



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Wilmington District

CESAW-TS-PE

June 23, 2014

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**DRAFT INTEGRATED
FEASIBILITY REPORT
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

WILMINGTON HARBOR NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District (Corps) has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR/EA) to evaluate the impacts of widening and realigning areas of Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina, to improve navigation efficiency. Wilmington Harbor is an approximately 38 mile navigation channel which begins at the outer ocean bar at the mouth of the Cape Fear River in Brunswick County, North Carolina, and extends up to the City of Wilmington in New Hanover County, North Carolina, where it services the Port of Wilmington. The areas evaluated are (1) the Entrance Channel, (2) the Battery Island Turn, and (3) the Anchorage Basin, which is also used as a turning basin. A portion of the entrance channel could be realigned up to 150 feet westward, a portion of the Battery Island Turn could be constructed up to a total width of 750 feet, and the maximum width of the Anchorage Basin could be expanded to 1,450 feet.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and addresses the relationship of the proposed action to other applicable Federal and State Laws and Executive Orders. The EA addresses the proposed project's impacts on environmental resources including: federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, soils, and water and air quality. We are requesting written comments related to the proposed project from agencies, interest groups, and the public. Comments received will be considered in preparation of the final integrated report and EA. The draft report is available on the internet at:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Dredging/WilmingtonHarbor/WilmingtonHarborImprovementsProject.aspx>.

Written comments should be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Attention: Mr. Frank Yelverton, Environmental Resources Section, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403. Please send your comments within 30 days from the date of this letter so they may be considered during our evaluation and decision process. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Yelverton at (910) 251-4640 or at frank.yelverton@usace.army.mil.

Elden Gatwood
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch