

APPENDIX F

Correspondence

Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Emergency Repair – Evaluation of Borrow Area Alternatives

New Hanover County, North Carolina

JANUARY 2023



Prepared by:

Environmental Resources Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

November 2, 2022

Justin Bashaw
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

justin.p.bashaw@usace.army.mil

Re: Coastal storm risk management (CSRM) plan, Town of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County,
ER 20-1245

Dear Mr. Bashaw:

Thank you for transmitting the archaeological report for the above-referenced undertaking that we received on September 8, 2022. We have reviewed this report which meets our standards and those of the Department of the Interior and offer the following comments.

Your archaeological survey resulted in the following:

- Significant contacts detected in the dataset include numerous tires and debris. Contacts were predominately tires (6,343 of the 6,415 contacts). All residual anomalies are consistent with and are presumed to be residual chain and cable debris from the original securing of the tire reefs.
- The intent of the sub-bottom profiler data was to assist in the identification of features identified within the MBES, SSS, and TVG datasets. No culturally significant features were identified.
- None of the sonar targets and magnetic anomalies in the second-generation Sub-Areas SW 2, NE 1, SE 1, and SE 2 have signature characteristics that clearly indicate the presence of potentially significant submerged cultural resources such as shipwreck remains.
- Based on comprehensive review and analysis of the available survey data, no potentially significant submerged cultural resources will be impacted by utilization of any of the five second-generation sub-areas identified by the USACE-Wilmington District.

Based on the information provided, we concur with your determination that no culturally significant archaeological features were found during this survey. We also concur with your recommendation that no further archaeological work is needed for the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and that the project can proceed as recommended. Please note that if the APE is determined to be unsatisfactory for the projects intended purpose of sand removal and a new APE is chosen, it may also be subject to review and survey.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Rudi Rudolph, Geodynamics Group
Kurt C. Baker, Geodynamics Group

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kurt@geodynamicsgroup.com



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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January 5, 2023

Ms. Jennifer Owens
Chief, Environmental Resources Section
Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403-1343

Subject: Biological Opinion for Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management
Emergency Repairs Using Offshore Borrow Area
USFWS Log No. 2022-0077818

Dear Ms. Owens:

This document transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) biological opinion based on our review of the Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management project (Emergency Repairs Using Offshore Borrow Area), and its effects on piping plover (*Charadrius melodus melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle population (*Caretta caretta*), and the North Atlantic Ocean green sea turtle population (*Chelonia mydas*), in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Your August 18, 2022 request for formal consultation was received on the same date.

This biological opinion is based on information provided in the August 18, 2022 biological assessment, the updated August 30, 2022 biological assessment and other sources of information. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at the Service's Raleigh Field Office. The Service has assigned Log number 2022-0077818 to this consultation.

The Service appreciates the cooperation of the Corps during this consultation. For further coordination please contact Kathy Matthews at (919) 856-4520, ext. 27.

Sincerely,

Pete Benjamin
Field Supervisor

cc: USFWS, Jacksonville, FL (Karen Frutche) (via email)
USFWS, Hadley, MA (Anne Hecht) (via email)
USFWS, Pleasantville, NJ (Wendy Walsh) (via email)
NMFS, Pivers Island (via email)
NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
NCDCM, Morehead City, NC
NCWRC, Washington, NC
New Hanover County, NC (Layton Bedsole)