Wilmington District Update

Coastal Resilience & Navigation Priorities – 2026

Maintaining Navigation • Reducing Coastal Risk • Enabling Commerce

MAJ Bruce R. Merrill, PMP
Deputy Commander
Wilmington District

NCBIWA 2026 Fall Meeting
October 22, 2026







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WHAT WE DELIVER ACROSS THE COAST

Reliable Navigation

- Maintain safe, reliable federal navigation channels
- Support ports, waterways, and coastal communities

Coastal Storm Risk Management

- Reduce storm risk to coastal communities and infrastructure
- Strengthen resilience through long-term partnership

Project Delivery

- Plan, design, and construct projects across the coastal portfolio
- Deliver projects in coordination with non-Federal sponsors
- Maintain accountability for cost, schedule, and quality

COASTAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Navigation

- Maintain authorized federal navigation channels for safe, reliable transit
- Address shoaling in priority areas, including our Deep Draft Harbors and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW)
- Support commercial shipping, recreational boating, and coastal economies

Coastal Storm Risk Management

- Manage a portfolio of authorized coastal storm risk management projects
- Execute periodic beach nourishment to reduce coastal storm damages
- Protect coastal infrastructure and strengthen community resilience

COASTAL PROGRAM DELIVERY CHALLENGES

Funding

- Project-specific funding drives planning and execution schedules
- Timing and availability of funds influence project delivery

Execution Constraints

- Environmental work windows influence construction schedules
- Regulatory requirements affect project delivery timelines

Delivery Capacity

- High demand across a broad and diverse project portfolio
- Limited resources require careful planning and disciplined execution

PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE PROJECT DELIVERY

WHAT ENABLES SUCCESS

- **Strong partnerships** with sponsors and stakeholders support successful project delivery
- **Early coordination** helps align expectations and project requirements
- **Clear communication** helps identify issues early and minimize delays
- **Shared priorities** strengthen collaboration and improve project outcomes







DELIVERING RESULTS ACROSS THE COAST

- Reliable navigation
- Reduced coastal storm risk
- Strong partnerships

We appreciate your continued collaboration and engagement.





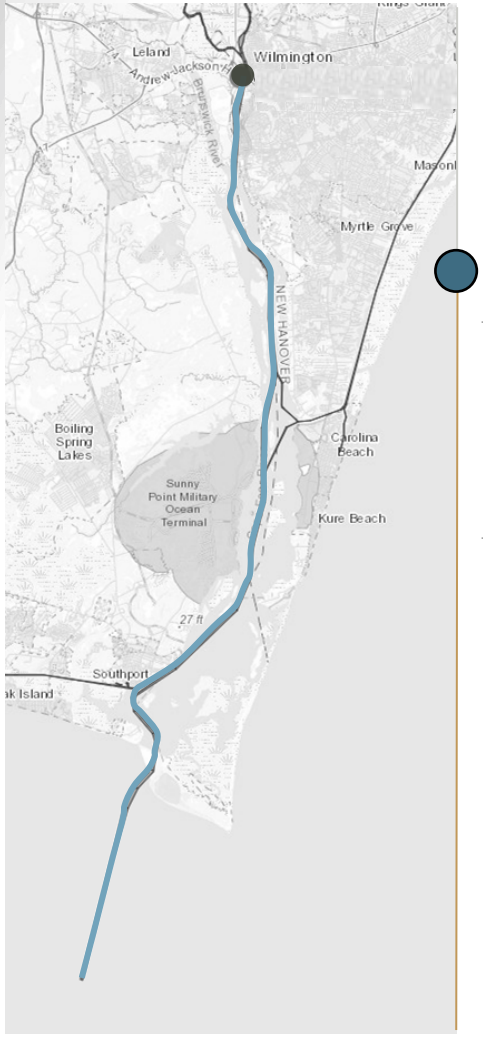


WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CORPS ON THE COAST

- Wilmington Harbor Section 403 Project
- SAW Coastal Navigation Program
- National Shallow Draft Fleet
- SAW Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Program

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WILMINGTON HARBOR SECTION 403



MISSION EXECUTION

Wilmington District conducted an evaluation of technical and policy concerns noted in the ASA(CW)'s May 2020 Review Assessment. All tasks were completed to the extent practicable. Analysis confirmed the alternative deepening to 47'. Several environmental compliance tasks that require actions by other agencies are proposed to be deferred to the design Phase. Based on PFAS concerns, the North Carolina State Ports Authority requested suspension of review and delay of Record of Decision.

FY 23 - CONTRACTS, EARLY SCOPING, & ECONOMICS

- *OCT - DEC 2022*
  - *Project Development Team*
  - 1 *Cost Share Agreement (OCT)*
  - *Funding*
  - *Scheduling*
  - *Economics*
  - *Contract Coordination*
- *JAN - SEP 2023*
  - *Econ – FWOP (FEB 23)*
  - *Withdraw 203 NOI*
  - *Initial CSRA*
  - *Communication Plan*
  - *Coastal EN & ENV CT Award*
  - *Climate & SLR Analysis*
  - *EN Quantities & Material*
  - *Vibracore CT Award*
  - *Review Plan*
  - *Cost Engineering for Array of Alternatives (JUN 23)*
  - *Plan Formulation-Screening*
  - *Econ -Future With Project*
  - *Avg Annual Benefits & Costs(Preliminary - AUG 23)*

FY 24 - ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

- *Vibracore*
- 2 *Notice of Intent (JUN 24)*
- *Groundwater Modeling*
- *HTRW Analysis*
- *Air Quality Analysis Hydrodynamic, Water Quality, & Suspended Sediments Model set-up*
- *Conceptual Blast Mitigation Plan*

FY 25 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- *Hydrodynamic/ WQ/ Suspended Sediment*
- *Wetlands Assessment UMAM*
- *Habitat Suitability Index*
- *Wave Transformation*
- *Shoreline Impacts*
- *Tidal Range*
- *Vessel Wake Modeling*
- *Channel Morphology*
- *Cultural Resource*
- *Biological Assessments*
- *Mitigation Plans*
- *Water Resource Doc.*
- *Beneficial Use Plan*
- *Real Estate Assessments*
- *Cost Update*
- *DQC*
- *Provide draft for OC & Cooperating Agency Review*
- *Draft Letter Report & EIS*

FY 26 - FINAL REPORT

- 3 *Public Review (SEP-NOV 25)*
- *Revise draft EIS based on Public feedback*
- *ATR*
- *IEPR Review*
- *Cost Certification Post Review (JAN 25)*
- 4 *Letter Report & EIS*
- *Publish Final NOA*
- 5 *MSC Report Endorsement*

FY 27 - RECORD OF DECISION

- 6 *Record of Decision*

TIMELINE
(Federal Fiscal Year)

FY 23 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 26 | FY 27 | FY 28

ROD 23 Oct 2026

WILMINGTON DISTRICT:

COASTAL NAVIGATION PROGRAM





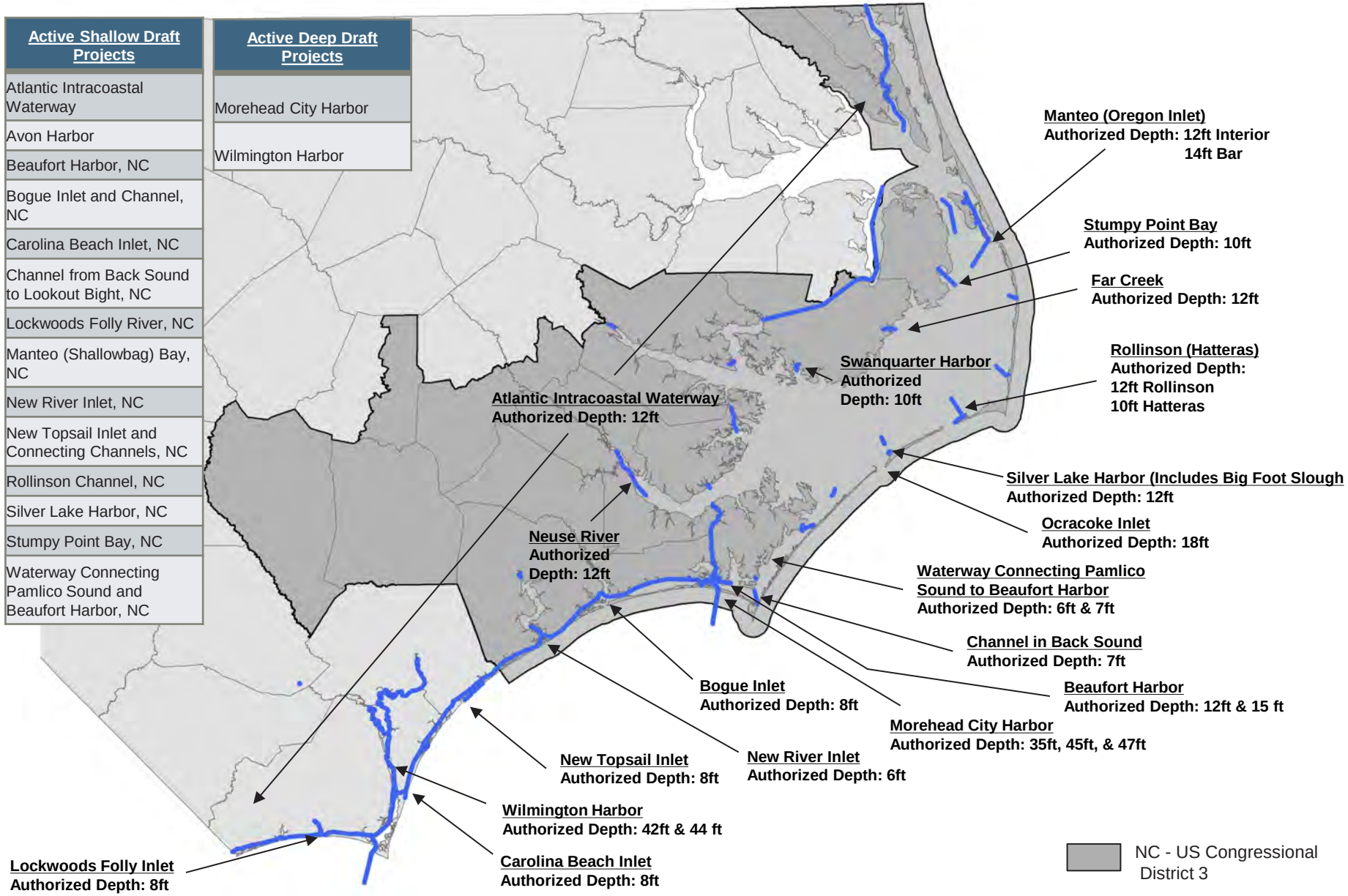
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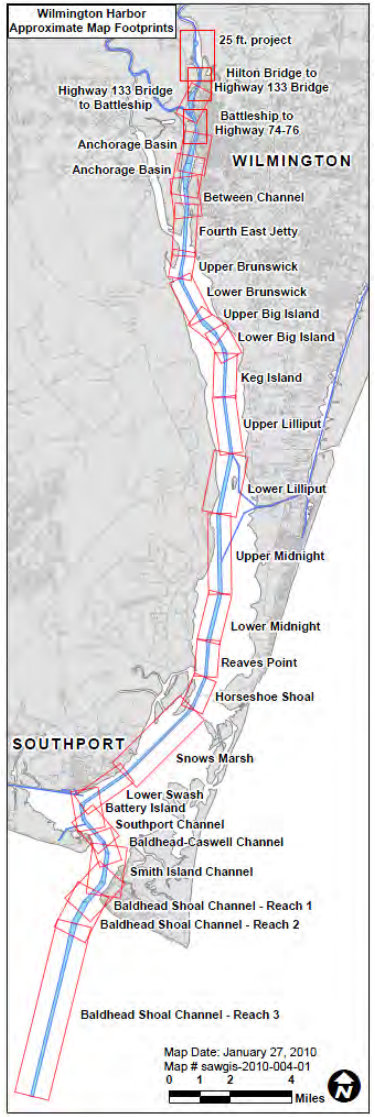
WILMINGTON DISTRICT NAVIGATION CHANNELS

Active Shallow Draft Projects
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway
Avon Harbor
Beaufort Harbor, NC
Bogue Inlet and Channel, NC
Carolina Beach Inlet, NC
Channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight, NC
Lockwoods Folly River, NC
Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay, NC
New River Inlet, NC
New Topsail Inlet and Connecting Channels, NC
Rollinson Channel, NC
Silver Lake Harbor, NC
Stumpy Point Bay, NC
Waterway Connecting Pamlico Sound and Beaufort Harbor, NC

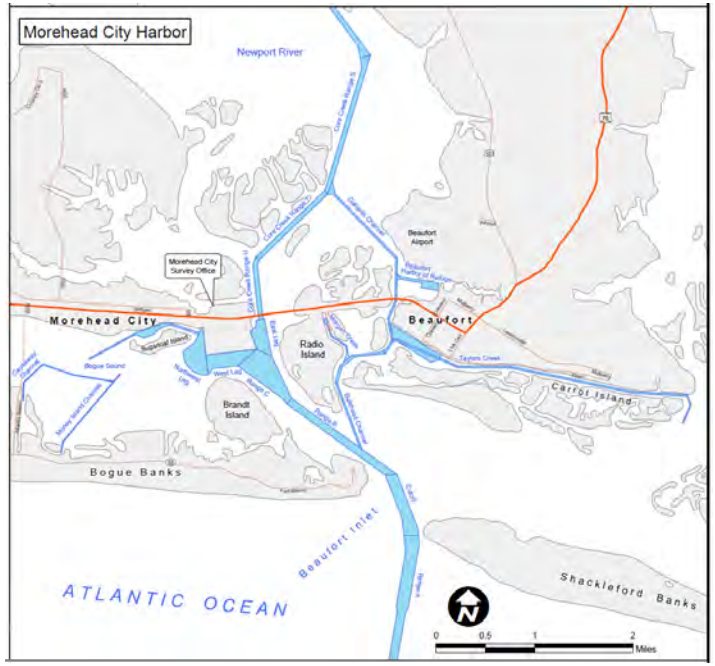
Active Deep Draft Projects
Morehead City Harbor
Wilmington Harbor



WILMINGTON DISTRICT DEEP DRAFT PORTS







Wilmington Harbor

- Authorized Depth:
  - Ocean Bar: 44 feet
  - To Bridge: 42 feet
  - Past Bridge: 32 to 25 feet
- Tonnage: 7 million
- National Rank: 62

Morehead City Harbor

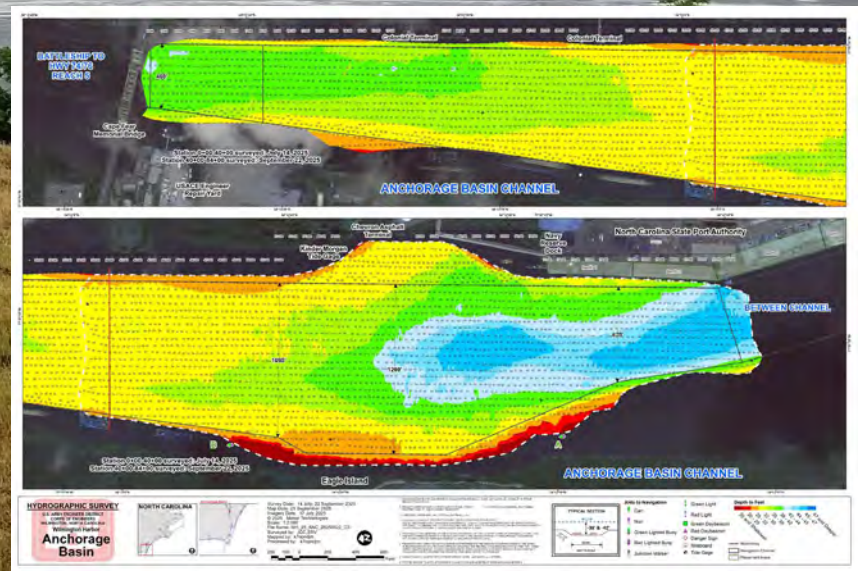
- Authorized Depth:
  - Range A: 47 feet
  - Cutoff Channel: 45 feet
  - Range B & C: 45 feet
  - Inner Harbor: 45 feet & 35 feet
- Tonnage: 2.3 million
- National Rank: 108

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WILL THE SHIP FIT IN THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL?





Wilmington Harbor Anchorage Basin – Vessel Turn (May 21, 2020)

The MV Hyundai Hope has a carrying capacity of nearly 14,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) and is one of the largest container ships calling on the United States East Coast.

SAW Navigation (O&M) Program

FY27 Navigation Contracts Recently Awarded

Wilmington Harbor:

- FY 26-27 SAD Regional Harbor Dredging Contract - Awarded 09/15/2026
- FY 26-27 WH Mid-River / Anchorage Basin MD Contract - Awarded 09/18/2026
- Wilmington Harbor DMPF (Eagle Island Cell #2) Contract - Awarded 09/18/2026

- FY26 MOTSU MD Contract - Awarded 09/11/2026

Morehead City Harbor

- FY 26-27 MHC Inner Harbor MD Contract – Awarded 07/30/2026

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW):

- FY26-27 AIWW Inlet Crossing MD Contact - Awarded – 10/20/2026
- FY 26 AIWW Upland Placement Area Improvement Contract #1 - Awarded 12/16/2025
- FY 27 AIWW Upland Placement Area Improvement Contract #2 - Awarded 03/20/2025

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NATIONAL SHALLOW DRAFT FLEET







- **Only shallow draft fleet in USACE**
- **Limited industry equivalent**
- **National asset on Atlantic & Gulf Coast**







3587 | WHAT WE ARE BUILDING | DREDGE CURRITUCK REPLACEMENT

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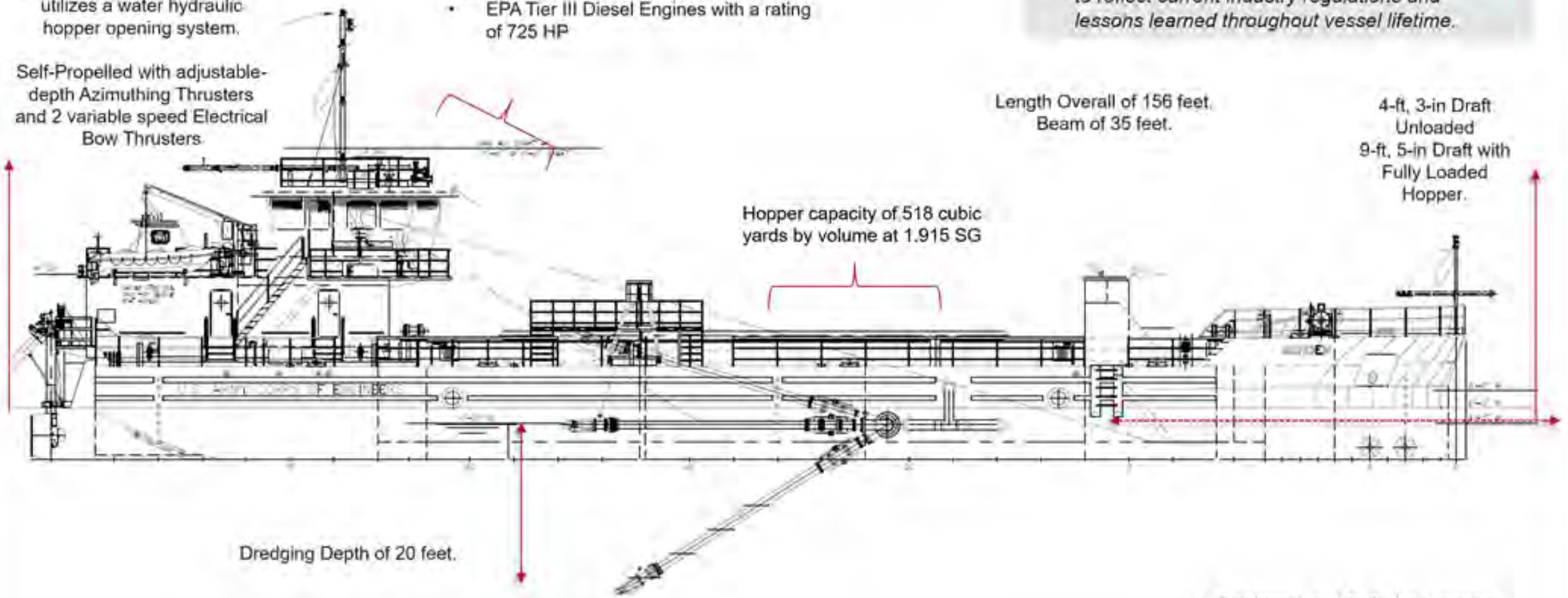
Designed with a Split Hull that utilizes a water hydraulic hopper opening system.

Self-Propelled with adjustable-depth Azimuthing Thrusters and 2 variable speed Electrical Bow Thrusters

Designed as a day boat to support 12-hour shift operations for a period of 7 days:

- EPA Tier III Diesel Engines with a rating of 725 HP

- *MURDEN Design to be validated and modified to reflect current industry regulations and lessons learned throughout vessel lifetime.*



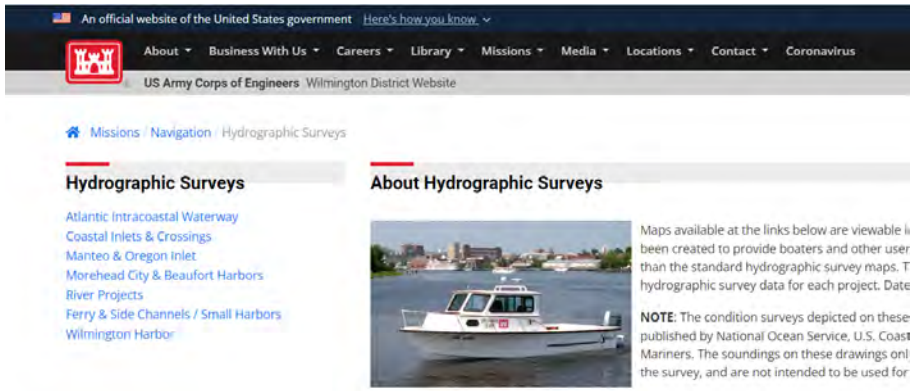
- Modernized Design developed from vessels proven-in-service.
- The replacement of the CURRITUCK balances capacity, power, size, draft, endurance and other capabilities to serve Wilmington District AOR *(Maine to Texas)*, while retaining high performance capability.

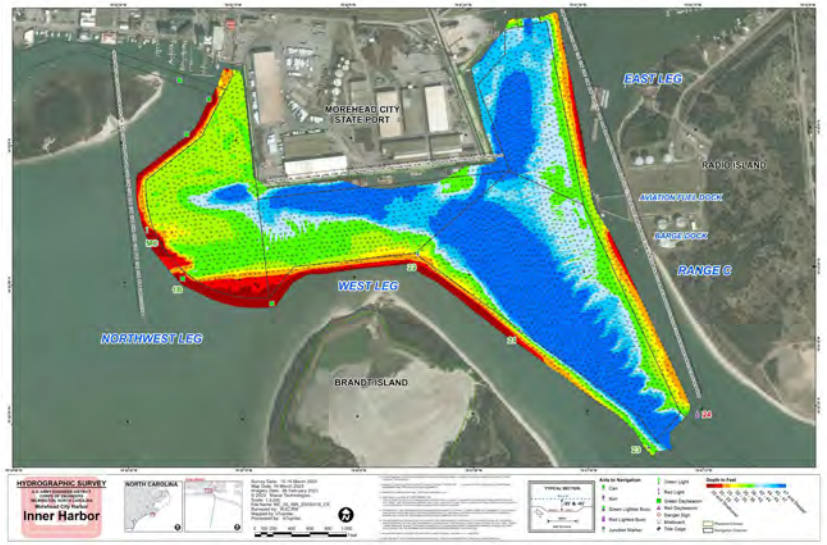
- Designed and Built for domestic service operations IAW, USCG, and ABS rules for dredges | Jones Act Compliant

*Drawing to be updated once under contract and a new profile is developed for replacement vessel.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NAVIGATION WEBPAGE

- Hydrographic Survey Maps
- Public Notices
- Channel Setback Policy
- Placement Area Usage
- No Wake Zones
- Land Exchanges / Trades
- Google Earth channel files





https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/missions/navigation/

WILMINGTON DISTRICT:

COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT (CSRM) PROGRAM









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Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects



COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT (CSRM) PROJECTS

- **Construction Phase**
  - **Initial Construction**
    - **Surf City, NC CSRM Contract**
      - PPA was executed August 2026, with the project now moving into the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) Phase.
      - Initial construction contract award targeted for FY 2028
  - **Scheduled Renourishment Cycles – (Funding Required)**
    - **FY-28 Wrightsville Beach, NC CSRM Contract**
      - Last Renourishment completed March 2024. The next renourishment cycle is scheduled for FY 2028.
    - **FY-26 Carolina Beach & Vicinity, NC CSRM Contract**
      - Last Renourishment completed April 2026, with dune planting scheduled for Fall 2026.. The next renourishment cycle is scheduled for FY 2029.
    - **Brunswick County Beaches (Ocean Isle Beach Portion) CSRM Contact**
      - The next renourishment cycle is scheduled for FY 2028.

SURF CITY PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNING

- **Project Partnership Agreement (PPA):** Historic 50-year agreement executed August 17, 2026, between the Town of Surf City and USACE Wilmington District.
- **Initial Construction:** Approximately 6.5 million cubic yards of sand anticipated to be placed along the shoreline.
- **Current Status:** Advancing engineering and design, real estate, and acquisition activities.
- **Next Milestone:** Initial construction contract award targeted for late 2027 / early 2028.







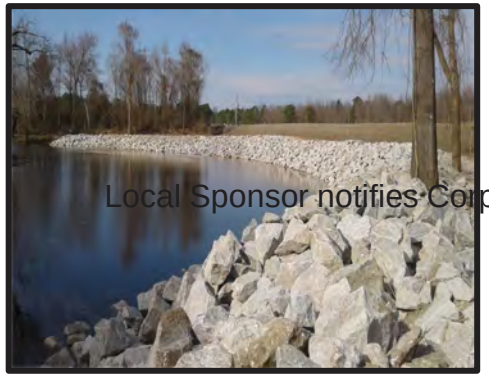
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THE USACE HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP SOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS

GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS (GI)	CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM (CAP)	PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES (PAS)	FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (FPMS)	Environmental Infrastructure (EI) Program
The General Investigations program offers cost-shared, large-scale studies to evaluate and recommend federally authorized, long-term solutions for complex and large-scale problems	CAP allows the Corps of Engineers to plan, design, and construct smaller-scale water resource projects without needing specific congressional authority (typically less than $20M)	The PAS program provides a variety of USACE technical and planning expertise to state, local, and tribal governments to help them address their water resource management issues (no construction)	The FPMS program offers federally funded technical assistance, flood hazard data, and planning guides to help communities reduce flood risks and improve local floodplain management (no construction)	The EI program allows the USACE to provide 75% reimbursement to communities to design and construct publicly owned water supply, wastewater, and water resource protection projects.











Primary Civil Works Missions: Navigation, Flood and Coastal Storm Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Planning

Process: Local Sponsor Notifies Corps District of Problem → District conducts site visit to gather info and determine appropriate Program to assist → District and sponsor coordinate on requirements and path forward

To Get the Process Started: Send a letter requesting assistance with solving your problem

1. Identify nature and magnitude of the problem
2. Identify the of assistance needed (technical/construction)
3. Identify the program you think best fits the need

To: Bret L. Walters
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
69 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 20403

Wilmington District Points of Contact (POCs)

63 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 20403

Bret L. Walters
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
bret.l.walters@usace.army.mil
(910) 251-4505

James (Todd) T. Horton
Chief, Navigation Branch
james.t.horton@usace.army.mil
(910) 251-4067

Wilmington District Navigation Webpage:
https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/missions/navigation/

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Questions