



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Wilmington District

CESAW-ECP-PE

August 17, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

MAINTENANCE DREDGING US COAST GUARD STATION EMERALD ISLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Comment Deadline: Within 30 days of the date of this Notice.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina has prepared the US Coast Guard (USCG) Emerald Isle Channel Dredging and Maintenance Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2022. An electronic version of the Draft EA is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at: <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/missions/navigation/PublicNotices/>

The EA evaluates dredging an additional southwest route to provide the USCG with two options to exit the Emerald Isle, located in Carteret County, North Carolina. This alternative includes maintenance dredging a navigation route to the southwest to access the USACE federally maintained navigation channel at Bogue Inlet. This southwest route has been previously dredged as a part of the USACE federally maintained navigation channel. This alternative would also include a new approximately 300 linear-foot “shortcut” channel to connect the southwest route to the current USCG channel. The southwest route could be maintained at the same time as the current USGC channel that runs north to the federally maintained channel. All dredging and placement work would be completed between November 16 and March 31.

The methods of dredging that will be considered for accomplishing the work include pipeline dredge, mechanical (clamshell) dredge, government-owned sidecast dredge, and government-owned special purpose (hopper) dredge. The result of dredging would be the removal of shoaled sediments lying above the plane of -6 feet MLLW, plus 2 feet allowable overdepth in the Station’s access channel in naturally occurring deep water.

Placement of dredged material would be dependent upon the method of dredging used and the quality of the material to be dredged. Sediment sampling in the area of new dredging (300 linear-foot section) would be accomplished prior to dredging to determine sediment characteristics. Only beach quality sand would be sidecast, placed on the beach or in the nearshore placement area.

The draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and USACE requirements for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (33 CFR 230), as amended, and addresses the relationship of the proposed action to other applicable Federal and State Laws and Executive Orders. The EA addresses the impacts of the draft Recommend Plan on environmental resources, including, but not limited to, federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, soils, and water and air quality. This Public Notice is being distributed to notify all known interested persons of the availability of the draft EA for review. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA would be completed by the USACE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project.

Commenting Information:

Comments must be submitted in writing via email within 30 days of the date of this notice. The USACE, Wilmington District, will consider these comments in determining whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be completed. Written comments pertinent to the proposed work should be submitted to: Jeremy Overstreet, Biologist
Email address: Jeremy.R.Overstreet@usace.army.mil