



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Wilmington District

August 18, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

**EMERGENCY DREDGING ACTION
ROLLINSON CHANNEL
Hatteras Inlet to Hatteras Ferry Terminal Project, NC**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (Corps), has determined that emergency conditions that pose an immediate threat to navigation exist in the Hatteras Inlet to Hatteras Ferry Terminal portion of Rollinson Channel. The emergency conditions require the immediate removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of fine sand with less than 10 percent silt/clay from Rollinson Channel adjacent to channel marker numbers 19 and 19a (reference the attached map), which is utilized by the North Carolina Ferry System to transport people and supplies between Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. The identified channel is not fixed; it is authorized to follow deep water.

Current controlling depths are approximately -5 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). Work will be performed by the Government-owned sidecast dredge MERRITT. Removal of the material will allow the safe passage of ferries and other vessels to and from the area. The ferry system needs a minimum of -8 feet MLLW. Emergency dredging will be performed to a depth of -10 feet MLLW in the identified area. The material will be sidecasted in both directions during all tidal cycles. At the time of dredging, the direction of the current will determine specifically on which side of the channel material will be placed.

Sidecasting is not an approved channel maintenance method in this area, however, the Corps is coordinating with environmental resource agencies to receive a one-time exception to address this emergency. No alternatives to performing the work by Government-owned vessel are available at this time. The proposed use of a sidecast dredge would provide immediate passage and relief to affected mariners in the shortest amount of time. Work could commence as early as 19 August 2020. The MERRITT will operate for approximately 14 days, followed by subsequent operations, as needed.

A Request for Emergency Declaration for Dredging Operations was signed by the South Atlantic Division Commander on 17 August 2020. The procedures outlined in the 1986 Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, are being followed to obtain all necessary clearances for the emergency action to take place.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons for informational purposes only. For further information, please contact Ms. Emily Hughes telephone (910) 251-4635.

This public notice satisfies the notification requirements of Executive Order 11988 and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

For Daniel Brown
Chief, Operations Division

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

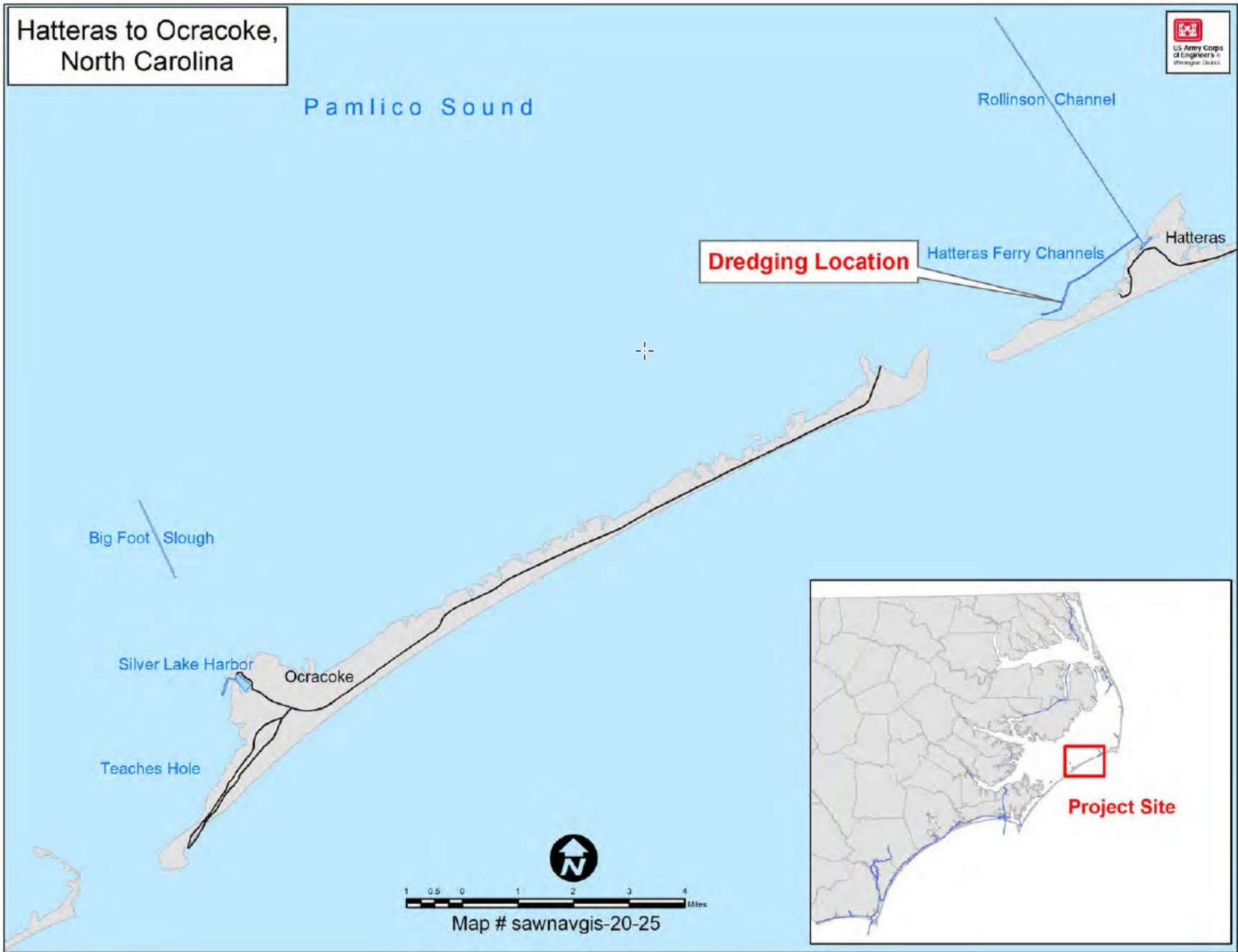


Figure 2. Rollinson Channel Project Area

