

## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Emergency Repairs Using Offshore Borrow Area New Hanover County, North Carolina

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated **DATE OF EA**, for the Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRSM) Project Emergency Repairs Using Offshore Borrow Area Environmental Assessment addresses use of an offshore borrow area, ensure the environmental consequences of the proposed action are considered and that environmental and project information is available to the public opportunities and feasibility in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

The final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would provide material for emergency repair. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and includes:

- The Proposed Action would conduct a one-time emergency repair to Wrightsville Beach using an offshore borrow area. All other work will be done in accordance with the Wrightsville Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Emergency Repairs Using Offshore Borrow Area Biological Opinion dated January 5, 2023. Emergency renourishment of the currently authorized CSRSM project includes the following: Dune having a crown width of 25 feet at 12.5 feet NAVD88, together with a beach berm, having a crown width of 50 feet at 9.5 feet NAVD88, and a construction berm, having a crown width of 205 feet at 5.0 feet NAVD88. The dune and berms extend north 13,650 feet from Masonboro Inlet North Jetty. Historically the typical project renourishment extends from Station 70+00 to 140+00 with a 2,000-foot transition to station 160+00, for a total length of 15,560 feet. The Proposed Plan includes placement of material along the beachfront at Wrightsville Beach, NC within the authorized CSRSM project template.

In addition to a “no action” plan, two alternatives were evaluated. The Proposed Action – Emergency Repair Using Offshore Borrow Areas and Emergency Repair Using the Masonboro Inlet Borrow Area. A list of alternatives and their descriptions are in Section 1 of the Environmental Assessment.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geology and Sediment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. The Corps will accomplish all future work in accordance with the 2020 NMFS South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion which includes a Dredge Project Scheduling Risk-Based Adaptive Management Process.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft EA and FONSI was completed on **DATE DRAFT EA AND FONSI REVIEW PERIOD ENDED**. All comments submitted during the public review period were addressed in the Final EA and FONSI

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a biological opinion, dated 5 January 2023, that determined that the recommended plan will not jeopardize the continued existence of the following federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat: piping plover, red knot, loggerhead, green, leatherback, Kemp's ridley and hawksbill sea

turtles, seabeach amaranth and the west Indian manatee. All terms and conditions, conservation measures, and reasonable and prudent alternatives and measures resulting from these consultations shall be implemented in order to minimize take of endangered species and avoid jeopardizing the species in this or any superseding Biological Opinion.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan has no effect on historic properties.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix D of the EA.

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. The proposed action is covered under the North Carolina Division of Water Resources December 1, 2017, Water Quality General Certification (WQC) No. 4153: General Certification for Emergency Dredging. All conditions of the water quality certification shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

A determination of consistency with the North Carolina Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 was obtained from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. All conditions of the consistency determination shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of alternatives. Coordination with all appropriate agencies and officials required to comply with applicable environmental laws has been completed.

Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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Benjamin A. Bennett  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander