



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Wilmington District

North Topsail Beach: New River Inlet Master Management Plan- Terminal Groin (Regulatory)

Regulatory Office: Wilmington

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3

DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

1. **PROJECT:**

Proposed New River Inlet Master Management Plan, which includes the installation of a terminal groin structure along the New River Inlet shoulder for shoreline protection in North Topsail Beach, Onslow County, North Carolina.

2. **CONCERNS/CHALLENGES:**

Endangered Species Act: Potential impacts to Red Knot, Piping plover and its Critical Habitat, Nesting and Swimming Sea Turtles (Loggerhead, Green, Kemps Ridley, Hawks Bill, and Leatherback) and their designated Critical Habitat, Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon, and Northern Right Whale.

Magnuson-Stevens Act: Potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat.

Major Public Concerns: Loss of property and infrastructure.

Other Public Concerns: Potential impacts associated with hardening the oceanfront shoreline.

USMC Camp Lejeune: Potential impact for current military use of the inlet and potential erosion of USMC property on Onslow Beach.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS has been signed by BG Hibner (SAD) and will be published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2023. This will officially start the mandatory 2-year EIS review completion timeline.

4. **NEXT STEPS:**

Initial scoping has been completed and the Third-Party Contractor has submitted preliminary sections of the Draft Environment Impact Statement (EIS), which Regulatory is reviewing. Chapters 4 and 5 are expected within the next 3-4 months. The Draft EIS is expected to be released sometime in the Fall/Winter of 2023.