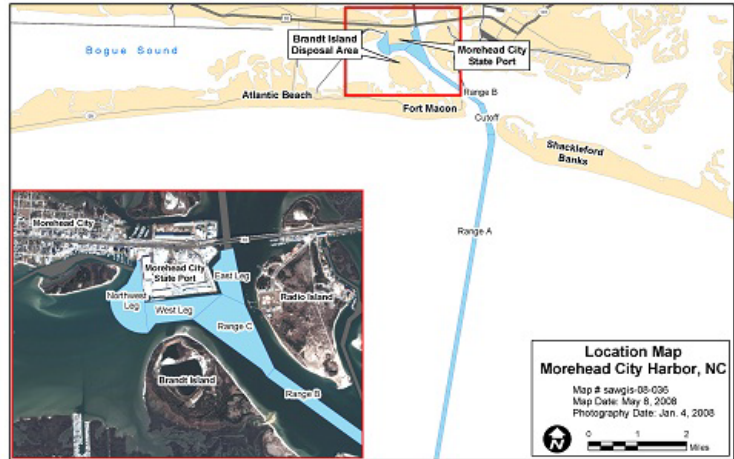




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Maintenance dredging of Morehead City Harbor with placement of dredge material to the adjacent shoreline, near-shore and off-shore placement areas**
- **FY 2023 funds are being used to award two maintenance dredging contracts, Inner Harbor and Inner Ocean Bar. Pending channel conditions, an Outer Ocean Bar contract will be awarded.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3

DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Acts of 1958 and 1970, and Section 101 of Water Resources Development Act of 1992.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** This navigation project is located at Morehead City (MHC), in Carteret County, midway along the North Carolina coast approximately 10 miles west of Cape Lookout. The project consists of a 47 feet deep by 450 to 600 feet wide entrance channel from the deep water in the Atlantic Ocean to the Beaufort Inlet gorge; a channel 45 feet deep by 400 to 600 feet wide from Beaufort Inlet gorge to the east facing berthing facilities of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA); and a channel 35 feet deep with varying widths to the south and west facing NCSPA berthing facilities.
3. **FY 2022 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$8,610,000. Funds include \$8,340,000 in President's Budget funding, \$240,000 in Work Plan funding, as well as \$30,000 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds that were used for turbidity monitoring.
4. **FY 2023 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$24,919,000. These funds are being used for operation and maintenance dredging of the Inner Harbor and Inner Ocean Bar (material to be placed on Emerald Isle. Pending channel conditions, the Outer Ocean Bar may be awarded as a possible option to the South Atlantic Division Regional Harbor Dredging Contract (RHDC).
5. **FY 2024 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET:** \$18,381,000 These funds will be used for operation and maintenance dredging of the Outer Ocean Bar.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Morehead City Harbor, NC (Navigation) (O&M) – Continued

6. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** In the past three fiscal years (FY2021, FY 2022 & FY 2023), funding has allowed for advanced maintenance dredging of this deep draft harbor.

7. **OTHER INFORMATION:** USACE has coordinated with North Carolina resource agencies and received a conditional consistency determination to dredge entrance channels for three years with no environmental windows as part of implementing the FY2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion. However, the Southeast Law Center (SELC) brought suit on behalf of Cape Fear River Watch. In September 2022, the federal judge ruled against USACE for not fully assessing the impacts of this change under NEPA. USACE plans to coordinate with all associated environmental resource agencies on a new path forward to resolve this issue. Until this issue is resolved, maintenance dredging with a hopper dredge will occur within the permitted environmental windows (01 Dec - 15 April).