina, is considered a globally-imperiled forest subtype, and is protected by the NC Natural Heritage Program. Several listed plant species are found on BHI.

c.

Loss of a drinking water resource to the public. Most of BHI's drinking water is groundwater-derived. The Village of BHI has invested in careful environmental monitoring and studies of responsible water use to minimize the impact of freshwater production on the island's natural resources.

d.

Loss of/salinization of freshwater wildlife habitat. The freshwater ponds and lagoons fed by the aquifer are home to one of the largest breeding populations of protected American alligators in the state, and also provide important roosting and feeding grounds for a variety of waterbird species.

•

Impacts of dredging and increased shipping on wildlife and fisheries. The initial impacts of increasing channel depth and width will be substantial. It is currently unknown how often channel maintenance dredging will occur, but under a 47-foot or 46-foot scenario, we expect that it will need to occur more often and for longer periods than the no-action alternative.

a.

Already, channel maintenance dredging kills or injures numerous sea turtles and shorebirds each year. BHI Conservancy leads emergency wildlife response on the island, and we spend hundreds of hours each year transporting and providing care for animals hit by boats or caught in dredging equipment (those that survive the initial injury). These animals are also cared for by nonprofit organizations such as Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital, who rely solely on donations for support.

b.

The lights and noise from dredging equipment can disturb and change behavior of foraging and nesting sea turtles. We have observed this directly causing false crawls and misorientation of emerging hatchlings.

c.

Dredging has immediate impacts on the benthic environment, including benthic invertebrates that provide the forage base for sea turtles and important fisheries species. Increasing the magnitude, geographic scale, and frequency of this dredging will have longer-lasting effects throughout the food chain, and impacts on the fisheries economy in the Cape Fear watershed.

•

Impacts throughout the Cape Fear River and watershed. The Port of Wilmington is 28 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, which is 28 miles of direct impact to the river. Other regional ports such as Savannah (18 miles) and Charleston (5.5 miles) have shorter distances to the open sea. The scale of hydrodynamic impacts of a project of this size, whether 47- or 46-foot alternatives, cannot be underestimated. Our concerns include:

a.

An estimated 32 million cubic yards of dredge material will need to be transported and disposed of, not including maintenance dredge materials.

b.

Placement location of dredge spoil material and quality of the material

c.

Potential contamination of dredge spoil and impacts of this on water quality (heavy metals, methyl mercury, PFAS)

d.

Large scale of perturbations and fluidization of the seabed, and impacts on biogeochemical cycling

e.

Exacerbation of existing acceleration of sea level rise in the Cape Fear Watershed

f.

Erosion, flooding, and salinization impacts to marshes and wetlands, including the Bald Head Island/Smith Island Complex. Eroding marshes bordering developed areas will have no space to migrate, and marsh loss due to sea level rise may be accelerated. Marshes provide buffer to storm surge, habitat to wildlife and fisheries species, water filtration, and carbon sequestration benefits.

g.

Increased flooding impacts to vulnerable areas and resources which have already been stressed by Hurricane Florence, PFAS contamination, and are not fully recovered (e.g., residential areas in downtown Wilmington and Brunswick County, wastewater treatment facilities).

We urge you to fully consider the potential impacts of this proposed project by collecting the necessary scientific data, providing clear and complete results in the final EIS, and allowing adequate input from local and regional experts and the public to make an informed decision. We would be glad to provide data that we have already collected for the modeling efforts, or partner with the USACE to collect future data or samples on Bald Head Island as part of the NEPA process. Our datasets include:

Bald Head Island Sea turtle nesting (1983-present), including annual trends, locations, and impacts of erosion/washover/disturbance on nesting and hatching

Bald Head Island aquifer volume (2009-present) and water quality (2014-present)

Bald Head Island aquifer modeling study (Dr. Peter Zamora, 2021)

Bald Head Creek water quality (2012-present)

Bald Head Island Bird monitoring (2015-present)

•

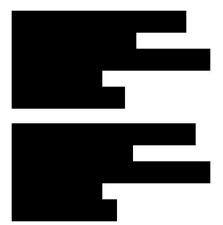
Bald Head Woods Coastal Reserve maritime forest study (Dr. Jodi Forrester, 2020)

Bald Head Island alligator population monitoring (2007-present)

- Bald Head Creek siltation and sediment characteristics (2018-2019)
- Bald Head Island wildlife emergency response (2020-present)

Based on our observations of the limited modeling and lack of comprehensive data analysis conducted thus far in the 403 process, we can only support the decision of a No-Action Alternative. It is our scientific opinion that a channel deepening to 47 feet or the alternative of 46 feet would be too environmentally destructive, or at least far too environmentally risky, to garner our support. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



From:	
To:	WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil
Subject:	FW: [Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement Project NOI of EIS Comments
Date:	Monday, July 22, 2024 10:24:50 AM
Attachments:	USACE Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement 403 DEIS - SERO Comments.pdf

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement Project NOI of EIS Comments

Good Morning,

Please see the attached Comments Letter regarding the Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement Project NOI of EIS. If you have any questions about the content of the letter, you will find contact information for you ESA, MSA, and MMPA subject matter experts in the concluding paragraph. Thank you for your continued coordination.

Cheers,

ESA Fisheries Policy Analyst Contractor with SFI in support of NOAA Fisheries Directorate Office | U.S. Department of Commerce

www.fisheries.noaa.gov



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505 https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast

07/19/2024

F:SER/AS

Colonel Brad A. Morgan U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District 69 Darlington Avenue Wilmington, NC 28403

Attention: Suzanne Hill & Bret Walters

Re: Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement 403 Project - Scoping Comments

Dear Colonel Morgan:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Region has reviewed the June 7, 2024 Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement 403 Project.

As an agency responsible for the stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitats, we will be evaluating the proposed project pursuant to:

- The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), which requires Federal agencies to ensure any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat;
- The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (Public Law 94-265), which requires consultation between the Federal action agency and us for projects that have the potential to affect essential fish habitat (EFH);
- The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA, 16 U.S.C. § 661 et seq.), which requires the Federal action agency to give full consideration of recommendations provided by Federal resource agencies;
- The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 (50 CFR 216), which provides protection to all marine mammals regardless of their listing status under the ESA and provides for NMFS to authorize the incidental take of marine mammals under specified statutory and regulatory circumstances; and
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), which requires Federal agencies to include in their decision-making processes appropriate and careful consideration of all environmental effects of proposed actions, analyze potential environmental effects of proposed actions and their alternatives, avoid or minimize adverse effects of proposed actions, and restore and enhance environmental quality to the extent practicable.



Project Description

The Project study area encompasses the entirety of the existing Wilmington Harbor federal navigation channel, which originates offshore and extends approximately 38 miles from the entrance channel in the Atlantic Ocean into the Cape Fear River to the City of Wilmington, North Carolina where it serves the Port of Wilmington. The Project intends to address the constraints that contribute to inefficiencies in the existing navigation system's ability to safely serve forecasted vessel fleet and cargo types and volumes. The project will evaluate channel deepening and widening and expected impacts to water quality, air quality, wetlands, endangered species, critical habitats, and aquatic resources.

Alternatives

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has identified two action alternatives for the project alongside the no action alternative:

- 1) *No action:* Channel deepening would continue to provide for the existing authorized channel depth of -38 feet MLLW at the Anchorage Basin, -42 feet MLLW in the Mid-River reaches, and -44 feet MLLW through the ocean bar reaches and entrance channel.
- 2) -47 feet Deepening: This alternative is already conditionally authorized in Section 403 of WRDA 2020 and would result in the channel deepening to -47 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to -49 feet MLLW in the ocean bar and an extended and realigned entrance channel. This alternative would also include widening in some reaches which are undefined in the NOI.
- 3) *-46 feet Deepening:* This alternative would include -46 feet MLLW from the Anchorage Basin through the Lower Swash Reach (Mid-River) and to -48 feet MLLW in the ocean bar and an extended and realigned entrance channel. This alternative would also include widening in some reaches which are undefined in the NOI.

General Issues

The rationale supporting the purpose and need for the project is unclear; the EIS will need to better explain why the deepening is necessary. The larger Panamax ships are currently using the Wilmington Port by not fully loading the ships. While this strategy may be less efficient than fully loading ships, it may be preferable when costs and environmental impacts are fully considered. The Port is not projecting the deepening will increase shipping traffic. Additional information to demonstrate the need for this project would benefit the EIS.

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act

Some EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) listed in the Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement Project 203 report have not been mentioned during the recent public coordination meetings or were mentioned incorrectly.

• Oligohaline submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), which is an HAPC under several fishery management plans, was reported in Town Creek and the adjacent Brunswick River near the upstream limits of salt water influence. Shifts in salinity caused by deepening the

Cape Fear River could affect or alter the species composition of SAV beds. In addition to affecting utilization of the SAV beds by fishery species and their prey, the Ramshorn snail (*Helisoma eucosmium*) was found on the vegetation, and this snail is federally endangered and endemic to the lower Cape Fear River basin (Hackney and Brady 1996).¹

- Red drum and cobia in North Carolina waters are no longer managed under a federal fishery management plan and, accordingly, do not have EFH designations.
- The only artificial reefs in proximity to the project area are approximately 4.4 mi east of the ocean bar.
- The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) designated Cape Fear River Inlet as a Crab Spawning Sanctuary in 2020.
- A change in nursery area designations by the NCMFC removed the Secondary Nursery Area designation from the project area.

Resource concerns to address

Environmental windows minimize impacts from dredging to fish and fish habitat. Posey et al.² found a strong seasonal difference in the abundance of epibenthic organisms in the lower Cape Fear River, being greatest between May and October. This correlates with abundance of most estuarine dependent fishery species. Removing the benthos when demersal feeding fish are most abundant will have a greater impact than if dredging occurred when both were less abundant. Additionally, female blue crabs spawn in the lower Cape Fear River. Alphin and Posey³ found abundance of adult blue crabs was greatest in the lower portion of the Cape Fear River, and eggbearing females in the lower estuary (south of Snows Cut) were most abundant in July. Juveniles tend to remain in lower salinity waters away from dredged areas. NMFS strongly encourages the USACE to look carefully at how to best avoid dredging operations during peak periods of fish and invertebrate abundance. NMFS staff are available to assist with this determination.

Estuarine emergent wetlands are EFH for penaeid shrimp and estuarine species within the snapper-grouper complex, and a HAPC for both groups where occurring in state designated nursery areas. Erosion of tidal marsh from ship wakes is a concern. Currently with vessels not transporting at full capacity, large wakes and water displacement are occurring regularly, causing accelerated erosion of marsh and shorelines. The extent of the impact will increase with the deepening of the harbor since the displacement will increase. Additionally, deepening of the channel is expected to increase tidal amplitude, accelerating drowning of salt marsh due to sea level rise.^{4 5} During the public meetings, it was noted by the USACE that modeling will be done to assess expected impacts. However, a shoreline change analysis using high resolution imagery should be conducted along the project area to assess current rates of shoreline erosion and where

¹ Hackney, C.T. and S. Brady. 1996. Evaluation of habitat requirements of the Greenfield Ramshorn in Town Creek, NC and a search for other populations. University of North Carolina Wilmington. 24 pages.

² Posey, M.H., T.D. Alphin, and C.M. Powell. 1996. Epibenthic fauna in shallow and channel habitats of the lower Cape Fear River – May to October 1995 sampling. Final Report submitted to Wilmington District, USACE, 30 pages.

³ Alphin, T.D. and M. Posey. 2007. Assessment of blue crab distribution in the Cape Fear River Estuary. Project #05pop03. 16 pages.

⁴ Familkhalili, R., and S.A. Talke 2016. The effect of channel deepening on tides and storm surge: A case study of Wilmington, NC, Geophysical Research Letters 43, 9138–9147, doi:10.1002/2016GL069494.

⁵ Talke, S. A., R. Familkhalili, and D.A. Jay. 2021. The influence of channel deepening on tides, river discharge effects, and storm surge. Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans, 126, e2020JC016328. https://doi.org/10.1029/2020JC016328

the most vulnerable shorelines are located. Existing information may be available from the remote sensing lab at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

The EFH assessment should focus on modeling salinity and habitat changes likely to occur from the deepening project. The NOAA sea level rise viewer⁶ would be beneficial for that analysis. NMFS is available to discuss the results of the modeling analysis to ensure accurate communication of the data in the EFH assessment and public engagements.

Suggestions to evaluate resource impacts

In the Cape Fear River, there are no data to support that designated Primary Nursery Areas (PNAs) in water depths of 6 to 12 feet provide a lower ecological value than shallower PNAs. There are studies which show many species of larvae move into the estuary on flood tides and stay on the bottom during flood tides and daylight hours, moving higher into the water column during nighttime and ebb tides. This aids in predator protection and enhances their ability to maintain their position in the estuary. Atlantic sturgeon and other demersal fish species migrate through and feed in the deep channels. NMFS disagrees with the Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) functional assessment showing PNAs shallower than 6 feet in the Cape Fear River should be ranked a higher functional value than PNAs with depths of 6 to 12 feet. Ranking function lower in waters greater than 12 feet should also be explained. Posey et al. (1996) analyzed epibenthic abundance in the Cape Fear River and found shallow and deep waters were similar for mysids and juvenile crabs, which were more abundant in deep water samples (30 to 40 feet). Our disagreement with the UMAM assessment partly stems from this tool being developed in Florida for its freshwater wetlands and not being calibrated to North Carolina's estuarine areas, something the USACE should do for the NEPA analysis.

Mitigation and opportunities for beneficial uses of dredged material

Mitigation should address both the immediate and long-term impacts to EFH from the project. Immediate impacts from channel deepening include temporary removal of benthic organisms and increased wetland loss due to ship-wake erosion. Long-term impacts to estuarine emergent wetlands include the effects of increased tidal amplitude and seawater intrusion into the oligohaline portion of the river.

It is encouraging to hear suggestions for beneficial use (BU) of sediment and rock material dredged from the harbor deepening. It should be clarified in the EIS whether the BU is considered part of the mitigation. Use of material for BU is preferred over offshore disposal since it will have increased ecological value to the Cape Fear River system. If found to be more costly, USACE should investigate cost sharing assistance from other agencies or grant funding prior to dismissing BU as an option. Mitigation and BU projects should directly offset impacts associated with the port deepening. This could include marsh protection and expansion along shorelines and islands, habitat enhancement or creation, thin-layer dispersal over estuarine emergent wetlands to increase elevation and productivity, restoring dredged shoals, and restoring fish passage. Please keep NMFS involved in mitigation and BU discussions as this process progresses.

⁶ <u>https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/slr</u>

Endangered Species Act

The USACE has identified several threatened and endangered species under the purview of NMFS that may be affected by the proposed deepening. The USACE identified the following federally-protected species that may be affected by the project: marine mammals (i.e., North Atlantic right whales, fin whales, and Sei whales), elasmobranchs (i.e., Giant manta ray), sea turtles (i.e., green, hawksbill, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback), and sturgeon (i.e., Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon). The project may also affect Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat. The threats posed by the project vary by species group. Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential threats

Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon

The USACE reports certain reaches of the channel will require blasting to achieve the desired depth because the present substrate is too hard to be removed via conventional dredging methods. Blasting may injure sturgeon within the blast radius and/or may induce detrimental behavioral changes (e.g., delayed or aborted migration, feeding cessation).

The deepening is also anticipated to change the location of the saltwater/freshwater interface in the Cape Fear River by allowing saltwater to creep further upriver. Sturgeon, particularly the younger life stages, are sensitive to salinity. As a result, sturgeon follow the saltwater/freshwater interface to optimize their salinity exposure. With the interface moving further upriver, sturgeon will be forced to utilize new habitats to maintain optimal salinity levels. Changing habitat is also likely to affect foraging opportunities as habitat and benthic infaunal communities respond to changing salinity regimes. Upriver interface encroachment also decreases the amount of freshwater developmental habitat between the spawning grounds and the interface. If enough developmental habitat is lost, young-of-year sturgeon may perish due to salinity exposure.

Aside from changes in salinity regime, the deepening may also change important water quality parameters like dissolved oxygen concentrations, particularly near the bottom where sturgeon are more prevalent. If the deepened channel does not flush completely, water at the bottom of the channel can become stagnant and hypoxic or anoxic. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations are directly harmful to sturgeon of all life stages and may also cause indirect harm through avoidance of impacted areas. To avoid low dissolved oxygen conditions, sturgeon may swim higher in the water column. Swimming higher in the water column may make sturgeon more susceptible to vessel strikes.

The proposed deepening will also increase the risk of vessel strikes to sturgeon. Deeper draft vessels reduce the space available for sturgeon to avoid oncoming vessels. Likewise, the hydraulics created by larger vessels are more likely to exceed the burst speed capacities of sturgeon, leading to individuals being sucked into the propellers of these ships and killed.

Hopper dredges are known to entrain and kill sturgeon. Their proposed use during the project raises concern over potential interactions. In the Southeast, Atlantic sturgeon aggregate in marine waters off the mouths of major rivers during winter months. The use of hopper dredges in these areas, particularly if deployed during times of year when sturgeon are present, increases the risk of their interactions with sturgeon.

Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat

Aside from impacts to individual sturgeon, the proposed project may also impact habitat. The deepening will occur within Cape Fear-Carolina Unit 4 of Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat. The following table describes the four Physical and Biological Features (PBFs) of Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat. The project may affect three (**bolded**) of those four PBFs.

	logical Features (PBF) of Atlantic		
PBF		Purpose/Role of PBF	
"Hard Substrate"	Hard bottom substrate (e.g., rock, cobble, gravel, limestone, boulder, etc.) in low salinity waters (i.e., 0.0-0.5 parts per thousand [ppt] range)	Necessary for the settlement of fertilized eggs and refuge, growth, and development of early life stages	
"Salinity Gradient and Soft Substrate"	Aquatic habitat inclusive of waters with a gradual downstream gradient of 0.5 up to as high as 30 ppt and soft substrate (e.g., sand, mud) between the river mouth and spawning sites	Necessary for juvenile foraging and physiological development	
"Unobstructed Water of Appropriate Depth"	Water of appropriate depth and absent physical barriers to passage (e.g., locks, dams, thermal plumes, turbidity, sound, reservoirs, gear, etc.) between the river mouth and spawning sites	 Necessary to support: Unimpeded movement of adults to and from spawning sites; Seasonal and physiologically dependent movement of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon to appropriate salinity zones within the river estuary; and Staging, resting, or holding of subadults or spawning condition adults. Water depths in main river channels must also be deep enough (at least 1.2 meters) to ensure continuous flow in the main channel at all times when any sturgeon life stage would be in the river 	

Physical and Biological Features (PBF) of Atlantic Sturgeon Critical Habitat

"Water Quality"	Water quality conditions, especially in the bottom meter of the water column, with suitable temperature and oxygen values	 Necessary to support: Spawning; Annual and inter-annual adult, subadult, larval, and juvenile survival; and Larval, juvenile, and subadult growth, development, and recruitment. Appropriate temperature and oxygen values will vary interdependently, and depending on salinity in a particular habitat. For example, 6.0 mg/L dissolved oxygen or greater likely supports juvenile rearing habitat, whereas dissolved oxygen less than 5.0 mg/L for longer than 30 days is less likely to support rearing when water temperature is greater than 25°C. In temperatures greater than 26°C, dissolved oxygen greater than 4.3 mg/L is needed to protect survival and growth. Temperatures of 13 to 26 °C are likely to support spawning.
-----------------	---	--

The soft substrate PBF was established because it provides habitat for sturgeon prey. The proposed deepening will remove soft substrate. However, the blasting to remove bedrock is likely to leave hard rock behind which will lack soft substrate entirely. The lack of soft substrate will create large patches of the river that do not support sturgeon prey items for an unknown length of time. During that time, this PBF is unlikely to fulfill its biological/ecological role.

The unobstructed water of appropriate depth PBF is meant to ensure sturgeon have sufficient space and depth to navigate riverine habitats while carrying out different life history requirements. The proposed deepening activities risk creating obstructions (e.g., dredge equipment, sediment plumes) that impede those movements. Such impediments may be particularly problematic if they interfere with the movement of spawning adults in and out of the river. Additionally, larger vessels taking up the vast majority of a river channel may constitute an obstruction, preventing sturgeon from making spawning-related movements of adults, seasonally and physiologically dependent movements or juveniles, and potentially disrupting staging, resting, or holding of subadults or spawning condition adults.

The water quality PBF was established to identify the water temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration thresholds necessary to support multiple ecological and biological functions necessary for the conservation of Atlantic sturgeon in the Southeast. As noted previously, the deepening may cause low dissolved oxygen concentrations, particularly near the bottom where sturgeon are more prevalent. If the deepened channel does not flush properly, water at the bottom

of the channel can become stagnant and hypoxic or anoxic. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations are harmful to sturgeon of all life stages and would render the PBF unlikely to fulfill its biological/ecological role.

Giant Manta Ray

The best available information indicates giant manta rays are distributed throughout the Southeast U.S., occurring in the Western North Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean.⁷ Within these areas, they are sighted at continental shelf-edges, upwelling areas, and in productive coastal areas, including inshore locations such as inlets, intracoastal waterways, bays, and estuaries. Giant manta rays do not occur in freshwater or marsh habitats (e.g., freshwater lakes and rivers, tidal and non-tidal marshes, mangroves, riparian areas); therefore, it is not necessary to consider them for activities that occur within these habitats.

Vessel traffic, both recreational and commercial, has been documented to adversely affect protected species such as the giant manta ray. Giant manta rays spend considerable time basking, traveling, and feeding in surface waters, where they are susceptible to vessel strikes. In addition, giant manta ray are at greater risk of vessel strike if they occur near areas of high human use (e.g., inlets, coastal areas, beaches). In some parts of their range, such as the Western North Atlantic subregion, it is likely that the seasonal contraction of suitable manta ray habitat during the warmer months increases their proximity to busy ports and could pose a serious threat to the species.⁸

Dredging and offshore sand placement activities occurring within the marine environment will likely result in habitat degradation, avoidance, and displacement of giant manta rays from the action area. It is unknown whether hopper dredges pose a risk of entrainment for giant manta rays. However, records suggest that giant manta rays have been captured in relocation trawls. We do not anticipate that these interactions would result in mortalities given the limited trawl times associated with relocation trawling. Refer to the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO) for additional information.⁹

Construction activities associated with the project (e.g. blasting and hopper dredging) increase ocean noise and may affect behavior, disrupt foraging, and/or cause a stress response for giant manta rays in the action area.

For more information on potential routes of effect to giant manta rays resulting from the proposed action please refer to the Giant manta ray Section 7 Framework.¹⁰

North Atlantic Right Whales

⁷ Farmer, N. A., et al. 2022. The distribution of manta rays in the western North Atlantic Ocean off the eastern United States. Scientific Reports 12, 6544, <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-10482-8</u>.

⁸ Garzan, F., Graham, R.T., Witt, M.J., and L.A. Hawkes 2020. Ecological niche modeling reveals manta ray distribution and conservation priority areas in the Western Central Atlantic. Animal Conservation, doi:10.1111/acv.12663. https://publicationslist.org/data/m.j.witt/ref-140/acv.12663.pdf

⁹ https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/sarbo_acoustic_revision_6-2020-opinion_final.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2024-04/Giant-Manta-Ray-Section-7-Framework-2024-0.pdf

Endangered North Atlantic right whales (NARWs) occur within the portion of the project area that is seaward of the COLREGS demarcation line (i.e., Atlantic Ocean waters) from November 1 through April 15, annually. Vessel strikes are a leading cause of NARW mortality and injury. While most documented strikes have involved vessels larger than 65 feet in length, lethal collisions have been documented involving vessels as small as 39 feet in length. NMFS anticipates the deepening project may increase risk of NARW vessel strikes (1) during the construction phase from dredges and support vessels if work occurs during November 1 - April 15 and (2) after project completion if deepening leads to an increase in vessel traffic and/or changes in vessel traffic patterns and speeds.

We commend the USACE's efforts to fund NARW aerial surveys in North and South Carolina, which will be a valuable tool for monitoring and disseminating near-real-time sightings of NARWs to vessel operators during the construction phase (if work occurs during November - April). We recommend that all vessels involved in construction activities should travel at 10 knots or less when operating in active NARW vessel speed zones to reduce the risk of NARW collisions. These efforts will also benefit non-ESA-listed humpback whales which occur in the project area during the cooler months and are also at risk from vessel strikes.

The USACE's environmental analysis should include a quantitative analysis of potential changes in vessel volume, traffic patterns and speeds that may occur after the deepening is completed, and how these changes will affect NARW vessel strike risk. In 2020, NMFS conducted an assessment of the NARW Vessel Speed Rule, including compliance with seasonal 10-knot speed restrictions at ports along the Eastern Seaboard.¹¹ The assessment, which analyzed Automatic Identification System (AIS) data from regulated vessels, found that apparent compliance with seasonal NARW speed restrictions at the Port of Wilmington has been poor since the Rule went into effect in 2008. Less than 20% of the distance transited by ocean going vessels entering and exiting Wilmington occurred at the required 10-knot or lower speeds (see Appendix A, Figure 38).¹² The assessment also found that an outsized proportion of excess-speed transits occurred at Southeast U.S. ports when vessels were transiting through dredged channels under pilotage. The American Pilots' Association has stated that higher speeds are needed to maintain safe navigation of large vessels in narrow dredged channels (80 FR 62008, October 15, 2015). The validity of this statement notwithstanding, the deepening is expected to increase the length of Wilmington's dredged channel, and by extension, the distance that vessels transit when vessels are under pilotage and likely exceeding 10 knots in NARW habitat. This effect will likely be exacerbated when larger, deeper draft vessels begin calling at Wilmington post-deepening. The USACE's analysis should quantify this predictable increase in vessel speed, as well as changes in vessel traffic patterns that will occur when the pilot boarding area is moved seaward, and their effect on NARW vessel strike risk. The USACE should also analyze if the number of vessels calling at Wilmington is expected to increase post-deepening – given current and anticipated future improvements in port infrastructure – and how that will affect NARW vessel strike risk.

¹¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2020. North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) Vessel Speed Rule Assessment. National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, Silver Spring, MD. Report available at https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-01/FINAL NARW Vessel Speed Rule Report Jun 2020.pdf?null

¹² Appendix A: Figures and Tables available at <u>https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-01/FINAL_Appendix_A-Figures_and_Tables.pdf?null</u>

Conclusion

We appreciate your coordination with our office on this project. If you have any additional questions regarding the comments provided above, please do not hesitate to contact us. For questions pertaining to EFH and/or the MSA, please contact Ms. Anne Deaton by email at <u>anne.deaton@noaa.gov</u>. For questions pertaining to protected species and/or the ESA, please contact Mr. Andy Herndon by email at <u>andrew.herndon@noaa.gov</u>. For questions pertaining to the Marine Mammal Protection Act please contact Ms. Stefanie Hawks-Johnson by email at <u>stefanie.hawks-johnson@noaa.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Regional Administrator

for

cc: F/SER, Strelcheck, Amendola, Blough, Silverman, Rosegger, Sogluizzo F/SER3, Bernhart, Farmer, Herndon, Hawks-Johnson F/SER4, Croom, Wilber, Deaton



July 22, 2024



Andrea Stolba U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District ATTN: Wilmington Harbor 403 69 Darlington Avenue Wilmington, NC 28403 Sent via email to: WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Stolba,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement public comment period. As the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon North Carolina protects birds and their habitat throughout the state, including through its coastal islands and sanctuary program. This program directly manages and collects data at nesting sites, including islands on the Lower Cape Fear River (LCFR) that collectively support about one-third of North Carolina's coastal nesting waterbirds. As our June 2023 letter describes, the LCFR is one of the most important strongholds for migratory birds on North Carolina's coast. To help ensure that this federally protected natural resource is represented in all of the port expansion proposals, we have attended all possible meetings and information sessions and will be glad to continue to meet to discuss the information we have further and we provide these comments now.

1. Updated and additional bird data collected on the LCFR.

As the primary bird management entity on the LCFR, Audubon North Carolina provided comments and data during the early scoping public comment period last June, including species composition, distribution, and abundance. For ease of reference, we will attach the letter and files sent last June and provide updates where new data is available. Last summer, the 2023 colonial (group-nesting) waterbird census had not been completed, so we have updated the file called "CFR CWB 2014-2024 - updated" to include 2023's results. We are also adding a file listing the locations and flock sizes of our incidental (seen while we were doing other work) sightings of Red Knots on the LCFR. There are no comprehensive, targeted surveys for Red Knots, so this is the most information we have available at this time. The Bald Head Island Conservancy may be able to provide counts from their beaches, and we encourage the Corps to contact them for information they may have, if they have not already.

2. Threats to birds from anthropogenic alterations to the LCFR.

The low-lying islands and marshes that support such abundant bird life on the LCFR already suffer from erosion, made worse by current ship wakes, dredging and removal of sediment from the system, and rising seas. While the Corps doesn't plan to gather new data to model how the port expansion would exacerbate these issues, we know from observations and past port expansions that the impacts will be significant for birds. A deeper, wider channel will lead to bigger wakes, more wave energy, a wider tidal prism, and substantially more erosion of these nesting islands, significantly compromising the quality and sustainability of the habitat, and thus threatening the larger population of these bird species in the state.

Our 2023 letter describes direct observations of how the bird nesting islands' shorelines have changed over the years and how and where ship wakes impact nesting birds and interact with the LCFR's shorelines. In fact, the shorelines of all nesting islands on the LCFR are subject to impacts from ship wakes and increased water and wave energy in a system that has been deepened and widened over the years. Birds can choose nest sites based on predictable, repeated tides, but they cannot anticipate what are, in effect, rogue waves, that strike without warning and overtake areas that would otherwise remain above water (Fig. 1).

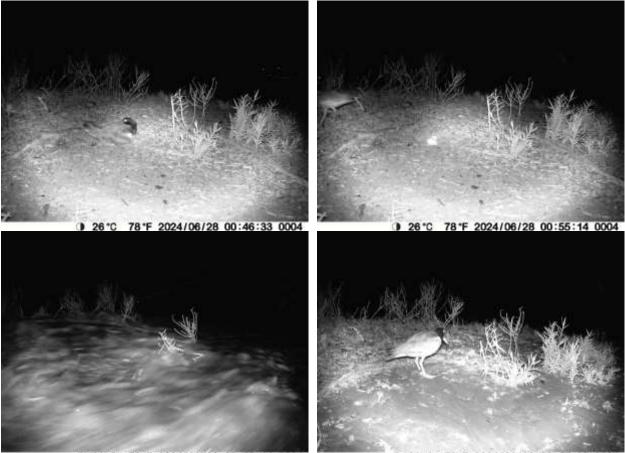


Figure 1. A typical American Oystercatcher nest (left) on the LCFR located very near, horizontally and vertically, to the high tide line (indicated by black arrow) and Laughing Gulls nesting in the marsh on the LCFR.

We have observed when boating on the river, that passing ships—tankers and especially container ships—throw large tsunami-like wakes that inundate shorelines, and nests, up and down the LCFR (Figs. 2 and 3). These ship wakes travel all the way to the eastern shoreline of the LCFR and are not confined to the immediate vicinity of the dredged channel. Severity depends on a variety of conditions, including but not limited to tidal stage and direction, wind speed and direction, ship speed and direction, and ship weight and displacement, and generally, the larger the ship, the more dramatic the impacts we observe. These wakes, as well as changes to the hydrodynamics in the system caused by deepening and widening, affect erosion along other LCFR shorelines as well, so that developed areas such as the Southport waterfront and neighborhoods along the banks of the river are impacted as well as bird habitat.



Figure 2. A ship wake strikes a nesting area on Shellbed Island on the eastern shore of the LCFR.



26°C 78°F 2024/06/28 00:55:14 0004 **D** 26°C 78°F 2024/06/28 00:57:35 0004 Figure 3. An American Oystercatcher's nest that was situated well above the high tide line is inundated by a ship wake on the LCFR, washing away the eggs.

3. The best available information must be used to evaluate impacts to migratory birds on the LCFR.

While these impacts are observable, we do not have the type of technical data—bathymetry, shoreline contours, island topography, waveforms, and more—that would serve to best model how changes to the depth and width of the river channel, and the tonnage of ships traversing the channel would affect bird habitat, nests, and young. It was therefore disappointing to learn last

fall that the Corps does not plan to collect any new data as part of this 403/EIS process, especially as during presentations in the 203 process in 2019-2020, we were told more data would be collected to improve on the analyses that were being used at the time—analyses that did not capture the observed impacts that existing dredging and shipping traffic have on the nests, chicks, and habitats of migratory birds. We therefore hope that the Corps' understanding of these impacts will go beyond what was in the 203 report.

Developing a complete, fine-scale understanding of the erosional impacts, or even the full impacts to nests or chicks could consume several graduate students' degrees. However, some shoreline and coastal processes work has been done in specific areas of interest, and if it hasn't been done already, we encourage the Corps to contact resources at UNC-Wilmington including the Coastal and Estuarine Studies Lab and the faculty in the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography's Coastal Engineering program to determine if existing data or analyses would be available and applicable.

Given constraints on this process that prevent more data from being collected specifically for the Corps' assessment, and given the easily observable qualitative impacts, we encourage the Corps to be careful in any conclusions it draws as regards impacts to migratory birds, their nests and young, and the habitats they rely on. A lack of granularly quantified data for a specific island's shoreline change and wake characteristics should not be taken to indicate that there is no impact, just that thattype of data was not able to be collected. No additional information is needed to know that bringing larger and heavier ships up river will create larger wakes and more severe impacts, and the Corps' environmental analysis should reflect that fact.

4. The permanence and magnitude of the proposed deepening and widening.

We encourage the same caution broadly because the proposed project is massive in scope and cannot be undone if impacts are worse or different than anticipated. In a specific example we drew attention to in our 2023 letter, the Corps proposes some of the most drastic widening in the vicinity of Battery Island, a globally significant Important Bird Area for White Ibis and an important nesting island on the LCFR. Widening the channel between Southport, Oak Island, and Battery Island by 800-1300 feet, as the Corps proposes, would not only exacerbate erosion that is already occurring but decrease the space available to implement shoreline protection measures for the human communities as well as the bird island. Impacts to Battery Island (or migratory birds in general) were not considered in the previous deepening and widening project's 1996 EIS, and later the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attempted to mitigate some impacts by installing geotextile tubes, which proved to be temporary and not effective. This analysis is an opportunity to revisit these oversights and misunderstandings and ensure that migratory birds are not overlooked again.

Finally, beyond any specific island, deepening and widening the LCFR's navigational channel will have irreversible system-wide impacts, from the conversion of bottomland swamp from fresh to brackish water to a wider tidal prism and greater potential for flooding both during usual high tides and storms. These will have impacts on human communities as well as natural ecosystems and wildlife, and we look forward to a thorough and thoughtful review of the alternatives presented by the Corps in the scoping documents.

Sincerely,

Audubon North Carolina

Attached: Audubon NC early scoping comments 6-30-2023.pdf CFR CWB 2014-2023 - updated.xls CFR census AMOY 2013-2022.xls CFR REKN incidental sightings fall 2021- summer 2024.xls