



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

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**General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment  
Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina  
Coastal Storm Risk Management Project**



**Appendix M: Project and Environmental Correspondence  
Final  
February 2025**

## **Project Correspondence\***

(\*Arranged chronologically from oldest to newest)

# *Town of North Topsail Beach*

Joann M. McDermon, Mayor  
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tem

Aldermen:

Richard Grant  
Tom Leonard  
Susan Meyer



Chief William Younginer  
Acting Town Manager

Sherrie L. Hancock  
Town Clerk

*Nature's Tranquil Beauty*

## **Memorandum**

**To:** Pam Castens, Project Director, USACE Engineers, Wilmington District

**From:** Mayor Joann McDermon on Behalf of the Board of Aldermen

**Subject:** USACE Response by North Topsail Beach, July 1, 2021

Thank you for your email of June 14, 2021. This response is on behalf of the Board of Alderman for North Topsail Beach (NTB) regarding the Surf City/ North Topsail Beach, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM or "Project") Project.

## **History**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) CSRM Project has been going on for over twenty years. In 2010 the Project construction cost was estimated to be \$123.1 million, and the 50-year Renourishment was \$227.8 million. In 2015 the Project construction cost was \$144.3 million, and the 50-year Renourishment was \$245.4 million. Most recently, in 2020, the Project construction cost estimate is \$237 million and the 50-yr Renourishment cost estimate is an additional \$672.1 million.

Most importantly, until 2019 no federal funding was approved for the Project, which meant it was in "limbo" as to whether and when the Project would occur. Given the uncertainty over the Project's viability and faced with substantial beach erosion in the area of the Project, NTB embarked upon its own Storm Risk Mitigation Project (NTSBRM) in the 2014/2015 time period spending over \$15 million dollars of town funds.<sup>1</sup> The result was a FEMA Engineered beach, which gave NTB increased coverage from FEMA.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There are three towns on Topsail Island. The town of Topsail Beach and NTB chose to initiate their own Beach Risk Management Programs, while Surf City has not to this day.

<sup>2</sup> See attached. Non-engineered beaches only qualify for "Emergency work" i.e. dune restoration while Engineered beaches are eligible for replacement of sand loss from the dune and from the beach itself.

The result of this Program was that the Phase 5 area covered under the CSRM is much more robust than the areas of Surf City which do not have engineered beaches. (See discussion below)<sup>3</sup>

The history provides perspective for the actions of NTB, including the questions of whether, given the substantial investment the town has already made in the CSRM project area, and the robustness and protection of the beach compared to the other non NTB areas of the Project, is the CSRM Project a proper use of NTB taxpayers' funds. This is a question that the Board has wrestled with from the beginning, recognizing that the CSRM Project is exciting, and the excellent work done by the USACE team.

### **Financial impact on NTB**

As mentioned above the cost of the Project and to the town has risen substantially over the past twenty years, more than doubling. As the Corps team has already pointed out, the current estimate was done in 2019 and thus the impact of inflation is not known. The parameters of the Project are that the current Project "cost" is an estimate and that the actual cost, determined only after bids are received, will be the fiscal responsibility of the participants. The cost could go up or down, but recent market trends showing significant inflation increases, particularly in construction, are likely to increase the cost of the NTB portion of the Project as it will be many months before it is bid. Additionally, a number of other N.C. beach communities are embarking on nourishment projects, stressing a limited supply of firms performing nourishment. What this means as a practical matter is that the town assumes fiscal responsibility for an unknown project cost.

Compounding these issues, is the revelation regarding "non qualifying" areas of the Project. In a June discussion and follow up email it was communicated to NTB that 13.57% of the Project area, reflecting 7,092 feet of shoreline, was ineligible for Cost Sharing/Financing, totaling \$32,170,960.46 of which \$19,401,466.14 was the responsibility of NTB<sup>4</sup> and the remaining \$12,769,494.32 the responsibility of Surf City.

It was also communicated to NTB that in addition to the USACE not making any contribution towards the ineligible area, it also would not provide financing for that area, and that NTB (and Surf City) must provide the totality of its share (the \$19 million) before USACE would even send out the bids for the Project. This would require NTB to raise, in addition to its share of the eligible areas, a prepayment larger than its initial share of the Project. In addition, this creates a funding structure that would be prohibitive for NTB. This "structure" would mean that the renourishment funding<sup>5</sup> would be for both

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<sup>3</sup> Unlike in Surf City where the USACE project includes the entire town's shoreline [minus the ineligible unbuilt lots] for NTB the USACE project only places sand on our southernmost 4 miles of NTB's 11.2 miles of shoreline. As shown below, the financial commitments for the Project would seriously jeopardize NTB's ability to undertake Projects which would protect the remaining 7.2 miles of its beaches.

<sup>4</sup> The State of North Carolina will NOT contribute a share of this. In an email dated June 16, 2021, Mr. Hart of the State Division of Natural Resources stated "After reviewing your request the state funds would have to be matched to federal funds. The language relating to these funds can be found in Session Law 2020-79 (Part IV section 11. (b)) includes the language that these funds match federal funds. These state funds cannot be used in matching only local funds and would require federal funds to utilized.

<sup>5</sup> NTB assumes that areas ineligible for the Project would likewise be ineligible for the renourishment, although it is possible that certain lots could be developed, and parking addressed. For planning purposes, given the uncertainty of these, NTB must consider the funding of renourishment to be the same as the original Project.

the "upfront" payment for the ineligible areas and funding for the renourishment, in effect creating a "do loop" funding cycle.

The second issue which occurs as a result of the ineligible areas, and USACE not providing financing, is that NTB would be required to go to the Local Government Commission (LGC), for approval for borrowing the \$19,401,466.14. This requires that NTB request a certain amount to borrow and demonstrate how it plans to pay for it. With the Project cost unknown until bids are received, it is not likely that the LGC can approve NTB's request given their statutory direction that the borrowing be "adequate and not excessive". Without a bid being taken before NTB borrows the determination of adequate but not excessive is not able to be determined.

Further, the latest information provided to NTB by the USACE regarding the amount to be financed, the original estimate was around \$16 million, but the June estimate is now \$25,782,903.68,<sup>6</sup> a 56% increase.

Finally in the issue of financing, the above may put NTB in the position of not being able to fund this fall's FEMA project which is mostly in the NTB Project area. The current estimate for this FEMA Cat G project is approximately \$14 million and FEMA only "reimburses" NTB for costs associated with this project, meaning that NTB must have financing in place, with LGC approval, or lose out on millions of dollars of sand.

## **FEMA**

Another unresolved and fundamental issue for NTB is the role of FEMA. As stated above, NTB has spent millions of dollars in the Project area to create an "engineered" beach and the protection that provides. The unresolved issue is when does FEMA cease being responsible for the Project beach, especially does this occur at the signing of the PPA or the signing of the construction contract for the NTB area. If the former, and with the NTB construction contract is not let for many months if not years, NTB could be faced with the impact of a major storm significantly damaging the Project area, but without funding by either FEMA or the USACE.<sup>7</sup> This issue is now being considered by FEMA but a decision by the USACE deadline is not likely. NTB cannot take this risk.

## **NTB's ability to fund**

The only area of revenue to fund the Project under the control of NTB is in property taxes and there is a maximum of \$1.50 per 1,000 of value under NC General Statutes. NTB's tax rate is \$0.46, effective July 1, 2021. Per an analysis performed by NTB outside financial advisor, a "town wide" one cent (\$0.01) per one hundred of property value raises around \$100,000 annually. The original \$16 million would need \$3 million annually to pay off or a \$0.30 increase. The new nearly \$26 million would need \$5 million

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<sup>6</sup> NTB does not understand how this amount could go up as it represents our percentage share of the "eligible" Project cost of \$237,000,000 but now \$32,170,960 has been removed so it is counterintuitive that the NTB loan amount should go up. With 13.57% of the Project cost being excluded, it is logical that the "borrowed" amount should go down by around the same percentage.

<sup>7</sup> USACE has indicated that if "sand" is lost they can cover this in the construction bid. The problem is that this will increase the cost of the project, and NTB's cost will increase versus being reimbursed by FEMA.

annually or a \$0.50 increase. Raising the \$19 million prepayment <sup>8</sup> would add another \$3.6 million annually or a \$0.36 increase. The current tax rate of \$0.46, plus the new \$0.50 (\$26 million) and the \$0.36 (19 million) would total \$1.32 per or nearly a 300% increase in the Town's property taxes.<sup>9</sup> This level of taxes would be too close to the \$1.50 limit. It would also limit available dollars for nourishment cost in the other four phases of the NTB coastline.

This would create another problem for NTB in that its South Fire Station needs to be replaced and the Project could reduce or eliminate NTB's ability to fund this necessary public safety item.

#### **Control of the Project area and Joint and several liability**

The PPA requires <sup>10</sup> that NTB and Surf City have "joint and several" liability. NTB is not willing to and cannot commit to sharing liability with another town.

While perhaps not considered by some to be as critical an issue as the above, in discussions with other towns that have chosen not to participate in federal projects, the ceding of control of NTB's beach to the USACE is a concern, mostly from the financial commitments. For example, if the renourishment costs escalate, or we have a recession where the town's revenues diminish, it could place NTB in the position of stress in meeting our financial commitments to the USACE (and third-party lenders) versus funding a town needs, such as public safety.

#### **Response to the request for an answer regarding the approval of the PPA by July 6th, 2021**

For the reasons noted above, the Town of North Topsail Beach is not able to meet the deadline for project commitment of the PPA by July 6, 2021. We fully understand you will need to de-scope North Topsail Beach from the project and move forward with the Surf City portion.

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<sup>8</sup> Because as described above these prepayments would occur for renourishment as well, NTB's financial advisor recommends that any debt (NTB does not have these funds available) term must coincide with the next round of "fund raising" for maintenance nourishments.

<sup>9</sup> For comparison the Town of Topsail Beach's property tax is \$0.36

<sup>10</sup> USACE has communicated to NTB that this issue is not negotiable with them but must be worked out between NTB and Surf City.



## Town of Surf City

Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor  
William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Mayor Pro-Tern  
John Koloski, Councilman

Donald R. Helms, Councilman  
Teresa B. Batts, Councilwoman  
Jeremy Shugarts, Councilman

April 22, 2022

Colonel Benjamin Bennett  
69 Darlington Ave  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Dear Colonel Bennett,

I'm writing to express my sincere appreciation for all the hard work you and your team continue to put forth regarding the Surf City Coastal Storm Reduction Management project. It has been a long road to this point, and we want to reiterate the Town's commitment as a local sponsor to see this project to fruition.

Recently, town leadership met with your team, Robert Keistler and Kent Tranter, to get an update on the project. We continue to be impressed with their engagement towards providing status updates, thoughtful insight, and overall guidance, as we work through the challenges that have been presented.

It's our hope that collectively, we get this project underway and that the South Atlantic Division looks upon the Validation Report as favorable so we can bring the much-needed protection to our public infrastructure and increase the Town's resiliency towards future storm events. It is our understanding that the Report was well received, and the information contained was thoroughly put together.

If there's anything we can do for you and the Wilmington District please let us know, we look forward to seeing you soon and welcoming you back to Surf City.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

*Kent, Bob,  
Well Done & Thanks!  
V/R, COB*

214 W Florence Way  
Hampstead, North Carolina  
28443

PO BOX 2475  
Surf City, North Carolina 28445

PHONE (910) 328-4131  
FAX (910) 328-4132



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

November 8, 2022

Ms. Alice Derian  
Town Manager  
2008 Loggerhead Ct  
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460


Dear Ms. Derian:

As discussed during our telephone conversation on August 19, 2022, the Wilmington District is seeking deauthorization of the North Topsail Beach portion of the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management project. This action is a result of the letter, dated July 1, 2021, notifying the Wilmington District of the town's decision not to sign of the Project Partnership Agreement.

The Disaster Relief Act of 2019, stipulates that the funding provided must be used to construct the full authorized project. In order to proceed with construction of the Surf City portion, the North Topsail Beach section of the project must first be deauthorized. Once deauthorized, the Wilmington District (SAW) will move to construct the Surf City "only" portion of this Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project.

SAW is proceeding with a report to deauthorize the North Topsail Beach section of the project. Please provide written response to this to acknowledge our discussions on this matter. Should the town have any questions regarding this process or its impacts, please reach out to the Point of Contact for this project: Mr. Kent Tranter, 910-251-4034, [kent.tranter@usace.army.mil](mailto:kent.tranter@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin A. Bennett  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

*Town of North Topsail Beach*

Joann M. McDermon, Mayor  
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tem

Aldermen:  
Richard Grant  
Connie Plett  
Tom Leonard  
Fred Fontana



Allee Derian, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager

Melinda Mier  
Town Clerk

*Nature's Tranquil Beauty*

November 18, 2022

COL Benjamin Bennett  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District

Per your request, the Town of North Topsail Beach understands that we will be deauthorized from the WRDA 2014 project. The Town of North Topsail Beach has not changed our position from the letter submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers in July of 2021, which acknowledged the need for you to de-scope North Topsail Beach from the project and move forward with Surf City.

Please consider this a formal request to deauthorize the Town of North Topsail Beach from the WRDA 2014 project.

Sincerely,

Alice Derian, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager

2008 Loggerhead Court  
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

(910) 328-1349  
[www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov](http://www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov)

NTB is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

January 12, 2023

Ms. Alice Derian  
Town Manager  
2008 Loggerhead Ct  
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

Dear Ms. Derian:

On November 7, 2022, Wilmington District Commander, COL Benjamin Bennett participated in a virtual meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Headquarters and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA(CW)) to discuss a path forward for a Surf City only project from the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management project authorized in 2014. This letter meets a stated requirement from that meeting to ensure that North Topsail has no concerns and understands the implications of the North Topsail portion of the project being deauthorized.

As covered in recent correspondence, the Corps is seeking authorization of a Surf City only project that does not include the North Topsail Beach portion of the currently authorized Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management project. This action is a result of the Town of North Topsail Beach letter, dated July 1, 2021, notifying the Corps of the decision not to sign the required Project Partnership Agreement.

If left unconstructed, and eventually deauthorized, the North Topsail Beach portion of the project will not be eligible for Federal participation through the Corps for maintenance, and therefore, will not receive the storm damage reduction benefits discussed in the feasibility report. Further, the North Topsail Beach portion will not have a federally maintained 50-year Coastal Storm Risk Management project, which includes cost shared Federal funds to complete periodic nourishments. Nor will it be eligible for post-storm related Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) funding for response and recovery activities related to the project, which provides authority and funding to restore the project up to a full project template at 100% Federal expense even after the 50-year project is complete, so long as the project remains authorized.

If the outcomes described above are consistent with the town's understanding and desires, then no further correspondence is necessary. If the Town would like to reconsider this matter, please provide a written response to this letter by 15 February 2023. Should the Corps not receive a response by this date, it will proceed as described above. Should the town have any questions regarding this process or its impacts,

please reach out to the Point of Contact for this project: Mr. Kent Tranter, 910-251-4034, [kent.tranter@usace.army.mil](mailto:kent.tranter@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M. Brayman". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Brayman".

Christine M. Brayman  
Deputy District Engineer  
For Programs and Project Management



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

CESAW-ZC

13 January 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief of Planning and Policy Division, USAGE, South Atlantic Division (Attn: CESAD-PD, Eric Summa), 60 Forsyth St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-8801

SUBJECT: Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding

1. Reference: Letter to Town of North Topsail Beach, 12 JAN 2023
2. This memorandum documents scope, schedule and funding to support the recommendation to proceed with a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) for a Surf City, NC only Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project. The original project was authorized as part of the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management project in WRRDA 2014 and funded for construction through the Disaster Relief Act (ORA) of 2019. In July 2021, North Topsail Beach notified the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District (SAW) of their intent to not proceed with the town's portion of the project. A GRR for Surf City only must be approved in order to proceed with construction under ORA 19. The intent of this GRR is to receive authorization for the Surf City portion and document a 50-year Federal participation in the project.
3. Study Scope: The below scope of work is recommended to complete the GRR. The Wilmington District is proposing to use available information, where appropriate, from the 2010 Feasibility Report and the 2022 Draft Validation Report to show that a project, which only includes Surf City (without the North Topsail Beach portion), is economically justified, environmentally acceptable and engineeringly feasible (technically sound).
  - a. Plan Formulation: Plan formulation is proposed only to the extent of reducing the length of the authorized project to be within the town of Surf City only. The study will evaluate the authorized template for Surf City as a separate element and will remove the authorized template located in the town of North Topsail Beach. The GRR will describe changed conditions since authorization and if they impact the authorized template for Surf City. The team will not reformulate alternatives or run new engineering and economic models but will only confirm the existing authorized plan within Surf City is still feasible based on current USAGE policies, guidance, and regulations.
  - b. Economics: A level 1 economic analysis will be conducted based on the recertified cost estimate to confirm that the authorized template for Surf City

CESAW-ZC

SUBJECT: Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General  
Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding

remains economically justified based on benefits from the 2010 Feasibility Report. No new modeling conducted. The GRR will describe any changed conditions in the structure inventory along with any risks and uncertainties if there may be potential impacts to authorized project benefits.

- c. Environmental: An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed to assess impacts from implementation of the authorized project within the Surf City town limits. Several environmental compliance activities were completed as part of the draft validation report efforts in 2021 and 2022. The GRR will affirm or update those requirements as appropriate and include final environmental compliance summaries and documentation in the EA which supplements the original Integrated Feasibility and EIS.
- d. Engineering: A qualitative risk assessment will be performed to determine the likelihood and consequences of poor project performance given the absence of the North Topsail Beach segment, as well as potential actions to mitigate poor project performance. Additionally, a transition (taper) template will be designed between Surf City and North Topsail Beach. Since the GRR will have no new reformulation and therefore no alternatives to compare, a risk assessment as described in ER 1105-2-101 will not be part of the GRR scope. No additional Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) model will be done. The GRR will confirm that the conditions have not changed and but if shown otherwise, the existing H&H model from 2010 to conduct any additional analysis needed. Parking and public access for the project will be confirmed.
- e. Cost Certification: The project cost estimate will be updated based on the findings from the GRR. The updated project cost estimate will undergo Agency Technical Review (ATR) and certification by Walla Walla District's Cost Mandatory Center of Expertise.
- f. Real Estate: Surf City has already begun purchasing real estate for the project. While real estate requirements for the Federal Project are based on the 2014 authorized plan within Surf City, they are not expected to change. However, the remaining real estate requirements needed to implement the project will be revalidated during preparation of the GRR. The sponsor has been informed they will receive no credit for any real estate acquired prior to executing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA).
- g. Reviews: A Review Plan will be developed for the GRR. It will be endorsed by the Coastal PCX and approved by the South Atlantic Division. Reviews for the

CESAW-ZC

SUBJECT: Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General  
Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding

study will consist of District Quality Control (DQC), ATR, and Policy Compliance and Legal Review. The review plan will seek approval for an exclusion to conduct a Type I Independent External Peer Review (IEPR).

- h. Public Engagement: There will be at least one public meeting to show the new plan for Surf City only and receive input on the new plan. Public meetings will either be in person and/or available virtually.

4. Study Schedule: The following table represents the proposed GRR schedule.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Start Date (M/D/Y)</b>	<b>Completion Date (M/D/Y)</b>	<b>Incremental Funding</b>	<b>Cumulative Funding</b>
Kick-off IPR Milestone*	01/24/23	<b>1/24/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$15,000
Review Plan - Approved	01/24/23	<b>3/28/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$30,000
Project Management Plan & Meetings	01/24/23	<b>3/28/23</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	\$65,000
Compile GRR			<b>\$200,000</b>	
Update Engineering	01/24/23	4/10/23	\$55,000	\$120,000
Update Real Estate	01/24/23	4/10/23	\$20,000	\$140,000
Update Environmental in an EA	01/24/23	4/10/23	\$75,000	\$215,000
Draft Cost Estimate	01/24/23	4/17/23	\$25,000	\$240,000
Level 1 Economics Analysis	01/24/23	4/24/23	\$25,000	\$265,000
IPR #1	05/03/23	<b>5/03/23</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$285,000
District Quality Control (DQC) - Draft Report	5/15/23	<b>5/25/23</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	\$315,000
District Legal Review - Draft Report	5/26/23	<b>5/31/23</b>	<b>\$0</b>	\$315,000
Submit Draft Report for ATR, Cost Certification, Public, Policy and Legal Review	06/14/23	<b>7/14/23</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	\$435,000
IPR #2 (ADM)	08/10/23	<b>08/10/23</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	\$465,000
Revise Report based on ADM results	08/11/23	<b>08/18/23</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$490,000
DQC & District Legal Review Final Report	08/21/23	<b>09/05/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$505,000

CESAW-ZC

SUBJECT: Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General  
Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding

Submit Final Report for ATR, Cost Certification, Policy and Legal Review	09/12/23	<b>09/26/23</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	\$610,000
Draft Chief's Report	10/10/23	<b>10/10/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$625,000
IPR#3	10/17/23	<b>10/17/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$650,000
State and Agency Review	10/24/2023	<b>11/21/23</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$665,000
Signed Chiefs Report	12/05/23		<b>\$25,000</b>	\$690,000

\*Tentative start date contingent upon receipt of DRA-19 funding

5. Funding: The GRR would be funded through ORA19 at 100% Federal expense. A total of \$700,000 is requested to complete the GRR as shown in the table above. This amount includes an overall contingency of \$155,000.

6. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Kent Tranter, Project Manager, at [kent.tranter@usace.army.mil](mailto:kent.tranter@usace.army.mil) or (910) 251-4034.

BRAYMAN.CHRISTINE. Digitally signed by  
MONTONEY.1228825 CRISTINEMONTONEYBR  
804 Date202301.130910.34-05

CHRISTINE M. BRAYMAN  
Deputy District Engineer  
for Programs and Project Management

cc: Jackie Keiser, HERD Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**69 DARLINGTON AVENUE**  
**WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343**

CESAD-PD-P

13 January 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief, Planning and Policy Division (E. Bush) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (CECW-SAD/Susan Lucas}, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000

SUBJECT: Endorsement, and Limited Vertical Team Alignment of Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding, Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

REFERENCES:

- a. Memorandum from Wilmington District, Subject: Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding, 13 JAN 2023
  - b. Letter to Town of North Topsail Beach, JAN 2023
  - c. Memorandum for Commander, USAGE, Surf City, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRM), Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (DRA19), Proposed Scope of Work for General Reevaluation Report (GRR}, 26 SEP 2022
1. This is the South Atlantic Division's Endorsement and a statement of Vertical Alignment of the above referenced proposal from South Atlantic Division, Wilmington District's proposal to implement a Coastal Storm Risk Management General Re-Evaluation Report in support of the community of Surf City, North Carolina.
  2. Background: The Surf City and North Topsail Beach Chief's Report was signed 30 December 2010. The project was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014. The project was approved for funding under the Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (DRA19) (Public Law 116-20), in the amount of \$237M in January 2020 to complete the design of the project. The authorized project was formulated as a single contiguous coastal beach berm and dune project with two non-Federal sponsors (NFS), the Towns of Surf City, NC (Surf City) and North Topsail Beach, NC (North Topsail Beach). Coordination to complete the design began in March 2020 and has continued throughout the last two years. In 2021 and in more recent conversations, North Topsail Beach informed Wilmington District that they cannot support the financial commitments of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) and recommended descopeing them from the effort. The remaining NFS Surf City, is prepared to proceed with construction of the Federal Project and has begun obtaining real estate at their own expense. Surf City was impacted by Hurricane Florence in 2018 and remains vulnerable to flood risk from coastal storms with each subsequent hurricane season.

CESAD-PD-P

SUBJECT: Endorsement, and Limited Vertical Team Alignment of Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding, Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

3. Current Challenge: There is a legal constraint with using DRA 2019 construction funds. In summary, the project cannot be constructed in phases. Once a project begins construction using DRA 2019 funds, the entire project must be completed with DRA 2019 funds. In a typical Federal project, if one of the sponsors is unwilling to sign the PPA, the remaining partner could enter into an agreement for their phase of the project and their portion could be constructed if it was economically justified, engineeringly feasible, and environmentally acceptable. In order to implement Surf City under the legal constraint of DRA 2019, the North Topsail Beach portion must be removed from the Federal project.
4. Vertical Alignment: In the months of September through November of 2022, the background and current challenges were briefed through the Coastal Planning Center for Expertise, Headquarters and through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The result of the conversations was a recommendation from all entities that a General Evaluation Report which individually examines the feasibility of a separate and distinct recommendation for Surf City and a proffered Chief's Report is the best path for expeditious storm risk management measures to the community.
5. Availability of Funding: The GRR would be funded through DRA19 Investigations at 100% Federal expense. A total of \$700,000 is requested to complete the GRR as shown in the table above. This amount includes an overall contingency of \$155,000.
6. Risk and Risk Management: The City of North Topsail has indicated in meetings and in writing that they understand and accept the risks of deauthorization. To further address this risk, Wilmington District has issued an additional letter to the City of North Topsail (reference 2) to assure that the city will continue to endorse this path. The second risk is that the team is recommending performing a Level 1 Economic Analysis supported by the original modeling performed for the 2010 Feasibility Study and Chief's Report. This risk was discussed with members of the Office of Water Policy Review and with the Coastal Center for Expertise. All have agreed that performance of additional modeling will not enhance the recommendation significantly and therefore is not recommended.
7. Reviews: A Review Plan will be developed for the study and will be endorsed by the Planning Center of Expertise for Coastal Storm Risk Management and approved by the South Atlantic Division. Reviews for the study will consist of District Quality Control, Policy and Legal Compliance Review and Agency and Technical Review. The review plan will seek approval for an exclusion to conduct a Type I Independent External Peer Review.

CESAD-PD-P

SUBJECT: Endorsement, and Limited Vertical Team Alignment of Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding, Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

8. South Atlantic Division fully endorses the Wilmington District's GRR Scope Memo outlining scope, schedule, and cost recognizing the urgency to construct the Surf City project as soon as possible. The SAD Memo attached dated 22 September requesting ORA funding for Surf City is still applicable and included by reference here.
9. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Wilbert Paynes, Review Manager, at [wilbert.v.paynes@usace.army.mil](mailto:wilbert.v.paynes@usace.army.mil).

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ERIC P. SUMMA  
Chief, Planning and Policy  
South Atlantic Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE **ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-SAD

04-May-23

MEMORANDUM FOR Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

SUBJECT: Surf City, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, Disaster Relief Act of 2019, Proposed Scope of Work for General Reevaluation Report

1. References:

- a. Town of North Topsail Beach, letter, 18 November 2022 (enclosure 1)
- b. CESAW-ZC, memorandum (Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR) - Proposed Scope, Schedule, and Funding), 13 January 2023 (enclosure 2)
- c. CESAD-PD-P, memorandum (Endorsement, and Limited Vertical Team Alignment of Proposed Scope, Schedule and Funding, Surf City, NC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) General Reevaluation Report (GRR)), 13 January 2023 (enclosure 3)

2. Purpose. To request your concurrence on an appended scope of work for a limited General Reevaluation Report (GRR), resulting in a Chief's Report, to examine the feasibility of implementing Surf City as a stand-alone project and to deauthorize North Topsail Beach.

3. Background. The towns of Surf City and North Topsail Beach Chief's Report was signed on 30 December 2010. The project was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law (PL) 113-121). The project was approved for construction funding under the Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (DRA 2019) (PL 116-20), in the amount of \$237M in January 2020. The authorized project was formulated as a single contiguous coastal beach berm and dune project with two non-federal sponsors (NFS), the Towns of Surf City, North Carolina (**NC**) (Surf City) and North Topsail Beach, NC (North Topsail Beach). Coordination to complete the design began in March 2020 and has continued throughout the last two years. In 2021 and in more recent conversations, North Topsail Beach informed the Corps that they cannot support the financial commitments of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) and recommended descopeing them from the effort. The remaining NFS Surf City, is prepared to proceed with construction of the federal project and has begun obtaining real estate at their own expense. Surf City was impacted by Hurricane Florence in 2018 and remains vulnerable to flood risk from coastal storms with each subsequent hurricane season. This memorandum attempts to lay out the current challenges and

CECW-SAD

SUBJECT: Surf City, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, Disaster Relief Act of 2019, Proposed Scope of Work for General Reevaluation Report

most expedited path forward to deliver a CSRM project to the Town of Surf City, NC using ORA 2019 funds.

4. Current Challenge. There is a legal constraint with using ORA 2019 construction funds. In summary, the project cannot be constructed in phases. Once a project begins construction using ORA 2019 funds, the entire project must be completed with ORA 2019 funds. In a typical federal project, if one of the sponsors is unwilling to sign the PPA, the remaining partner could enter into an agreement for their phase of the project and their portion could be constructed if it was technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable. To implement Surf City under the legal constraint of ORA 2019, the North Topsail Beach portion must be removed from the federal project (i.e., deauthorized). Additionally, in order for the Surf City portion of the project to be constructed using ORA 2019 funding, and to be eligible for additional assistance under PL 84-99 in the future, it will have to be reauthorized as a stand-alone project. The proposed GRR would result in a Chief's Report that would not only recommend deauthorization of North Topsail, but would also recommend the authorization of Surf City, NC as a stand-alone CSRM project. Implementation Guidance, and PL 116-20, state that an unauthorized project that is studied using investigations funds from PL 116-20 may also be constructed using the construction funds from that same appropriation law as long as the Secretary finds the project to be technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable. Conducting the GRR with ORA 2019 investigations would then allow the Surf City project to be constructed utilizing the current working estimate of \$237M while awaiting future authorization as a federal project.

5. Current Status. A Draft Validation Report only for Surf City was developed by the Corps in April 2022. The preliminary findings showed that the Surf City component of the federal project constituted approximately 60-65% of the entire authorized project (dune and berm) but as a stand-alone project, remained technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable. Further coordination with the vertical team resulted in a recommendation of a limited GRR to deauthorize the North Topsail Beach portion of the project, due to the challenge/constraint discussed in paragraph 4 above. The Corps has held several meetings with both Surf City and North Topsail Beach explaining the challenges of not executing the PPA. Subsequently a meeting with North Topsail Beach was held on 19 August 2022 to explain that a new post-authorization study is being proposed that will focus only on Surf City, which could possibly result in the eventual deauthorization of their portion of the federal project. Representatives from North Topsail Beach expressed no opposition or concerns with this possible outcome and its impact on their community. In a letter dated 18 November 2022 to the Corps, North Topsail Beach acknowledged and reaffirmed their understanding of becoming deauthorized (reference 1.a).

CECW-SAD

SUBJECT: Surf City, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, Disaster Relief Act of 2019, Proposed Scope of Work for General Reevaluation Report

6. Recommendation. It is my recommendation that an appended scope of work for a limited GRR be pursued, resulting in a Chief's Report, to examine the feasibility of implementing Surf City as a stand-alone project and to deauthorize North Topsail Beach. I request your concurrence with this recommendation. Concurrence on this path is time sensitive as vertical alignment on the GRR scope of work may enable inclusion in the DRA 2019 Investigations list, which the Corps is currently preparing. Twelve months and \$700K are required for this limited GRR effort.

7. If there are any questions, please contact Susan Lucas, Deputy Chief, South Atlantic Division Regional Integration Team, at (904) 860-2211 or e-mail at [susan.s.lucas@usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.s.lucas@usace.army.mil).

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3 Encls

1. North Topsail Beach Letter,  
18 Nov 22
2. SAW Proposed Surf City GRR Memo,  
13 Jan 23
3. SAD Endorsement Memo, 13 Jan 23

EDWARD E. BELK, JR. P.E.  
Director of Civil Works



## Town of Surf City

Teresa B. Batts, Mayor  
Donald R. Helms, Mayor Pro-Tern  
John Koloski, Councilman

William J. Fowler, Councilman  
Jeremy Shugarts, Councilman  
Hugh Cannady, Councilman

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May 31, 2023

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Subject: Town of Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

Colonel Benjamin Bennett,

This letter serves as acknowledgment of the Corps commitment to provide full protection of the Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project for the Town of Surf City. Based on the Transition Map provided by the Corps, the Town of Surf City will commit to securing necessary easements, with the cooperation of the Town of North Topsail Beach, as well as provide the necessary local match to uphold our commitment to a forthcoming (PPA) Project Partnership Agreement.

The Town looks forward to our continued partnership with the Wilmington District on execution of this project.

Sincerely,

Kyle Breuer  
Town of Surf City  
Town Manager

---

214 W Florence Way  
Hampstead, North Carolina 28443

PO BOX 2475  
Surf City, North Carolina 28445

PHONE (910) 328-4131  
FAX (910) 328-4132

Joann M. McDermion, Mayor  
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tern

Aldermen:  
Fred Fontana  
Richard Grant  
Tom Leonard  
Connie Pletl



Alice Derian, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager

Nancy Avery  
Interim Town Clerk

July 27, 2023

Colonel Benjamin A. Bennett, Commander  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Subject: Town of Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

Dear Colonel Bennett:

This letter serves as acknowledgment of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) intent to construct the Surf City portion of the previously authorized Surf City and North Topsail Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project for the Town of Surf City and its impact on the Town of North Topsail Beach. The Town of North Topsail Beach has elected not to participate as a cost sharing sponsor of this project and has previously sent the Corps written notice of that election. Based on the discussions with the District and the Town of Surf City, North Topsail Beach understands that the project transition between the two towns will extend approximately 1,000 ft into the southern town limit of North Topsail Beach and include a tapered placement of sand into this transition area. This is being done to provide maximum CSRM protection for the Town of Surf City. The Town of North Topsail Beach understands that the Town of Surf City will commit to securing necessary easements as well as providing all necessary local funding to uphold commitments regarding the project, including that portion of the project that extends into North Topsail Beach. The Town of North Topsail Beach agrees to cooperate fully with the Town of Surf City in this matter and will help to communicate with its residents at the appropriate time regarding this portion of the project.

The Town looks forward to our continued partnership with the Wilmington District.

Sincerely,

Alice Derian, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager

2008 Loggerhead Court  
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

(910) 328-1349  
[www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov](http://www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov)

NTB is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Environmental Correspondence\***

(\*Arranged chronologically from oldest to newest)



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

11 March 2020

Doug Piatkowski  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Division of Environmental Assessment  
381 Elden Street, MS4042  
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Dear Mr. Piatkowski:

In 2011, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) completed an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (EIS/ROD) for the Surf City and North Topsail (SCNT) Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (CSRM) in Pender and Onslow Counties, North Carolina. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was completed in 2014 to address refinement of borrow area characterizations and to document implementation of Wilmington District's sediment compatibility practice for the SCNT project. The SCNT CSRM project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 and recently funded by Public Law 116-20, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Act, 2019. The Corps plans to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2020 to address expansion of the hopper dredging window (December 1-March 31) to coincide with the beach placement window of November 16-April 30.

The Surf City and North Topsail Beach study area is located on Topsail Island, which is a 22-mile-long and 0.5-mile-wide barrier island approximately 40 miles northeast of Wilmington, North Carolina. This area is at risk from hurricanes and winter storms, which regularly erode the shoreline, causing damage to structures and environmental resources. The CSRM project will include the creation of a 7-foot high by 50-foot optimum wide berm and a 15-foot high by 25-foot wide dune along approximately 10 miles of shoreline. Initial construction of the project will require approximately 13 million cubic yards of borrow material. Several borrow areas have been identified and are typically between one and six miles offshore and have pre-dredge bottom depths between 35 and 50 feet.

The Supplemental EA will evaluate the impacts of any changes that have occurred since completion of the 2014 EA/FONSI and will address the impacts of expanding the environmental window for construction. The currently proposed borrow sites for initial construction and nourishment intervals are located off of Topsail Island. Some of the borrow sites are inside the three mile line and some are outside the three mile line (reference attached figure).

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501, the Corps requests that the BOEM serve as a cooperating agency during the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process since BOEM has jurisdiction by law over mineral leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Corps will serve as the lead federal agency to ensure NEPA compliance for the CSRM project. The Corps further requests that BOEM serve as a cooperating agency and the Corps the lead on consultation requirements related to ESA Section 7 (50 CFR 402), NHPA Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Subpart C Consistency (15 CFR 930), and Magnusson-Stevens Section 305 (50 CFR

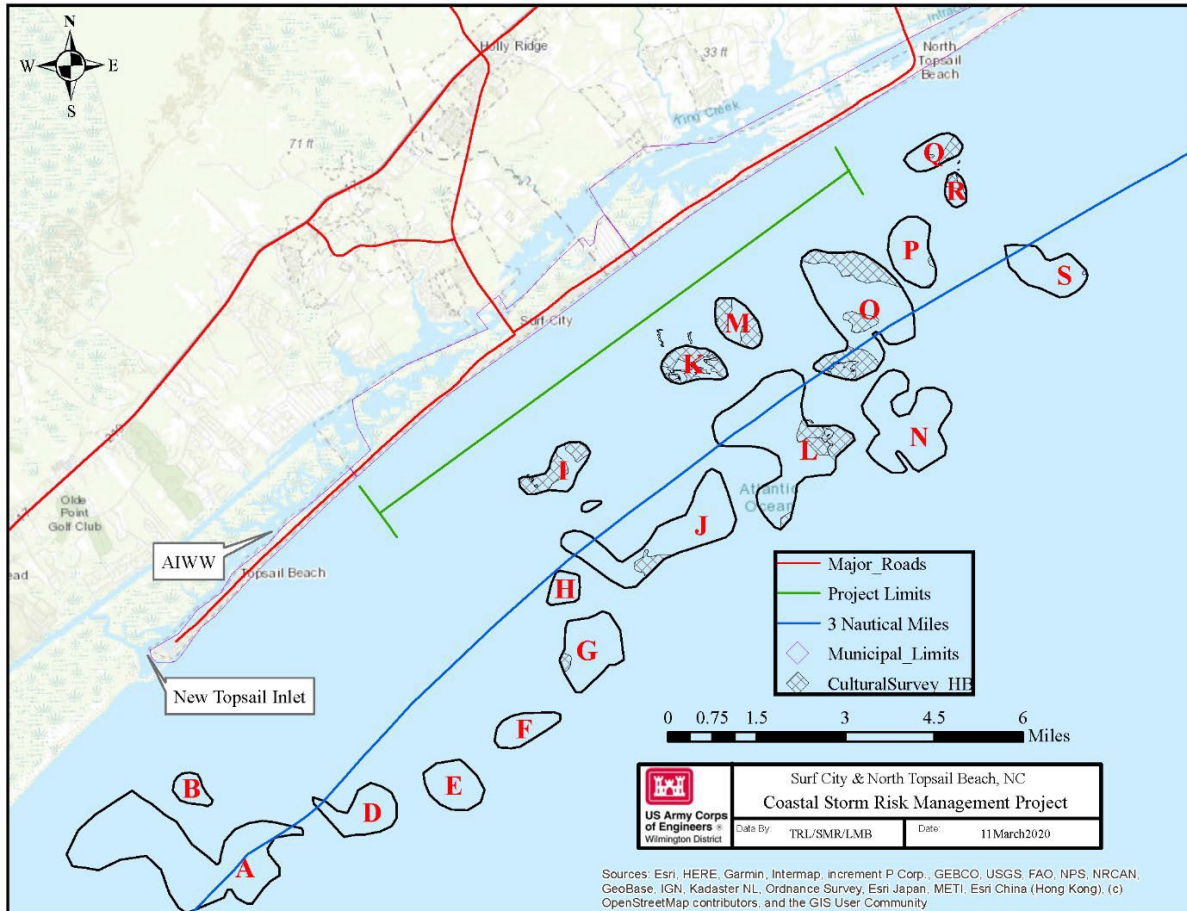
600). Pursuant to 50 CFR 402, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service of its lead role and BOEM's cooperating role provided your agreement to serve as a cooperating agency. The Corps will also notify the State Historic Preservation Officer and North Carolina Division of Coastal Management of BOEM's involvement and the Corps' lead agency role. All previously conducted surveys and reports conducted by the Corps in accordance with NEPA compliance for this project will be provided to BOEM. Additionally, the Corps will include BOEM in all future correspondence with Federal and state agencies.

Please advise us, at your earliest convenience, as to your agency's willingness to serve as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process for this project. Eric Gasch, Environmental Resources Section, will serve as the major point of contact for any BOEM involvement in this project, and can be reached at 910-251-4553 and by email at [eric.k.gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:eric.k.gasch@usace.army.mil) in the event that you would like additional information regarding this matter. We look forward to an efficient and productive relationship with BOEM regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Elden J. Gatwood  
Chief, Planning and  
Environmental Branch





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

May 26, 2020

Environmental Resources Section

Dear Sir or Madam:

This scoping letter rescinds the previous scoping letter, dated March 25, 2020, for the Surf City and North Topsail Beach (SCNTB) Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (CSRM) in Pender and Onslow Counties, North Carolina. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has reevaluated the construction plan for the SCNTB CSRM project and now proposes year-round construction for the SCNTB project in lieu of only expanding the window to November 16-April 30. Year-round construction will allow contractors more flexibility to get the work done within a wider window, which will reduce risks associated with a shortage of hopper dredges, reduce overall project costs, and should result in a more timely project completion. Year-round dredging and placement will also reduce the number of disturbance events to the beaches and aquatic resources. This year-round proposal is for initial construction only, not renourishment events, which is estimated to take approximately 36 dredging months. The proposed window for periodic nourishments for the 50-year project will be November 16-April 30.

In 2011, the Corps completed an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (EIS/ROD) for the Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Feasibility Report. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (SEA/FONSI) was completed in 2014 to address refinement of borrow area characterizations and to document implementation of Wilmington District's sediment compatibility practice for the SCNTB project. The SCNTB CSRM project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 and recently funded by Public Law 116-20, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Act, 2019. The Corps is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the proposal for year-round construction and to expand the periodic nourishment window to coincide with the beach placement window of November 16-April 30.

The SCNTB project area is located on Topsail Island, which is a 22-mile-long and 0.5-mile-wide barrier island approximately 40 miles northeast of Wilmington, North Carolina (Figure 1). This area is at risk from hurricanes and winter storms, which regularly erode the shoreline, causing damage to structures and environmental resources. The CSRM project will include the creation of a 7-foot high by 50-foot wide berm and a dune that is 15 feet high with a crest width of 25 feet, along approximately ten miles of shoreline. Initial construction of the project will require approximately 12 million cubic yards of borrow material. Several borrow areas located off of Topsail Island (Figure 2) have been identified and are located typically between one and six miles offshore with pre-dredge bottom depths between 35 and 50 feet.

Use of borrow sites, located three miles or more offshore (Outer Continental Shelf), requires a lease from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). For this reason, the BOEM is a cooperating agency on the Environmental Assessment and a lease from BOEM will be obtained prior to use of OCS borrow areas.

The EA will evaluate the impacts of any changes that have occurred since completion of the 2014 EA/FONSI and will address the impacts of year-round dredging and placement for initial construction and window expansion from December 1- March 31 to November 16- April 30 for renourishment cycles. It is estimated that initial project construction will take approximately four years if the environmental (work) window remains limited to December 1-March 31; however, if the work window is expanded, it will allow for potential project completion on a more efficient timeline. The renourishment interval for the SCNT CSRM project is six years. An extended environmental window will reduce risks associated with availability of dredges, reduce the number of disturbance events to the beaches and aquatic resources, and support more efficient renourishment completion timelines as well as reduce overall project costs.

We are now requesting comments from stakeholders and the interested public to identify significant resources and issues of concern with regard to year-round dredging and beach placement for initial construction and an expanded window for subsequent nourishment events. Comments received as a result of this scoping letter will be considered during preparation of the EA.

The EA is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the project's relationship to all applicable Federal and State laws and Executive Orders. Resources known to occur in the study area include: fisheries and benthic resources; threatened and endangered species; human resources (including socioeconomic, recreational and aesthetic resources); and cultural resources. Potential impacts to these resources, as well as water quality, air quality, and cumulative effects, will be fully addressed in the EA. Should there be other issues which you believe should be discussed in the EA, please take this opportunity to bring them to our attention.

In order to effectively address any concerns that are raised, please provide your input no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. A scoping meeting (conference call, date/time to be determined) will be held at least one week prior to the scoping comment deadline. Details regarding the scoping meeting are forthcoming. All input may be directed to Ms. Keleigh Cox, Environmental Resources Section, at (910) 251-4070 or via email at [Keleigh.C.Cox@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keleigh.C.Cox@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

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Jennifer L. Owens  
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Figure 1. SCNTB  
CSRM Project  
Overview.

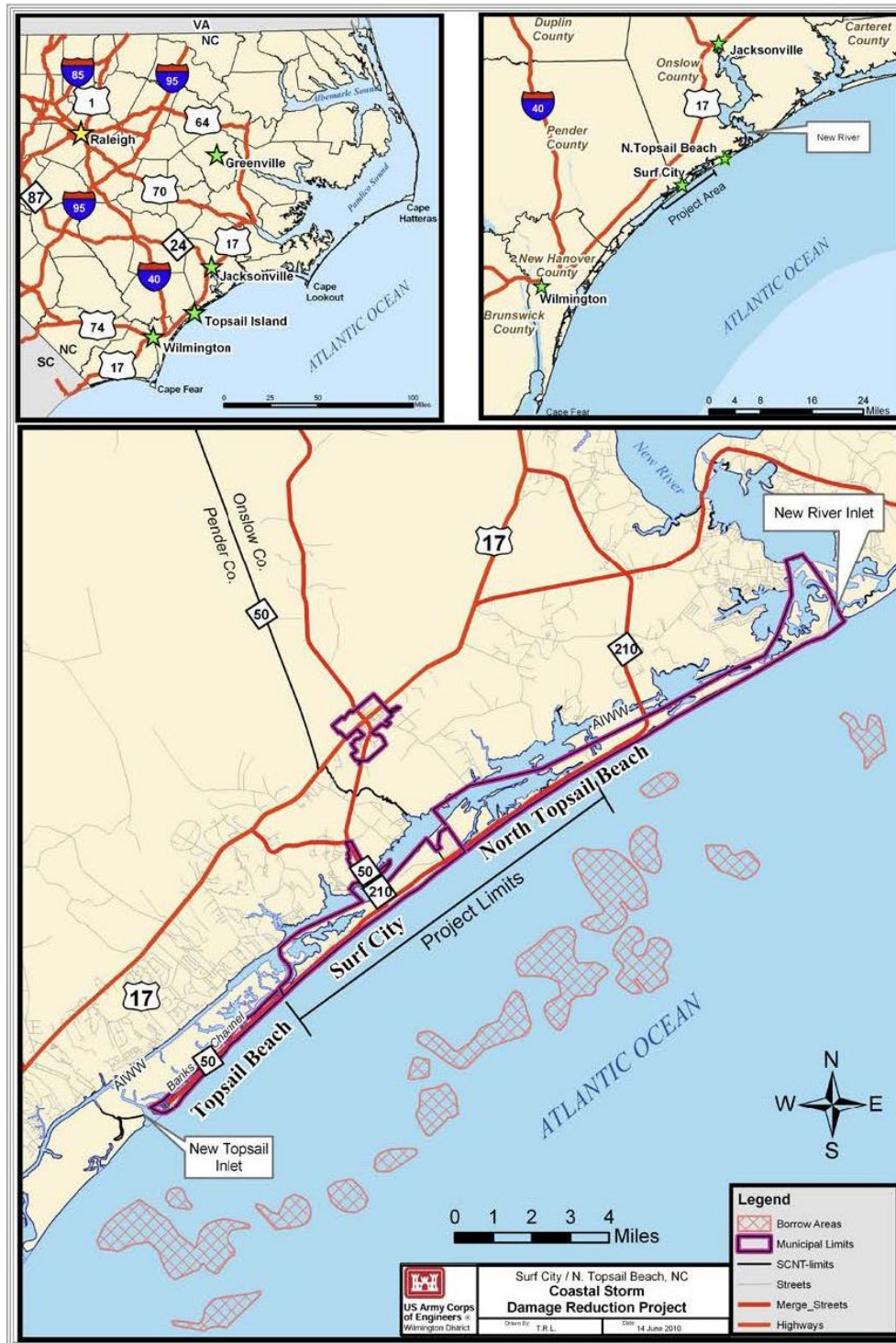


Figure 1. SCNTB CSRM Project Overview

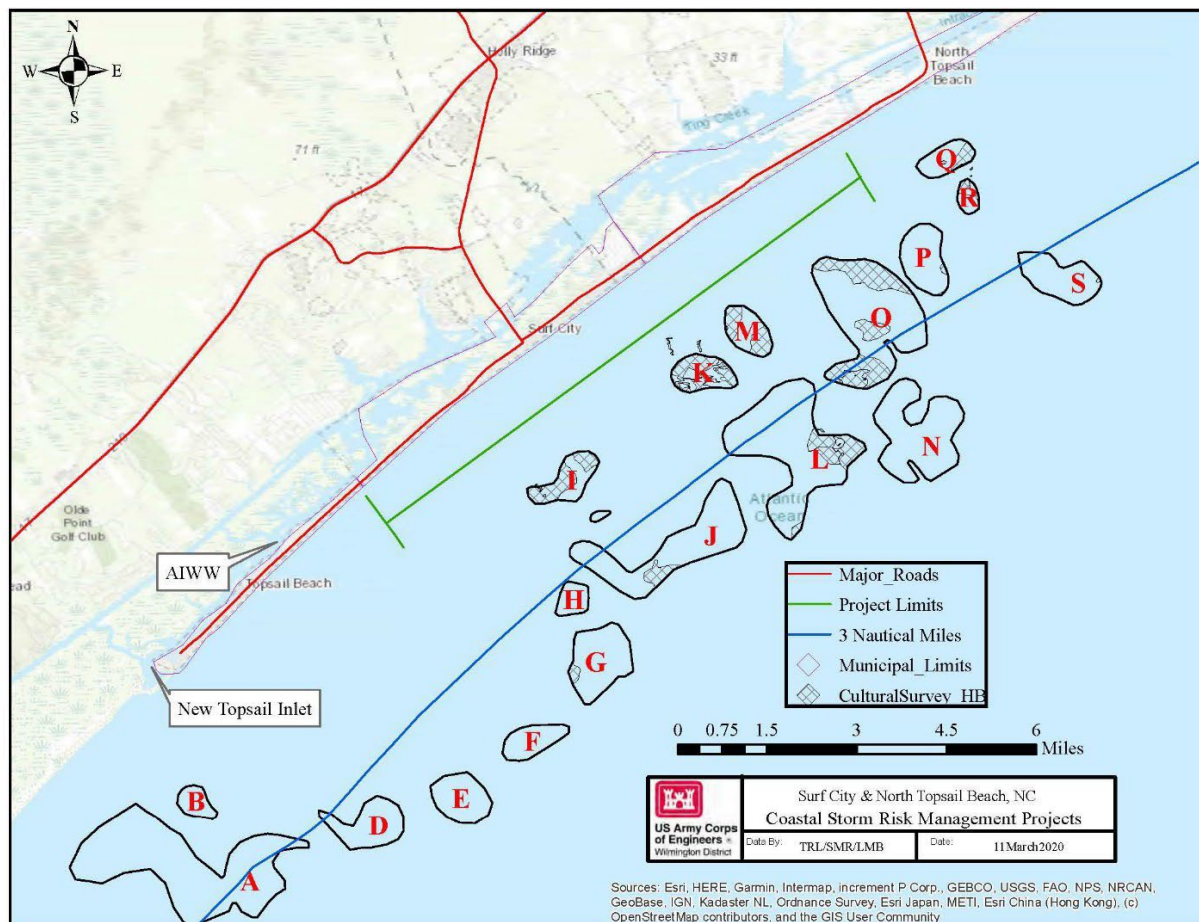


Figure 2. Identified Borrow Areas



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

July 6, 2020

Mr. Elden Gatwood  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28403-1343

Dear Mr. Gatwood:

Thank you for your recent letters requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) become a cooperating agency during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the coastal storm management projects proposed for Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. We will also continue to cooperate with the Wilmington District for Bogue Banks and Surf City and North Topsail coastal storm management projects. These four projects may request or require use of sand resources located in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

The BOEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in the preparation of NEPA documents and agrees *to* serve as a cooperating agency since the BOEM has jurisdiction over marine mineral leasing on the OCS. As a cooperating agency, the BOEM expects to: participate and provide input in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of USACE responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which BOEM has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of USACE; provide comment on NEPA documents; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities.

BOEM recognizes the importance of participating in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultations; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. BOEM recognizes the USACE as the lead federal agency for the above projects. As the lead federal agency for ESA Section 7 and the EFH consultations, the USACE must notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of its lead role and BOEM's cooperating role. BOEM expects that USACE, as lead agency, would work with BOEM *to* ensure existing biological opinions from FWS and NMFS are applicable to BOEM's part of the Federal action and/or expect *to* jointly submit the ESA Section 7 and EFH assessments to FWS and NMFS, if applicable. BOEM expects USACE be the lead federal agency for NHPA Section 106 and CZMA Section 307 compliance with the BOEM acting in a consulting role. BOEM requests that USACE notify the State Historic Preservation

and the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality, Division of Coastal Management of BOEM's involvement in the undertakings and proposed actions. We would greatly appreciate to be included on all correspondence to other federal and state agencies concerning this project. BOEM welcomes the opportunity to review and provide comments on any draft correspondence **in** regards to consultations.

In addition to participating in the environmental review, we also would appreciate the opportunity to participate **in** Project Delivery Teams for these coastal storm management projects. Topics of interest to BOEM include the identification of OCS sand resources, interpretation and management of geophysical and geological data, and design and use plans for borrow areas located on the OCS. BOEM scientists can provide special expertise and contribute upon request.

BOEM looks forward to working with your team. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Doug Piatkowski at (703) 787-1833 or by e-mail at [Douglas.Piatkowski@boem.gov](mailto:Douglas.Piatkowski@boem.gov).

Sincerely,

**GEOFFREY  
WIKEL**

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Date: 2020.07.06 10:27:58 -04'00'

Geoffrey Wikel  
Marine Minerals Resource Management Branch  
Marine Minerals Division

cc:

Ms. Jenny Owens, USACE  
Mr. Eric Gasch, USACE  
Mr. Jeffrey Reidenauer, BOEM, Marine Minerals Division  
Mr. Douglas Piatkowski, BOEM, Marine Minerals Division  
Ms. Leighann Brandt, BOEM, Marine Minerals Division  
Ms. Deena Hansen, BOEM, Marine Minerals Division

**From:** Matthews, Kathryn H  
**To:** Gasch, Eric K CIV US ARMY CESAW (US)  
**Cc:** Owens, Jennifer L CIV US ARMY CESAW (USA); Dunn, Maria T  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] SCNTB CSRM Environmental Commitments from 2010 FEIS; Temperature surveys and sea turtle satellite tracking  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:12:52 AM

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Hi Eric,

Thanks for talking to me today about issues with the environmental commitments in the SCNTB 2010 FEIS. The Corps is proposing to follow the commitments in the 2010 FEIS for the initial construction of the SCNTB CSRM project, but would like to drop two of the commitments:

1. Satellite tracking of sea turtle distribution in the project area; and
2. The Corps contributing funds for the NCWRC to continue its temperature studies to gather nest temperatures on nourished beaches throughout the state, including Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement Topsail Island, in comparison to non-nourished native sediment temperatures. This data could be used to help develop management criteria for sediment color guidelines.

The Corps and USFWS discussed these commitments prior to finalizing the FEIS in 2010, and USFWS stated in an August 19, 2010 letter that the ability to get ESA concurrence for NLTAAs for sea turtles depended on the Corps doing the temperature surveys at least once after the initial construction. Our records for SCNTB do not include any discussion of the satellite tracking commitment, so we assume that the commitment was made after discussions with either NCWRC or NMFS. However, the USFWS has concerns for the satellite tracking plans, since it is likely that tracking equipment would be installed on nesting females on the beach, which is under our purview.

As you know, no ESA Section 7 formal consultation was completed for any portion of the project. Since the 2010 FEIS, red knot has been listed and sea turtle critical habitat has been designated in the project area. In addition, changes in agency priorities and guidelines affect the need for these commitments, as well.

I discussed the two commitments from the 2010 FEIS with Matthew Godfrey and Maria Dunn (NCWRC). The general consensus (which you should confirm with Maria) is that it is ok to drop the commitments for the temperature study and the satellite tracking study for this initial construction project.

Although some good information may come from the temperature study, recent offshore dredging has indicated that sediment color may not be a significant concern. The USFWS believes that there are other, more pressing actions that could be taken or funded by the Corps at this time, such as funding lighting surveys (to determine locations of lights that are visible from the constructed beach) and turtle-friendly lighting improvements, or ensuring that the engineered beach profile will not entrap sea turtles that may go "up and over" the constructed dune.

We recommend that you attempt to discover the source of the satellite tracking commitment (NMFS or NCWRC) before completely dropping it. On December 30, 2016, the USFWS issued a guidance document for attaching telemetry equipment to sea turtles. The document requires the demonstration of a conservation benefit to the species. Since we currently do not have any records concerning this commitment, it is not possible to determine a specific conservation benefit. Therefore, we believe that the commitment should be dropped. For your information, the link to the 2016 guidance is below:

[Blockedhttps://www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/Docs/20161230\\_FWS%20process%20and%20conditions%20for%20telemetry%20attachments\\_Sea\\_Turtles\\_final.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/Docs/20161230_FWS%20process%20and%20conditions%20for%20telemetry%20attachments_Sea_Turtles_final.pdf)

My recommendations to drop these commitments is made based upon the assumption that the Corps will request coverage under the August 28, 2017 Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion for NC Beach Sand Placement (SPBO), and commit to the conservation measures and terms and conditions therein. As we discussed, an email requesting coverage under the SPBO will suffice.

I understand that future renourishment activities will be planned separately. We look forward to continued discussions and consultation concerning this long-term CSRM project.

Have a good week,

Kathy Matthews  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
551-F Pylon Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

August 30, 2024

Planning and Environmental Branch

Ms. Ntale Kajumba  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA Section  
Region 4, Office of the Regional Administrator  
61 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Kajumba:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina, has prepared the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRSM) Project, August 2024 (GRR/EA). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project due to the potential use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources. BOEM will also serve as a cooperating agency for consultation requirements related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 (50 CFR 402), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Consistency for Federal Agency Activities Subpart C (15 CFR 930), and the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Section 305 (50 CFR 600). BOEM is authorized under Public Law 103-426 [43 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1337 (k) (2)] to negotiate on a non-competitive basis the rights to OCS sand resources for shore protection projects. BOEM may undertake a connected action (i.e., authorize use of the OCS borrow areas) that is related to, but unique from, the USACE's proposed action.

An electronic version of the Draft GRR/EA is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management/Surf-City-General-Reevaluation-Report-and-Environmental-Assessment/>

The subject of the draft report is the Federal CSRSM project for Surf City only. The Town of North Topsail Beach withdrew from participation in the

Federal project. The separable element of the Surf City segment will be 6 miles in length versus the originally authorized project length of 9.9 miles that included North Topsail Beach.

The originally authorized project design template and renourishment intervals have not changed as compared to those described in the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Coastal Stormy Damage Reduction, Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, December 2010. The beach and berm design consists of a 25-foot-wide sand dune constructed to an elevation of 14 feet above the National American Vertical Datum (NAVO 88) fronted by a 50-foot-wide design beach berm constructed to an elevation of 6 feet above NAVO 88. The project will include a transition of 1,000 feet at the Surf City/North Topsail Beach town limit; the transition on the southwest end of the project will be within the Surf City town limit. The dune portion of the project will be stabilized against wind losses by planting appropriate native beach grasses. The periodic nourishment interval for the project remains at six years. Dredged material for the beach fill would be obtained from portions of 13 identified sand borrow areas, located between one and six miles offshore.

The Draft GRR/EA includes new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSRM project and addresses changes to the project, including removal of the North Topsail Beach, sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement timeframes and environmental monitoring/commitments to avoid or minimize impacts. The proposed action will increase flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and will implement a risk-based process to reduce risks to the most vulnerable species within the project area. The proposed action is for initial project construction to be completed in 16 continuous months versus accomplishing initial construction using a December 1 through March 31 timeframe, which would require work over four dredging seasons. All periodic renourishments are proposed to be accomplished during the beach placement timeframe of November 16 through April 30.

The Draft GRR/EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and USAGE 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 report addresses the proposed action's impacts on environmental resources, including federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and water and air quality.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA will be completed by the USACE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project. Comments on the Draft GRR/EA should include sufficient detail to support statements in favor of or opposed to the proposed action. We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than October 4, 2024.

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Eric Gasch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, CESAW-ECP-PE, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Comments or questions may also be emailed to Mr. Gasch at [Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

WALTERS.BRE  
T.L.1231196745

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Bret L. Walters  
Planning and Environmental Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

August 30, 2024

Planning and Environmental Branch

Mr. Pace Wilber  
Atlantic Branch Supervisor  
National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation Division  
Post Office Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559

Dear Mr. Wilber:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina, has prepared the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSR) Project, August 2024 (GRR/EA). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project due to the potential use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources. BOEM will also serve as a cooperating agency for consultation requirements related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 (50 CFR 402), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Consistency for Federal Agency Activities Subpart C (15 CFR 930), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Section 305 (50 CFR 600). BOEM is authorized under Public Law 103-426 [43 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1337 (k) (2)] to negotiate on a non-competitive basis the rights to OCS sand resources for shore protection projects. BOEM may undertake a connected action (i.e., authorize use of the OCS borrow areas) that is related to, but unique from, the USACE's proposed action.

An electronic version of the draft report is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management/Surf-City-General-Reevaluation-Report-and-Environmental-Assessment/>

The subject of the Draft GRR/EA is the Federal CSR project for Surf City **only**. The Town of North Topsail Beach withdrew from participation in the Federal project. The separable element of the Surf City segment will be 6 miles in length versus the originally authorized project length of 9.9 miles that included North Topsail Beach.

The Draft GRR/EA includes new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSRM project and addresses changes to the project, including removal of the North Topsail Beach, sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement timeframes and environmental monitoring/commitments to avoid or minimize impacts. The proposed action will increase flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and will implement a risk-based process to reduce risks to the most vulnerable species within the project area. The proposed action is for initial project construction to be completed in 16 continuous months versus accomplishing initial construction using a December 1 through March 31 timeframe, which would require work over four dredging seasons. All periodic renourishments are proposed to be accomplished during the beach placement timeframe of November 16 through April 30.

The USACE requests that the NMFS initiate consultation with regards to the Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The Draft GRR/EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulations for implementing the NEPA, as amended. Please find the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment included in the GRR/EA (Section 5.4.5 and Appendix H). The EFH assessment has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, addressing managed species, categories of EFH, and habitat areas of particular concern that may be present in the project area and may be impacted by the proposed action.

Based on the information in the Draft GRR/EA, we expect the proposed Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. If this opinion is upheld following circulation of this report, a final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact will be completed and circulated. We would appreciate receiving any comments regarding our determination no later than October 4, 2024.

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Eric Gasch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, CESAWECP-PE, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Comments or questions may also be emailed to Mr. Gasch at [Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

WALTERS.BRE  
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Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE **ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

August 30, 2024

Planning and Environmental Branch

Ms. Crystal Best  
Environmental Policy Activities Coordinator  
NC Department of Administration/State Clearinghouse  
1301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

Dear Ms. Best:

The US. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina, has prepared the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSR) Project, August 2024 (GRR/EA). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project due to the potential use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources. BOEM will also serve as a cooperating agency for consultation requirements related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 (50 CFR 402), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Consistency for Federal Agency Activities Subpart C (15 CFR 930), and the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Section 305 (50 CFR 600). BOEM is authorized under Public Law 103-426 [43 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1337 (k) (2)] to negotiate on a non-competitive basis the rights to OCS sand resources for shore protection projects. BOEM may undertake a connected action (i.e., authorize use of the OCS borrow areas) that is related to, but unique from, the USACE's proposed action.

An electronic version of the draft report is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at: <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Coastal-Storm-Risk-Management/Surf-City-General-Reevaluation-Report-and-Environmental-Assessment/>

The Draft GRR/EA includes new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSR project and addresses changes to the project, including removal of the North Topsail Beach, sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement timeframes and environmental monitoring/commitments to avoid or minimize impacts. The proposed action will increase flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and will implement a risk-based process to reduce risks to the most vulnerable species within the project area. The proposed action is for initial project construction to be

completed in 16 continuous months versus accomplishing initial construction using a December 1 through March 31 timeframe, which would require work over four dredging seasons. All periodic renourishments are proposed to be accomplished during the beach placement timeframe of November 16 through April 30.

Based on the information in the Draft GRR/EA, we expect the proposed Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. If this opinion is upheld following circulation of this report, a final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact will be completed and circulated. We would appreciate receiving any comments regarding our determination no later than October 4, 2024.

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Eric Gasch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, CESAW-ECP-PE, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Comments or questions may also be emailed to Mr. Eric Gasch at: Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

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Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

August 30, 2024

Planning and Environmental Branch

Mr. Pete Benjamin, Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Raleigh Field Office  
Post Office Box 33726  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina, has prepared the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSR) Project, August 2024 (GRR/EA). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project due to the potential use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources. BOEM will also serve as a cooperating agency for consultation requirements related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 (50 CFR 402), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Consistency for Federal Agency Activities Subpart C (15 CFR 930), and the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Section 305 (50 CFR 600). BOEM is authorized under Public Law 103-426 [43 United States Code (U.S.C) 1337 (k) (2)] to negotiate on a non-competitive basis the rights to OCS sand resources for shore protection projects. BOEM may undertake a connected action (i.e., authorize use of the OCS borrow areas) that is related to, but unique from, the USACE's proposed action presented in the Draft GRR/EA.

An electronic version of the draft report is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Coastal-Storm-Risk-ManagementUSurf-City-General-Reevaluation-Report-and-Environmental-Assessment/>

The subject of the Draft GRR/EA is the Federal CSR project for Surf City **only**. The Town of North Topsail Beach withdrew from participation in the Federal project. The separable element of the Surf City segment will be 6 miles in length versus the originally authorized project length of 9.9 miles that included North Topsail Beach.

The originally authorized project design template and renourishment intervals have not changed as compared to those described in the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Coastal Stormy Damage Reduction, Surf City

and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, December 2010. The beach and berm design consists of a 25-foot-wide sand dune constructed to an elevation of 14 feet above the National American Vertical Datum (NAVO 88) fronted by a 50-foot-wide design beach berm constructed to an elevation of 6 feet above NAVO 88. The project will include a transition of 1,000 feet at the Surf City/North Topsail Beach town limit; the transition on the southwest end of the project will be within the Surf City town limit. The dune portion of the project will be stabilized against wind losses by planting appropriate native beach grasses. The periodic nourishment interval for the project remains at six years. Dredged material for the beach fill would be obtained from portions of 13 identified sand borrow areas, located between one and six miles offshore.

The Draft GRR/EA includes new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSRM project and addresses changes to the project, including removal of the North Topsail Beach, sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement timeframes and environmental monitoring/commitments to avoid or minimize impacts. The proposed action will increase flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and will implement a risk-based process to reduce risks to the most vulnerable species within the project area. The proposed action is for initial project construction to be completed in 16 continuous months versus accomplishing initial construction using a December 1 through March 31 timeframe, which would require work over four dredging seasons. All periodic renourishments are proposed to be accomplished during the beach placement timeframe of November 16 through April 30.

The Draft GRR/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 report addresses the proposed action's impacts on environmental resources, including federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and water and air quality.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA will be completed by the USACE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project. Comments on the Draft GRR/EA should include sufficient detail to support statements in favor of or opposed to the proposed action. We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than October 4, 2024.

The determinations noted in the table below have been made by the USACE on all Federally-listed species under the purview of the Service that occur in the Action Area. We request your review and concurrence with our determinations in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended. We would also

appreciate receiving your comments regarding our ESA effects determinations no later than October 4, 2024.

		Effects Determination for the
		Proposed Action
Listed Species within the Project Area	Status	Beach Placement Activities (!ISFWS)
Mammals		
West Indian manatee/ <i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened	MANLAA
Blue Whale/ <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Sei Whale/ <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Sperm whale/ <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Finback whale/ <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Humpback whale/ <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered	No Effect
North Atlantic Right Whale/ <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Northern Long-eared Bat/ <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Tricolored Bat/ <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Threatened	No Effect
Birds		
Piping Plover/ <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	MANLAA
Red Knot/ <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Threatened	MANLAA
Eastern Black Rail/ <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i>	Proposed Threatened	No Effect
Roseate Tern/ <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Red-cockaded Woodpecker/ <i>Leuconotopicus borealis</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Reptiles		
American Alligator/ <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	Similarity of Appearance Threatened	No Effect
Green Sea Turtle/ <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	MALAA
Hawksbill Sea Turtle/ <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	MALAA
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle/ <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	MALAA
Leatherback Sea Turtle/ <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	MALAA
Loggerhead Sea Turtle/ <i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	MALAA
Fish		
Atlantic Sturgeon/ <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Shortnose Sturgeon/ <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Smalltooth sawfish/ <i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Flowering Plants		
Seabeach Amaranth/ <i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	Threatened	MANLAA
Cooley's Meadowrue/ <i>Thalictrum cooleyi</i>	Endangered	No Effect
	Endangered	No Effect
Pondberrv/ <i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Rough-leaved Loosestrife/ <i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i>	Endangered	No Effect
Critical Habitats		
Loggerhead Sea Turtle		NLAM

\*May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect

\*\*May Affect Likely to Adversely Affect

\*\*\*Not Likely to Adversely Modify

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Eric Gasch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, CESAW-ECP-PE, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Comments or questions may also be emailed to Mr. Gasch at [Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

WALTERS.BRE  
T.L.12311967 45

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WALTERS.BRET.L.1231196745  
Date 20240823154802-0400

Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

August 30, 2024

Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Daniel Govoni  
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Coastal Management  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Dear Mr. Govoni:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District (Corps) has prepared the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Project, August 2024 (GRR/EA). The Corps is lead federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and associated environmental compliance activities. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is serving as a cooperating agency as the project proposes to utilize a series of potential borrow areas in federal waters adjacent to the project site. Since BOEM has jurisdiction by law over mineral leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) beyond three miles, this EA will support BOEM's decision regarding issuance of leases for those portions of the proposed borrow areas outside the three-mile limit. BOEM will also serve as a cooperating agency for consultation requirements related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 (50 CFR 402), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 (36 CFR 800), Consistency for Federal Agency Activities Subpart C (15 CFR 930), and the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Section 305 (50 CFR 600).

An electronic version of the draft report is available on the USAGE, Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Coastal-Storm-Risk-ManagementUSurf-City-General-Reevaluation-Report-and-Environmental-Assessment>

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the impacts and risks associated with erosion, flooding, storm surge and wave attack created by severe coastal storms and sea level rise for the Town of Surf City, North Carolina.

The subject of the Draft GRR/EA is the Federal CSRM project for Surf City only. The Town of North Topsail Beach withdrew from participation in the Federal project. The separable element of the Surf City segment will be 6 miles in length versus the originally authorized project length of 9.9 miles that included North Topsail Beach.

The originally authorized project design template and renourishment intervals have not changed as compared to those described in the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Coastal Stormy Damage Reduction, Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, December 2010. The beach and berm design consists of a 25-foot-wide sand dune constructed to an elevation of 14 feet above the National American Vertical Datum (NAVO 88) fronted by a 50-foot-wide design beach berm constructed to an elevation of 6 feet above NAVO 88. The project will include a transition of 1,000 ft at the Surf City/North Topsail Beach town limit; the transition on the southwest end of the project will be within the Surf City town limit. The dune portion of the project will be stabilized against wind losses by planting appropriate native beach grasses. The periodic nourishment interval for the project remains at six years. Dredged material for the beach fill would be obtained from portions of 13 identified sand borrow areas, located between one and six miles offshore.

The Draft GRR/EA includes new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSRM project, discusses changes to the project, including removal of the North Topsail Beach, sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement timeframes and environmental monitoring/commitments to avoid or minimize impacts. The proposed action will increase flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and will implement a risk-based process to reduce risks to the most vulnerable species within the project area. The proposed action is for initial project construction to be completed in 16 continuous months versus over four dredging seasons utilizing a December 1 through March 31 environmental window. Periodic renourishments are proposed to be accomplished during the beach placement timeframe of November 16 through April 30.

The Corps is requesting a consistency review under the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Program for the proposed anytime dredging and placement of beach quality sand with no environmental window for initial construction along Surf City and use of the beach placement window for renourishment events over the 50-year project life, as noted above. This letter transmits the attached formal consistency determination in which we request your concurrence.

In accordance with Section 307 (c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the Corps has determined that initial construction and nourishments are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's coastal management program. The proposed activities comply with the enforceable policies of North Carolina's approved coastal management program and will be conducted to the maximum extent practicable in a manner consistent with the program and any received authorizations.

The Corps has determined that the project increases flexibility and efficiencies for initial construction and periodic nourishments over the 50-year project at Surf City and incorporates measures to reduce impacts to the most vulnerable species within the project area. Initial project construction would occur within a single, continuous, construction event lasting approximately 16 months. This change from the 2010 Authorized Plan reduces the total duration of the initial construction as well as the associated impacts to the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Construction activities will be undertaken in compliance with all conditions of applicable state and federal authorizations. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against enforceable policies of the State's Coastal Management Program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of the NC Administrative Code.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Eric Gasch by telephone at (910) 251-4553 or by email at [eric.k.gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:eric.k.gasch@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

WALTERS.BRE  
T.L.12311967 45

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WALTERS.BRET.L.1231196745  
Date 202408 29 1546\*1 04D0

Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

**Project Name: Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project**

The subject of the draft GRR/EA and this consistency determination is the Federal CSRM project for Surf City only. The Town of North Topsail Beach withdrew as a non-Federal sponsor. The separable element of the Surf City segment will be 6 miles in length (the portion of the project within the town limits of Surf City) vs. the authorized project length of 9.9 miles, which included North Topsail Beach. The project design template and nourishment intervals (six years) for the originally authorized project, which was described in the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Coastal Stormy Damage Reduction, Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, December 2010, will not change. The GRR/EA documents new information obtained since completion of past NEPA documents for the Surf City North Topsail Beach CSRM project, addresses changes to the project, including the exclusion of North Topsail Beach, changes in sediment volumes, borrow areas and the borrow area use plan, dredging and placement window alternatives, and updates the environmental monitoring/commitments from the 2010 report. The re-scoped project will contain a transition of 1,000 ft at the Surf City/North Topsail Beach town limit; the transition on the southwest end of the project will be within the Surf City town limit.

**Project Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the impacts and risks associated with erosion, flooding, storm surge and wave attack created by severe coastal storms and sea level rise for the Town of Surf City, North Carolina. The proposed action is to accomplish initial construction (only) any time of year and it's estimated that initial construction will take approximately 16 months. No environmental window for construction will also provide storm risk benefits to the Town of Surf City (SC) in a more timely manner, reduce risks associated with availability of dredges, reduce the number of disturbance events to the beaches and aquatic resources for initial construction, and reduce overall project costs. The renourishment interval for the SC Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project is six years and all renourishment events would be accomplished within the November 16-April 30 beach placement window, which will avoid impacts to nesting sea turtles.

**Existing Conditions**

Topsail Island is a 22-mile-long and 0.5-mile-wide barrier island approximately 40 miles northeast of Wilmington, North Carolina (Figure 1). Because of the northeast-southwest orientation of the coastline, the island faces the Atlantic Ocean on the southeast. Other waterbodies in the vicinity consist of the New River Inlet immediately to the northeast, Banks Channel and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) to the northwest, and New Topsail Inlet at the far southwestern end of the island.



M-52

Initial construction will involve the dredging of an estimated 8.0 million cubic yards (MCY) of sediment. The total required sediment volume for initial construction and nourishment events throughout the 50-year project life is approximately 21.8 MCY. The identified borrow areas offshore of Topsail Island have sufficient beach quality sediment to support initial construction and each nourishment events (6-year renourishment interval) for the 50-year life of the project.

## **Alternatives Analysis**

Alternatives evaluated are discussed below.

**Alternative 1: No Action:** Under the No Action alternative, there would be no federal action. Initial construction and nourishments would not take place. Although the no action alternative does not meet the purpose and need for this action, it was retained for comparison with the proposed plan and therefore, discussed in the draft GRR/EA.

**Alternative 2a: Surf City only with Environmental Windows:** Alternative 2a is the 2010 Authorized Plan excluding the Town of NTB. It consists of a dune constructed to an elevation of 14 feet North Atlantic Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVO 88) and a 25 ft wide dune crest, fronted by a 50 ft wide berm at an elevation of 6 feet (NAVO 88). However, the length of the project would be restricted to town limits of Surf City approximately 33,300 ft or 6 miles. The alternative would also include a 1000 ft transition berm in northern end of the project from the town limits of Surf City into the town limits of North Topsail Beach. Because no changes have been made affecting the transition at the southwestern end of the project (the border between Surf City and Topsail Beach), the transition within the 2010 Authorized Plan would be adopted at that reach. Other features of the alternative would include dune vegetation and 40 public walkover structures.

Hopper dredges will be used in this analysis based on their higher efficiency and environmental considerations. All dredging activities would be performed within existing environmental windows between December 1 and March 31. The initial construction activities would span four dredging seasons and require four disturbance events from all equipment in the water and on the beach. The system would be renourished seven times over the 50-year project life span at fixed six-year intervals. Sand for the construction and renourishment intervals would be taken from identified borrow sites off the coast of Topsail Island.

**Alternative 2b: Surf City Only with Expanded Environmental Windows:** Alternative 2b is a refinement of 2a. It is the same length, dimension and scope as 2a, but the environmental windows for initial construction and nourishment events of 2b would be expanded to coincide with the USFWS August 28, 2017 North Carolina Coastal Beach Sand Placement statewide programmatic biological opinion from December 1-March 31 (120 days) to November 16-April 30 (166 days). The initial construction activities would

span three dredging seasons and require three disturbance events from all equipment in the water and on the beach.

Alternative 2c: Surf City Only With No Environmental Windows for Initial Construction and Expanded Environmental Windows for Nourishment Events (Proposed Action):

Alternative 2c is a further refinement of 2a and 2b. The length, design and scope of plan would remain the same but dredging activities during initial construction would be performed without environmental windows. Impacts to threatened and endangered species by these activities would be addressed through assessments required under the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion for Dredging and Material Placement Activities in the Southeast United States (SARBO) (NOAA 2020). Only one disturbance event, both in the water and on the beach, would be required with this refinement lasting approximately 16 months. Nourishment events would occur within expanded environmental windows between November 16 to April 30, coinciding with the current beach placement window.

### **Minimization Measures**

All dredging work would be completed within the identified borrow areas (Figure 1). There are no identified Primary Nursery Areas (PNAs), Secondary Nursery Areas (SNAs), Special Secondary Nursery Areas (SSNAs) or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) within the project areas and effects of hopper dredging (increased turbidity, sedimentation and noise; entrainment) are not expected to have a significant impact on these resources.

By accomplishing initial construction during one continuous disturbance event that's estimated to take 16 months, portions of the dredging will occur during the warmer months when biological activity is much higher. Benthic invertebrates and bottom-feeding fish would be most at risk, as well as critical life stages (egg, larvae, juveniles) of important fisheries. An Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) analysis has been conducted and provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Unit for review and response.

In March 2020, the NMFS Protected Resources Division finalized the 2020 SARBO to protect federally protected marine species, such as sturgeon, sea turtles and North Atlantic right whales from the harmful effects of dredging. All dredging conducted by the Corps will adhere to the terms and requirements of the 2020 SARBO. Protective measures include: shutting off draghead pumps when not embedded six inches within the sediment; rigidly attached turtle deflectors on the dragheads to reduce species entrainment; two 24-hour Protective Species Observers conducting on-board monitoring year-round; tracking and recording protected species through the Operations and Dredging Endangered Species System (ODESS); and daily monitoring with the Dredging Quality Management (DQM) software to verify dredge position, dredging depth, vessel speed and slurry float rate and density.

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (P.L. 95- 217), as amended, a Water Quality Certification (WQC) is required for this proposed project. All conditions of the water quality certification, when obtained, shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality. As part of the NCDCM consistency conditions of the 2010 FEIS, the USACE, in conjunction with ERDC, will conduct monitoring of sedimentation effects from dredging activities within the 122-m (400-foot) hardbottom buffer. Various water quality monitoring equipment will be used to determine the sediment resuspension in the area and potential deposition on hard-bottom habitat. Handheld water quality units will be used to take point samples around the dredge in an effort to track any potential dredge plumes. Continuous water quality monitoring sondes will be placed at stations along the edges of hard-bottom habitats. A sondes particle analyzer will be used to monitor turbidity, total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen. Stations will likely move depending on where the dredge is digging and water currents. Underwater cameras may also be used to monitor for any sediment deposition on hard-bottom habitat. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the impacts associated with the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States are discussed in the Section 404(b)(1) (P.L. 95-217) Guidelines Analysis in Appendix D of the draft GRR/EA. Discharges associated with dredging in the offshore borrow areas are considered incidental to the dredging operation, and therefore, are not being considered as being a discharge addressed under the *Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines Analysis*. The project will comply with all North Carolina air quality standards; therefore, no authorization is required.

### **Areas of Environmental Concern**

All surface waters in North Carolina are assigned a primary classification by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) (15A NC Administrative Code 02B .0301 to .0317). The draft GRR/EA has identified that waters in the vicinity of Topsail Island fall into three classifications. Waters of the Atlantic Ocean between Drum Inlet and Baldhead Island are classified as *SB* and are suitable for primary recreation, including frequent or organized swimming and all *SC* uses (secondary recreation such as fishing, boating, and other activities involving minimal skin contact; aquatic life propagation and survival; and wildlife). Stormwater controls are required under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), and there are no categorical restrictions on discharges.

All other surface waters of the vicinity, including the New River, AIWW, Topsail Sound, and Banks Channel, meet the *SA* *HQW* classification and are suitable for shell fishing for marketing purposes as well as all *SB* and *SC* uses. All *SA* waters are *HQW* (High Quality Waters) by definition, and stormwater controls are required, and domestic discharges are prohibited. Waters of the AIWW from Daybeacon # 17 (between Chadwick Bay and Alligator Bay) to Morris Landing (south of Spicer Bay) and waters of Topsail Sound southward from approximately New Topsail Inlet to Middle Sound are classified as *SA ORW*. The *ORW* (Outstanding Resource Waters) designation is a

supplemental classification intended to protect unique and special waters having excellent water quality and an exceptional state or national ecological or recreational significance.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries does not classify the project areas as a Primary Nursery Area (PNA) (15A NCAC 07H .0208(a)(4)).

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) (15A NCAC 031 .0101) has not been identified in waters within the identified borrow areas. It is unlikely that any SAV are present within the areas to be dredged, since they are too deep for light to penetrate, routinely navigated and located in dynamic areas having a lot of tidal and current action, in addition to frequent sand movement.

There are no shellfish beds in the project areas.

The project areas are not designated as a "Natural and Cultural Resources Area" (15A NCAC 07H .0501), therefore no impact to cultural resources will occur.

### **Other Required Approvals**

Besides the Section 401 water quality certification described above and a federal consistency concurrence, other approvals include Endangered Species Act coordination under the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Essential Fish Habitat consultation under the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the NC State Historic Preservation Office, and negotiation with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on a non-competitive basis the rights to OCS sand resources. No other permits, authorizations, or approvals are necessary at this time for the proposed action. The Corps is soliciting public and agency comments via Public Notice on the draft GRR/EA which is proposing sand mining from portions of the 13 identified sand borrow areas with beach placement within the town limits of Surf City. Comments from the public, as well as, federal and state resource agencies have been requested to ensure the proposed action will not have more than minimal adverse environmental impacts. All comments received will be addressed and all agency coordination will be satisfactorily concluded prior to the start of construction for this project.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings described in this consistency determination and the Draft Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project (CSRM) General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, it is in the federal interest to construct and maintain the project. Initial construction will result in minor and short-term impacts to water quality, benthic organisms, important fisheries and protected marine reptiles and mammals. Future nourishment events will also result in the minor and short-term impacts

mentioned above, but will maintain the overall benefit of the proposed action of long-term protection of birds and turtle habitat, recreation and protection from coastal storms. Constructing and maintaining the Surf City CSRM project are not expected to have significant adverse effects on coastal resources.

The proposed project conforms to the following management objectives and enforceable policies of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program:

1. 15A NCAC 07H .0206 (Estuarine Waters)
2. 15A NCAC 07H .0207 (Public Trust Areas)
3. 15A NCAC 07H .0208 (a)(2)(A-G), (General Use Standards for Public Trust Areas)
4. 15A NCAC 07H .0208 (b)(8)(A) (Beach Nourishment)
5. 15A NCAC 07H .0208 (b)(12)(A) (Submerged Lands Mining)
6. 15A NCAC 07H .0209 (Coastal Shorelines)
7. 15A NCAC 07H .0304 (Ocean Erodible)
8. 15A NCAC 07H .0306 (General Use Standards for Ocean Hazard Areas)
9. 15A NCAC 07H .0308 (Specific Use Standards for Ocean Hazard Areas)
10. **15A** NCAC 07H .0310 (Inlet Hazard Areas)
11. 15A NCAC 07H .0311 (Installation and Maintenance of Sand Fencing)
12. **15A** NCAC 07H .0312 (Technical Standards for Beach Fill Projects)

The proposed action will not adversely affect any biota recognized by the State as species of concern, will not adversely impact water quality, and will result in minimal, temporary and short-lived impacts to fisheries and the aquatic habitat. Dredging within identified borrow areas, with placement of dredged material on the shoreline of Surf City will be conducted using previously employed and approved methodologies.

### **Consistency Determination**

In accordance with Section 307 (c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the Corps has determined that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's Coastal Management Program. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code. We request that the NCDPCM concur with this consistency determination.

**From:** Gasch, Eric K CIV USARMY CESAW (USA) <Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil>

**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 3:41 PM

**To:** Govoni, Daniel <daniel.govoni@deq.nc.gov>

**Cc:** Coats, Heather <heather.coats@deq.nc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, August 2024

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Hello Mr. Govoni,

Attached is a letter requesting a review and comments on the General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment for the Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA will be completed by the USAGE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project. Comments on the Draft GRR/EA should include sufficient detail to support statements in favor of or opposed to the proposed action. We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than October 4, 2024.

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Eric Gasch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, CESAW-ECP-PE, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Comments or questions may also be emailed to Mr. Gasch at [Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil).

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Thank you very much,

Eric Gasch  
USAGE Biologist  
69 Darlington Ave  
Wilmington, NC 28403

[Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.K.Gasch@usace.army.mil)

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**From:** [Govoni, Daniel](#)  
**To:** [Gasch, Eric K CIV USARMY CESAW \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Owens, Jennifer L CIV USARMY CESAW \(USA\)](#)  
[Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment, Surf City, Onslow and Pender Counties, North Carolina, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, August 2024  
DCM2025001  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 2:29:05 PM  
**Date:** [ER-20-0050\\_resurvey.cdf](#)  
**Attachments:** [DMF Comments.SCCSRM.Final.cdf](#)  
[USACE Surf City\\_CSRM 2024\\_NCWRC.cdf](#)  
[External Draft Surf City\\_CSRM\\_GRR-FA Comments.msc](#)

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Hello Mr. Gasch,

North Carolina's coastal zone management program consists of, but is not limited to, the Coastal Area Management Act, the State's Dredge and Fill Law, Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code, and the land use plan of the County and/or local municipality in which the proposed project is located. It is the objective of the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) to manage the State's coastal resources to ensure that proposed federal actions would be compatible with safeguarding and perpetuating the biological, social, economic, and aesthetic values of the State's coastal waters.

DCM has reviewed the submitted information pursuant to the management objectives and enforceable policies of Subchapters 7H and 7M of Chapter 7 in Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code and concurs that the proposed action is consistent with North Carolina's approved coastal management program; however, DCM request the Corps take into consideration comments received from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Additionally, DCM requests the Corps adhere to all comments\commitments provided in the email dated December 5, 2024, attached.

Prior to the initiation of the activities described, the applicant should obtain any other required State approvals or authorizations. Should the proposed action be modified further, a revised consistency determination could be necessary. This might take the form of either a supplemental consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, or a new consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36. Likewise, if further project assessments reveal environmental effects not previously considered, a supplemental consistency certification may be required. If you have any questions, please contact me at (252) 515-5435. Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

Daniel

**Daniel M. Govoni**  
Policy Section Chief  
NC Division of Coastal Management  
Department of Environmental Quality

***\*Please note that my email address is now [danielgovoni@ddeq.nc.gov](mailto:danielgovoni@ddeq.nc.gov)\****

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Morehead City, NC 28557

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parties by an authorized state official.

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**To:** [Gasch, Eric K CIV USARMY CESAW \(USA\)](#)  
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Daniel

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