



WILMINGTON HARBOR 403

LETTER REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Welcome to the Early Public Scoping Meeting!

4:00 - 4:30 pm	Welcome/ Sign in/ Video Introduction
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Presentation by USACE
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Open House with Themed Stations
6:00 - 6:30 pm	Repeated Presentation

Public Meeting:

Submit a comment card at the public meeting

E-Mail:

WilmingtonHarbor403@usace.army.mil

Please submit emailed comments by June 30, 2023

Scan the QR Code
to access the
Project Comment Tool



Online:

Online comments may be made through the Public Comment Tool

The Public Comment Tool can be found on the project website:

<https://wilmington-harbor-usace-saw.hub.arcgis.com/>

Mail:

US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
ATTN: Wilmington Harbor 403
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

Please submit Mailed comments by June 30, 2023

Early Scoping Public Comments by June 30, 2023



WILMINGTON HARBOR 403



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MEETING OBJECTIVES

PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Process
 - Schedule
 - Products
- Environmental Review Process
- Opportunities for Public Engagement

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO:

- Interact with Corps Staff
- Engage Early in the Evaluation
- Submit Comments



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AGENDA

AGENDA

- BACKGROUND
- PLAN FORMULATION
- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
- HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS



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BACKGROUND



FEB 2020 - North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) Section 203 Feasibility Study

- ✓ Tentatively Selected Plan recommended deepening to 47 feet
- ✓ Submitted to the ASA(CW) in February 2020 for Review

MAY 2020 – Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) ASA (CW) Review Assessment

- ✓ Transmitted to Congress with unresolved comments including:
 - Reframe assumptions and screening of alternatives
 - Perform economic analysis using USACE methodology at multiple depths
 - Conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis including supporting engineering modeling and appropriate sea level rise
 - Finalize a mitigation plan and a real estate plan
 - Conduct Independent External Peer Review (IEPR)

DEC 2020 – Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020)

- ✓ Congress authorized the navigation project, at a total cost of \$834,093,000 through Section 403 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020. WRDA 2020 included a requirement that a [final assessment address the concerns, recommendations, and conditions identified by the ASA \(CW\)](#).

OCT 2023 – Section 403 Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement

- ☐ The Wilmington District was tasked with producing a [Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement](#) to address issues from the Review Assessment through a cost-share agreement with the NCSPA



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PLAN FORMULATION

OBJECTIVES.

Developed from the Purpose & Need Statement

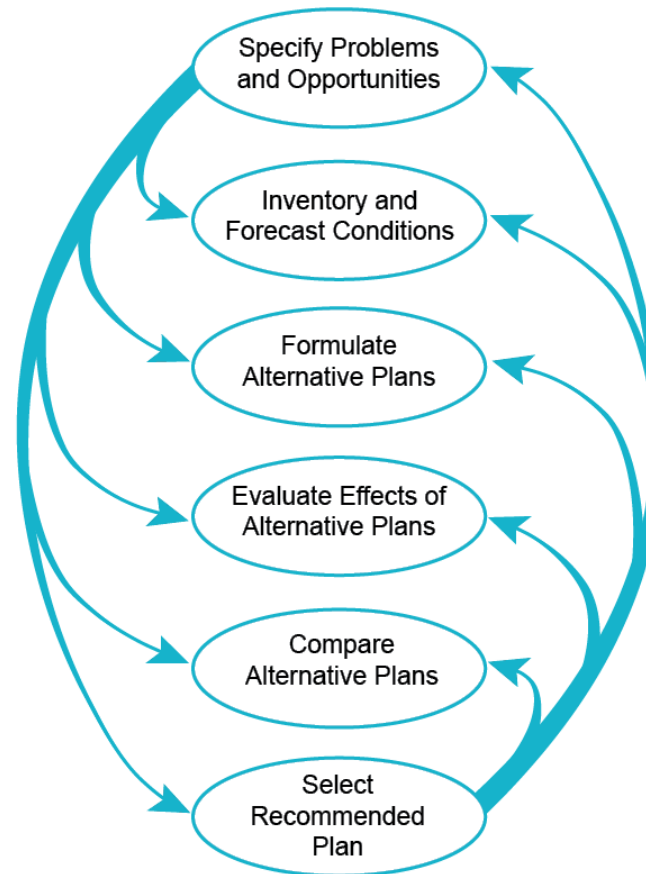
Contribute to national economic development to:

1. Reduce total costs to transport import and export cargo through Wilmington Harbor
2. To address physical constraints that induce navigation safety-related operating practices that contribute to delays, including limited passing and one-way traffic in some reaches

SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES.

A range of action alternatives will be compared to and contrasted with each other and with the “no action alternative”

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Completeness
- Acceptability



SELECTING ALTERNATIVES.

This analysis will examine a broad range of considerations:

- Construction, Operations and Maintenance costs
- Cost savings associated with navigation improvements
- Environmental impacts and mitigation
- Social impacts
- Cultural and historical resource impacts

FINAL DECISION.

USACE will submit the final Letter Report and EIS to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) ASA(CW).



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The **NEPA process** has two major purposes:

- ensuring that agencies consider the environmental impacts of their proposed actions; and
- informing the public about their decision making.

IMPROVES federal decision making through *meaningful public engagement*



Factors Considered

-  Social
-  Economic
-  Environmental
-  Cultural



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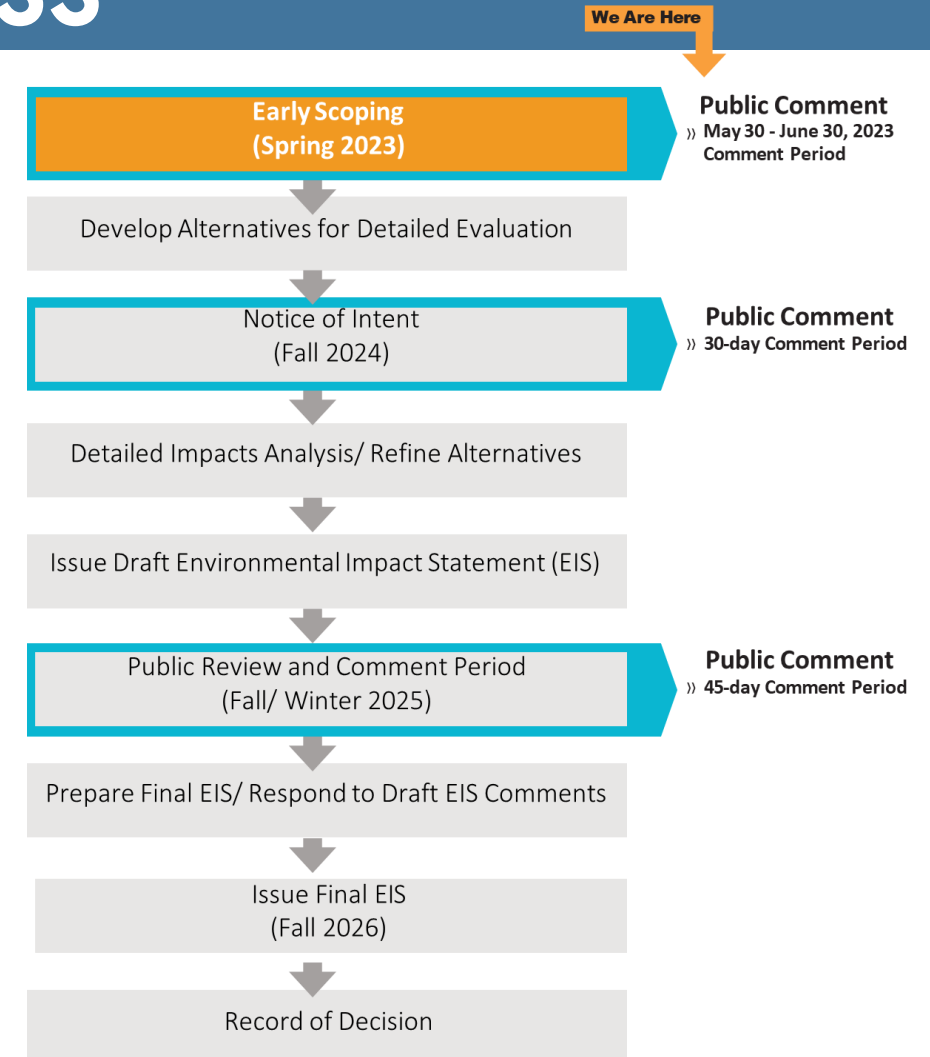
NEPA PROCESS

PURPOSE AND NEED:

- Describes the what and why for the proposed action
- Informs the development of alternatives

WILMINGTON HARBOR 403 PURPOSE AND NEED

- **PURPOSE.** Contribute to national economic development (NED) by addressing transportation inefficiencies for the forecasted vessel fleet, consistent with protecting the Nation's environment.
- **NEED.** Address the constraints that contribute to inefficiencies in the existing navigation system's ability to safely serve forecasted vessel fleet and cargo types and volumes.





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NEPA SCOPING

- **Scoping involves:**
 - Identifying significant issues
 - Eliminating non-significant issues from further study
 - Determining the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in the decision-making process
- **Comments received will:**
 - Inform the development/refinement of alternatives
 - Focus analysis on significant issues
- **Please provide comment on:**
 - Concerns related to the project
 - Suggestions for solutions
 - Resources that should be considered
 - Identify studies/information useful for evaluation of impacts



Atlantic Sturgeon swimming. Credit: NOAA Fisheries



Rufa Red Knot. Credit: Cornell University



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HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Today at the Open House

- Comment card
- Map your comment
- Participate in the discussion table

Public Meeting:

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MORE INFORMATION

For more in-depth conversations please visit our
technical stations:

Project Background, Plan Formulation, Economics
National Environmental Policy Act
Environmental Resources
Engineering Considerations
Engineering Considerations - Coastal Processes
Public Engagement Discussions
Comments

Thank you!

