

APPENDIX A
LEAD AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

Mr. William Walker
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Wilmington District
Regulatory Field Office
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

DEC 07 2010

Dear Mr. Walker:

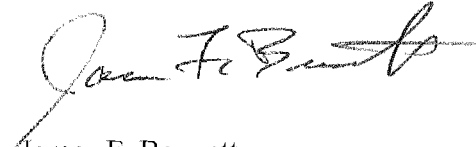
Thank you for your October 28, 2010, letter requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) become a cooperating agency during the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan. The proposal being evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under its regulatory authority involves the potential nourishment of 25 miles of beach in Carteret County, North Carolina using sand from multiple borrow areas, including two sites located more than 3 nautical miles offshore.

The BOEMRE welcomes the opportunity to participate in this effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency since the BOEMRE has jurisdiction over mineral leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). As a cooperating agency, the BOEMRE expects to: participate and provide input in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of the Corps, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which the BOEMRE has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the Corps; provide comment on draft versions of the EIS when requested; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities.

The BOEMRE also recognizes the importance of initiating and agrees to participate in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. As the lead Federal agency for ESA Section 7 and the EFH consultations, the Corps must notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of its lead role and BOEMRE's cooperating role. The BOEMRE would expect the Corps, as lead agency, to work with BOEMRE to ensure existing biological opinions from FWS and NMFS are applicable to BOEMRE's part of the Federal action and/or expect to jointly submit the ESA Section 7 and EFH assessments to FWS and NMFS. The BOEMRE expects the Corps to be the lead Federal agency for NHPA Section 106 and CZMA Section 307 compliance with the BOEMRE acting in a consulting role.

The BOEMRE looks forward to working with the Corps during this process. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Geoffrey Wikel at (703) 787-1283 or by e-mail at Geoffrey.Wikel@boemre.gov.

Sincerely,



James F. Bennett
Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment

cc: Mr. Mickey Sugg
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Wilmington District
Regulatory Field Office
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

Mr. Jim Gregson
N.C. Division of Coastal Management
Wilmington Regional Office
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405-3845

Mr. Roger Amato
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
Leasing Division

October 25, 2013

Regulatory Division

Action ID No. SAW- 2009-00293

Mr. James F. Bennett
Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Please reference our October 28, 2010 letter (enclosed) and your December 7, 2010 response (enclosed) regarding BOEM participation as a cooperating agency for Carteret County's development of their multi-decadal Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan (Master Plan), which is a proposed long-term management plan for the 24-mile long Bogue Banks barrier island in Carteret County, North Carolina. To date, coordination has taken place frequently between our agencies; however, some of our roles need to be further defined due to our regulatory differences. This letter serves to further establish and properly outline our agencies responsibilities and roles for the project's consultation and coordination efforts associated with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

As you most likely are aware, Corps' regulatory jurisdiction, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act, is measured from the baseline (generally the intersection of the shore and the open sea or mean high water) in a seaward direction a distance of three nautical miles. The only exception is with "special regulatory powers" for the construction of artificial islands, installations and other devices of the seabed, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 as amended.

For this project, which is being reviewed under our Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) process, the dredging operation in the Offshore Dredge Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) is proposed outside of our 3-mile regulatory authority, but falls within BOEM's jurisdiction. However, the fill placement of the material on the beach is subject to our permitting authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

CESAW-RC-L/SUGC

and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, but does not occur within BOEM's area of jurisdiction. With overlapping regulatory authority and project scope, it is imperative that our agencies closely coordinate our review efforts for the previously mentioned laws in order to streamline both regulatory permitting processes and to comply with the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA). To accomplish this effort, plans are to utilize the same protocol set forth during a previous Corps and BOEM project review of a one-time nourishment event in 2011 for the Town of Emerald Isle.

The Emerald Isle project used the same ODMDS borrow site as proposed for the Bogue Banks long-term Master Plan. As coordinated with Ms. Jennifer Culbertson of your staff, the following is a recommended outline of agency responsibilities (lead, cooperating, or joint effort) to coordinate the project permit review as it relates to consultation for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA):

- 1) ESA: The lead agency in Section 7 consultation for potential impacts on threatened and endangered species will be separated by the following activities, dredge and fill placement. In our discussion with your office, it was agreed that BOEM will be the lead agency for dredging activities in the ODMDS and will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for species under their purview, i.e. turtles in the water column and whales. The Corps will be the lead agency for the fill placement activity on the shoreline and will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for species under their purview, i.e. nesting turtles and bird species. At this time, our office foresees a single Biological Assessment (BA) that will be used to evaluate effects on all threatened and endangered species within the project area. The BA, developed by the applicant, will be reviewed by our offices prior to submitting to the respective consulting service agency for a final effect determination.
- 2) Magnuson-Stevens Act: BOEM and the Corps will consult jointly with NMFS, requesting them to separate the responsibility by jurisdictions. In other words, the request would detail that BOEM has consultation responsibility for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) issues associated with the project outside the 3-mile limit or during the dredging activity; and the Corps would accept the EFH consultation responsibility for activities within the 3-mile limit associated with the beach fill placement. Again, it is anticipated that the applicant will develop one EFH Assessment document for both of our agencies.
- 3) NHPA: Similar to the Magnuson-Stevens Act effort, consultation with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted jointly with a request to separate responsibilities by jurisdiction. BOEM will comply with NHPA outside the 3-mile limit while the Corps will consult with

SHPO concerning cultural resources inside the 3-mile limit.

4) CZMA: With the State of North Carolina jurisdictional waters limited to inside the 3-mile zone, the Corps will accept the responsibility as the lead federal agency in all coordination efforts with the State as it relates to the CZMA. Please be aware that the PEIS document is being prepared to satisfy both NEPA and SEPA requirements. Coordination with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management has been frequent and on-going since the initial review of the County's proposal.

As we move forward with anticipation that Carteret County will request separate BOEM and Corps authorizations to implement the Master Plan, it is our intention to fully engage your agency in the development and/or approval of all required documents as they relate to the above laws, including the Corps' development of our PEIS.

Please advise us, at your earliest convenience, as to your agency's concurrence to coordinate in the manner above for the Carteret County's long-term Master Plan project. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mickey Sugg in the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office at (910) 251-4811.

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Sincerely, CESAW-RG-L/SUGG/aef
CESAW-RG-L/BETER/s *sw*
MAIL
CESAW-RG/FILE

Dale Beter, Chief
Wilmington Regulatory Field Office

Enclosure

Copies Furnished (without Enclosure):

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North Carolina Department of
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Morehead City, North Carolina 28557-3421

Mr. Roy Brownlow
Division of Coastal Management
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Carteret County Shore Protection Office
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Emerald Isle, North Carolina 28594

Mr. Johnny Martin
Moffatt and Nichol
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Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Ms. Dawn York
Dial Cordy and Associates
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Wilmington North Carolina 28401

Ms. Jennifer Culbertson
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Division of Environmental Assessment
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042
Herndon, Virginia 20170

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CESAW-RG-L/SUGG
CESAW-RG-L/BETER
CESAW-PM/CASTENS
CESAW-TS-PE/PAYONK
CESAW-TS-PE/PIATKOWSKI
CESAW-OC/PRUITT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

September 8, 2017

Regulatory Division

Action ID No. SAW-2009-00293

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D
Administrator, Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Protective Resource Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

This letter serves to request a National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) concurrence on the effects determination for species and Critical Habitat, subject to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 under your purview, located within the Action Area of the Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan (BBMBNP) project for the approximate 25-mile oceanfront of Bogue Banks barrier island in Carteret County, North Carolina. Specifically, Carteret County, via an interlocal agreement with all island municipalities, is proposing to implement a 50-year shoreline protection and inlet management program along the beaches of Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, Salter Path, Pine Knoll Shores, and if needed, Atlantic Beach. The plan is to manage Bogue Banks oceanfront shoreline at a 25-year level of protection and to maintain the ebb tide channel of Bogue Inlet within a designated "safe box", which is projected to initiate a dredging event every 10-15 years.

In evaluating the project, the enclosed August 2017 BBMBNP's Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared in order to summarize the potential effects on the federally listed species and critical habitat pursuant to ESA. In addition to the BA, this letter also includes the October 3, 2012 NMFS Biological Opinion for a dredging and beach nourishment project on Bogue Banks that would be of similar nature to the type of event covered under the County's proposed BBMBNP. Based on our review, and in coordination with Ms. Kay Davy of your office, the proposed project will result in the effects determination for the following federally listed species and Critical Habitat in Table 1 (Note. This table also includes species and Critical Habitat under purview of US Fish and Wildlife Service):

Table 1. Summary of the effects determination for each federally listed species and critical habitats within, or potentially within, the Permit or Action Area of the proposed project. Note: MANLAA = May affect, not likely to adversely affect, MALAA= May affect, likely to adversely affect, NE= No Effect.

NMFS Managed Species		
Species/Critical Habitat	Listing	Determination
North Atlantic right whale (<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>)	Endangered	MANLAA
Leatherback sea turtle (marine) (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Loggerhead sea turtle (marine) (Northwest Atlantic DPS) (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	Threatened	MALAA
Green sea turtle (marine) (North Atlantic DPS) (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Hawksbill sea turtle (marine) (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)	Endangered	MANLAA
Kemp's ridley sea turtle (marine) (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Shortnose sturgeon (<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>)	Endangered	MANLAA
Atlantic sturgeon (Carolina DPS) (<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Loggerhead Marine Critical Habitat		MANLAA
North Atlantic Right Whale Critical Habitat		NE
USFWS Managed Species		
West Indian manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>)	Endangered	MANLAA
Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Threatened	MALAA
Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened	MALAA
Leatherback sea turtle (nesting) (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Loggerhead sea turtle (nesting) (Northwest Atlantic DPS) (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	Threatened	MALAA
Green sea turtle (nesting) (North Atlantic DPS) (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Hawksbill sea turtle (nesting) (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Kemp's ridley sea turtle (nesting) (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	Endangered	MALAA
Seabeach amaranth (<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>)	Threatened	MALAA
Piping Plover Wintering Critical Habitat		MALAA
Loggerhead Terrestrial Critical Habitat		MALAA

This proposed 50-year management plan has identified specific amount and placement needs, borrow sites, construction methods, and frequencies of single events (please note Table 2.1 in the BA for the proposed sand placement activities). The proposed borrow sites for beach fill are located offshore within the 3-nautical mile (nm) limit of the oceanfront shoreline and beyond the 3-nm limit, which triggers the regulatory permitting authority for both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Due to the complexity of the project and the overlapping Regulatory authorities between the Corps and BOEM, this request to initiate formal consultation is being conducted jointly by our two agencies. The Corps and BOEM have an established agreement for the roles of responsibilities concerning the ESA and Section 7 consultation. These roles will be further delineated pending project authorization. To assist NMFS's Section 7 evaluation, Table 2 below describes the various scenarios, the defined lead agency, and discloses the potential coverages for each single dredging and beach placement event.

Table 2. Lead Agency and potential coverage for specific activities within the Action Area of the proposed project.

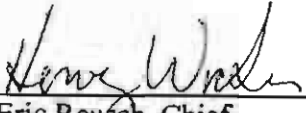
LEAD AGENCY	ACTIVITY	Potential Coverage
BOEM	Dredging outside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of ODMDS borrow site)	Pending NMFS Determination*
CORPS	Dredging inside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of Old ODMDS & Area Y borrow sites)	1997 SARBO and 7(a)(2)(d) letter for Sturgeon or Pending NMFS Determination*
CORPS	Dredging within Bogue Inlet	Pending NMFS & USFWS Determination*
CORPS	Placement of Dredge Material along the Oceanfront	Pending USFWS Determination*

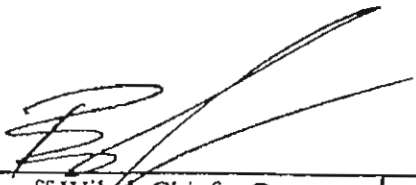
*Pending is based on final conclusion of consultation and whether Biological Opinion is issued or the agency addresses concerns informally via conservation measures.

By copy of this letter, our agencies request the initiation of formal consultation, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.14; and additionally request your concurrence within 30 days, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.12(j), on the findings made in the August 2017 Biological Assessment for the County's proposed project.

For ease of coordination, your agency may direct any questions regarding this consultation request to the Corps Wilmington District Office. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mickey Sugg in the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office at (910) 251-4811, or by e-mail mickey.t.sugg@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

For

Eric Reusch, Chief
Wilmington Regulatory Field Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers


~~Geoff Wilkel, Chief~~ Brian Jordan, Acting Chief
Branch of Environmental Coordination
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Copy furnished (w/enclosures (CD):

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National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Protective Resource Division
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Copies furnished (w/o enclosures):

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Emerald Isle, North Carolina 28594

Mr. Brian Kramer, Manager
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Pine Knoll Shores North Carolina 28512

Mr. Johnny Martin
Moffatt & Nichol
4700 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 300
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Mr. David Walker, Manager
Town of Atlantic Beach
Post Office Box 10,
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina 28512

Ms. Dawn York and Mr. Rahlff Ingle
Dial Cordy and Associates Inc.
201 N. Front St., Suite 307
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Ms. Ronda Lambert, Town Clerk
Town of Indian Beach
Post Office Box 306
Salter Path North Carolina 28575

Mr. Frank Rush, Manager
Town of Emerald Isle
7500 Emerald Drive
Emerald Isle North Carolina 28594

Mr. Tommy Burns, Manager
Carteret County
Courthouse Square
Beaufort North Carolina 28516

Ms. Kathy Matthews
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

Mr. Doug Huggett
Division of Coastal Management
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Mr. Matt Slagel
Division of Coastal Management
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Mr. Roy Brownlow
Division of Coastal Management
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Ms. Deena Hansen
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Environmental Programs
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, Virginia 20166



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

September 12, 2017

Regulatory Division

Action ID No. SAW-2009-00293

Mr. Pete Benjamin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

This letter serves to request U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) concurrence on the effects determination for species and Critical Habitat, subject to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 under your purview, located within the Action Area of the Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan (BBMBNP) project for the approximate 25-mile oceanfront of Bogue Banks barrier island in Carteret County, North Carolina. Specifically, Carteret County, via an interlocal agreement with all island municipalities, is proposing to implement a 50-year shoreline protection and inlet management program along the beaches of Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, Salter Path, Pine Knoll Shores, and if needed, Atlantic Beach. The plan is to manage Bogue Banks oceanfront shoreline at a 25-year level of protection and to maintain the ebb tide channel of Bogue Inlet within a designated "safe box", which is projected to initiate a dredging event every 10-15 years.

In evaluating the project, the enclosed August 2017 BBMBNP's Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared in order to summarize the potential effects on the federally listed species and critical habitat pursuant to ESA. Based on our review, and in coordination with Ms. Kathy Matthews of your office, the proposed project will result in the effects determination for the following federally listed species and Critical Habitat in Table 1 (Note. This table also includes species and Critical Habitat under purview of National Marine Fisheries Service):

Table 1. Summary of the effects determination for each federally listed species and critical habitats within, or potentially within, the Permit or Action Area of the proposed project. Note: MANLAA = May affect, not likely to adversely affect, MALAA= May affect, likely to adversely affect, NE= No Effect.

NMFS Managed Species		
Species/Critical Habitat	Listing	Determination
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Piping Plover Wintering Critical Habitat		MALAA
Loggerhead Terrestrial Critical Habitat		MALAA

This proposed 50-year management plan has identified specific amount and placement needs, borrow sites, construction methods, and frequencies of single events (please note Table 2.1 in the BA for the proposed sand placement activities). The proposed borrow sites for beach fill are located offshore within the 3-nautical mile (nm) limit of the oceanfront shoreline and beyond the 3-nm limit, which triggers the regulatory permitting authority for both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The Corps and BOEM have an established agreement for the roles of responsibilities concerning the ESA and Section 7 consultation. These roles will be further delineated pending project authorization. For the purposes of Section 7 consultation with your agency, the Corps is the identified lead agency for all activities occurring within the Action Area under your purview. Table 2 below describes the various scenarios, defines the lead agency, and discloses the potential coverages for each single dredging and beach placement event.

Table 2. Lead Agency and potential coverage for specific activities within the Action Area of the proposed project.

LEAD AGENCY	ACTIVITY	Potential Coverage
BOEM	Dredging outside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of ODMDS borrow site)	Pending NMFS Determination*
CORPS	Dredging inside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of Old ODMDS & Area Y borrow sites)	1997 SARBO and 7(a)(2)(d) letter for Sturgeon or Pending NMFS Determination*
CORPS	Dredging within Bogue Inlet	Pending NMFS & USFWS Determination*
CORPS	Placement of Dredge Material along the Oceanfront	Pending USFWS Determination*

*Pending is based on final conclusion of consultation and whether Biological Opinion is issued or the agency addresses concerns informally via conservation measures.

By copy of this letter, the Corps request the initiation of formal consultation, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.14; and additionally request your concurrence within 30 days, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.12(j), on the findings made in the August 2017 Biological Assessment for the County's proposed project.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mickey Sugg in the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office at (910) 251-4811, or by e-mail mickey.l.sugg@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Eric Reusch, Chief
Wilmington Regulatory Field Office

Enclosure

BCF via electronically:
CESAW-RG-L/Sugg
CESAW-RG-L/Hair
CESAW-RG-L/Crumbley
CESAW-RG-L/Reusch
CESAW-RG/McLendon
CESAW-PM-C/Castens
CESAW-ECP-PE/Owens
CESAW-ECP-PE/Gasch

Copies furnished (w/o enclosure):

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Carteret County Shore Protection Office
Post Office Box 4297
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Moffatt & Nichol
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201 N. Front St., Suite 307
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Ms. Kathy Matthews
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 33726
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Mr. Matt Slagel
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Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Mr. Roy Brownlow
NCDEQ/DCM
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Ms. Deena Hansen
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Environmental Programs
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, Virginia 20166



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

January 18, 2018

Regulatory Division

Action ID. SAW-2009-00293

Mr. Fritz Rohde
Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region
101 Pivers Island Road
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516

Dear Mr. Rohde:

Please reference the proposal by Carteret County to pursue a Department of the Army authorization to implement the Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan, which is a 50-year beach management plan for approximately 18 miles of oceanfront shoreline along Bogue Banks and for the ebb tide channel of Bogue Inlet. The project site is located within the town limits of Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, Salter Path, and Pine Knoll Shores, and within the Bogue Inlet Complex, along Bogue Banks Island, in Carteret County, North Carolina.

In evaluating the project, activities associated with the plan may adversely affect EFH; consequently, the enclosed December 2017 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment was prepared in order to summarize the potential effects of the management plan to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trust resources pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The proposed 50-year management plan has identified specific amount and placement needs, borrow sites, construction methods, and frequencies of single events (please note Table 2.1 in the EFH Assessment for the proposed sand placement activities). The proposed borrow sites for beach fill are located offshore within the 3-nautical mile (nm) limit of the oceanfront shoreline and beyond the 3-nm limit, which triggers the regulatory permitting authority for both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Due to the complexity of the project and the overlapping Regulatory authorities between the Corps and BOEM, this request to initiate consultation is being conducted jointly by our two agencies. The Corps and BOEM have an established agreement for the roles of responsibilities

concerning the EFH consultation. These roles will be further delineated pending project authorization. To assist NMFS's EFH evaluation, Table 1 below describes the various scenarios and the defined lead agency for each single dredging and beach placement event.

Table 1. Lead Agency for specific activities within the Action Area of the proposed project.

LEAD AGENCY	ACTIVITY
BOEM	Dredging outside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of ODMS borrow site)
CORPS	Dredging inside of 3-nm limit (i.e., use of Old ODMS & Area Y borrow sites)
CORPS	Dredging within Bogue Inlet
CORPS	Placement of Dredge Material along the Oceanfront

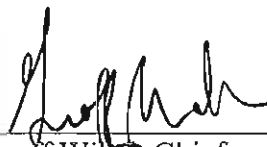
In order to comply with EFH regulations (50 CFR Section 600.920) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Section 305[b][4][B]), our agencies request that you review and provide any additional recommendations and comments on the findings made in the December 2017 EFH Assessment for the County's proposed project, and/or provide a written statement that further consultation is not required, within 30 days from the receipt of this letter.

For ease of coordination, your agency may direct any questions regarding this consultation request to the Corps Wilmington District Office. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mickey Sugg in the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office at (910) 251-4811, or by e-mail mickey.t.sugg@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Eric Reusch, Chief
Wilmington Regulatory Field Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Geoff Wilcox, Chief
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