



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Wilmington District

CESAW-OPS

11 August 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

**EMERGENCY DREDGING ACTION FEDERAL
NAVIGATION CHANNEL
Oregon Inlet Emergency Dredging Project, NC**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, has determined that emergency conditions that pose an immediate threat to navigation exist in the area west of the Marc Basnight Bridge in the Oregon Inlet portion of the Manteo-Shallowbag Bay federal navigation channel. The most recent condition survey adjacent to the bridge, dated August 5, 2022, indicates complete closure of the federal channel. The US Coast Guard has marked a temporary route; however, this route is not within the official navigation span, so vessels greater than 100 gross tons are prohibited from using the temporary route to transit through the inlet. The emergency conditions require the immediate removal of approximately 46,000 cubic yards of fine sand with less than 10 percent silt/clay to restore safe navigation conditions.

Current controlling depths are approximately -2 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The District is proposing to shift the channel alignment to a new location labeled as the western alternate route on the attached map. Dredging will be completed using the SNELL and MERRITT as they are the only dredges capable of immediately responding to this situation, given the current depths, and tidal conditions. The proposed western alternate route has not been previously dredged. Emergency dredging will be performed to a depth of -8 feet MLLW in the identified area. The material will be sidecasted by the MERRITT in water adjacent to the channel. At the time of dredging, the direction of the current will determine specifically on which side of the channel material will be sidecasted. The SNELL will place material in deep water adjacent to the curve in the channel at the south end of the alternate route.

Work could commence as early as 12 August 2022. The District intends to initially operate the SNELL for 10 to 14 days immediately followed by the MERRITT for 10 to 14 days. Subsequent dredging operations would be performed as needed to keep the channel open until completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The EA will address the emergency

dredging action(s) as well as future operations and maintenance of the Manteo-Shallowbag Bay (Oregon Inlet) channel.

A Request for Emergency Declaration for Dredging Operations was signed by the South Atlantic Division Commander on 20 July 2022. The procedures outlined in the 1986 Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management and the USACE, 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 Jeremy Overstreet telephone (910) 251-4700.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Brown
Chief, Operations Division

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2. Oregon Inlet Project Area

