Mr. Sugg:

I would like to comment on the Figure Eight Island Terminal Groin Project (SAW-2006-41158). I am opposed to the project in any form since it involves a terminal groin. Any barrier island hardened structures (terminal groins included) do not work and in some cases make shoreline erosion worse. This was confirmed years ago by Duke University professor Orrin Pilkey. This was the logic behind NC making them illegal, until the NC General Assembly made them legal in a political move a few years ago. I am also opposed to the Project since it is being proposed to benefit private homes, via their HOA. Barrier islands by their very nature, move. No permanent human built structures can change that.

Thank you for listening.
Mickey,

I am writing to request a public hearing re the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Figure 8 Groin. A comment period extension is also warranted and would be helpful.

Thank you,
Dear Sir:

I would like to object to tax payer supported or private construction of terminal groins or other hardened structures on the North Carolina coast based upon the fundamental aspects of barrier island physical dynamics. This objection is further based upon historical impact of such structures in along the New York, New Jersey and Florida beaches.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

As a career naval officer (30yrs) and lover of the ocean, coast and inlets, I'd like to voice my opposition to building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. I believe that we the public, and government we support, should take a long term view of protecting critical habitat for future generations. Once gone, such habitat, and the benefits thereof, is lost forever.

I would hope that your organization will also take this view, and make a decision based on the public good, vice a supposedly fix for "threatened" homes.

Respectfully yours,
To the honorable Mickey Sugg:

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed “terminal groin” at Rich Inlet.

As I understand how this project would work, this groin would destroy or greatly limit public access to tidal beaches in this lovely inlet. As a kayaker and naturalist, I object to damaging public lands for the limited benefit of a few homeowners. The public benefits of keeping this Inlet open include maintenance of a nursery for young fish from many marine species, continuation of several lovely beach areas used by members of the public, and lovely waters for permitted fishing.

Please register me as opposed to building the proposed groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Further it is not up to the government to protect homes that were built where the natural erosion could threaten them.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

Newport NC
Mr. Sugg,

I am opposed to the hardening of the Inlet.

It would protect a handful of wealthy landowners on the Island but would destroy a natural and cultural area of our already over burdened coastline.

Sand flow changes would compromise, significantly, the Islands that wildlife uses as a sanctuary to breed and maintain themselves from the increasing coastal human population.

The area also contributes much to the tourist economy that we count on to make these coastal villages economically viable and which contributes to North carolinias economy quality of life and reputation.

Please do not put this hardened structure on this moving river of sand.

Respectfully,
Should a significant exception in the laws protecting the coast of North Carolina be waived for the home owners of an influential and wealthy enclave? What will be the result of this and further exceptions?
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I am a life long boater and have enjoyed Rich Inlet since I was small child, for over 30 years now. This issue is of greatest important to me. I hold life long memories in this location and enjoy the beaches and water in this area every summer. If this terminal is built it will infringe upon my future memories and so many other locals. Members of the public that use the public beach for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing will all be displaced. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex. Those houses can be taken by the sea for all I care. Just be some builder/developer was able to get a permit to building inappropriately close to the sea doesn't mean we need to WASTE money, time or destroy the beaches we all love and need.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Adding this would degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Dear Mr. Sugg;

I am writing to express my strong opposition to a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. I am an informed member of our environmental community. The science indicates terminal groins are destructive and don’t work.

In addition, in the case of Rich Inlet, there is no pressing economic excuse for a terminal groin.

Please protect this important inlet.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely--
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Outside Magazines Best Places to Work 2012 & 2013
North Carolina Business Small Business of the Year 2013
Coastal Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 Manufacturing & Distributing
Coastal Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 Overall Winner
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

Please pass along my input on the building of the groin at Figure 8.

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

--

[Redacted]
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for swimming and birding. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Please refer to my previous email and specify my opposition to the Rich Inlet terminal groin. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad
Sir, I am opposed to this construction due to environmental concerns. Please reconsider this plan.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPad
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex. The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

We have been spending our weekends relaxing on these beach areas for over 20 years. Taking this away is a travesty!

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.
The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

My family and I recently moved to the area because of the beautiful beaches and shoreline. I have read about the terminal groin that is proposed and feel it is a bad idea for many reasons. Not only will it detract from the natural beauty of the shoreline, but it's construction will have only negative impact on the surrounding areas. The $12-$17 million to build and millions of dollars more to maintain, would be a strain on a cash strapped Government, where the funds could be used to fund more important projects. I moved to this area because the Government in my previous location, was foolish with spending tax dollars on unnecessary projects. I hope, this Government is not as wasteful.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Mr. Sugg, I understand that the state, and or Figure Eight Island HOA is proposing a Groin on the north end of the island. Although I am not sure about the effects of a groin on the area and how it will change the natural flow of water out Rich Inlet, I think more research is needed. I also question the cost to build it, where the funds will come from and who will maintain the groin, the state or the Fig 8 HOA?

Has the island kept up with the dredging for the south end at Mason Inlet?

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- Member FDIC
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am a mother, grandmother, retired teacher, and concerned citizen of NC who appreciates the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so common sense would indicate no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Please take all the above under careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Hi Mickey
I will not be able to attend the 9/2/15 meeting about the proposed terminal groin for Rich's Inlet but wanted to express our strong opposition to any type of groin that would ruin the natural beauty of Rich's Inlet that we have always enjoyed. The homes at the north end of Figure Eight Island should have not been built in harm way in the first place. Secondly, with the natural movement of the sand/inlet the homes are not currently in danger of being compromised due to erosion. Just because the people on Figure Eight Island have a lot of money and the political influence it can buy should not allow them to destroy what tax paying locals enjoy. We have 2 boats and are Hampstead residents living in

Thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad <Blockedhttps 0>
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a North Carolina resident that lives in Wilmington and often use the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing with my family. I object to the proposal to add a hardened structure because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the Harbour village Yacht Club that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I submit the following comment in opposition to the proposal to build a terminal groin at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

The threat from erosion is unlikely and this proposal ignores the economic importance of this area and its support of recreational and commercial fishing and eco-tourism. The natural habitats of our NC coast ARE our economy. Should the groin be built, the high-income homeowners that submitted complaints leading to this proposal should be held accountable for any economic consequences, to include the value of homes (which will decrease as the beach and inlet degrade); as well as small businesses that will be negatively affected by diminishing tourism dollars, along with fisheries that rely on the health of this habitat to provide suitable nurseries for juvenile fish populations.

Sincerely,
August 28, 2015
Hampstead, NC 28443
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.
There is ample space for the folks on Figure Eight to have the privacy they want – the area is sufficient for all and should remain so. To destroy this area for the pleasure of a few is wrong and should not be allowed to happen.
What God has created let us not destroy.
The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.
Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.
Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for swimming and bird watching. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component. This seems like blatant hypocrisy. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to the proposal by the Figure Eight Island Homeowners Association to build a terminal groin in Rich inlet because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

It has been proven time and time again that hard stabilization does not always work to prevent beach erosion. The proposal may be short sighted as the building of a groin could make the situation worse instead of better.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Aug 31, 2015

Mickey Sugg

Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

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Sincerely,
Aug 31, 2015

Mickey Sugg

Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

It is clear that the private property interests of those who own Figure Eight will trump public interests in the health and viability of the natural, ecological balance of Rich Inlet, if you approve and build the groin they want. --- and at public expense.

It is striking that virtually all persons and economic interests other than those of Figure Eight owners stand against the construction of such a groin. you should know, based on your experience --- which is vast --- that the groin would severely compromise the configuration of current and flow necessary to sustain the ecological vitality that is there now.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Having worked as a geologist mapping and assessing natural hazards and their impact on man I understand how damaging installing hardened structures to prevent erosion on the coast. Trying to stop a natural process of barrier island movement is a futile process and should be understood to be something that will happen regardless of what man does to intervene. Looking at the geology of the barrier islands shows that inlets naturally migrate back and forth as storms shift barrier island sands. Home and other "permanent" structures are eventually going to be affected by barrier island movement. Please do not fall victim to the idea that this natural process can be stopped or altered without consequences to the natural movement of sand down the beaches. Hardened structures are not the solution to beach erosion, limiting building near unstable areas is much less damaging to the environment and in the long run less costly to all involved.

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

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Not sure if she copied you on this letter on Figure 8.

Hello Mike,

I am writing to register my opposition to any consideration of the installation of hardened structures in the area of Figure 8 Island and Rich's Inlet. Thanks to Orrin Pilkey and others through years of dedicated research it is now established science that hardened structures alter the landscape of a barrier island and do more harm overall than any good they achieve for preservation of a few manmade structures. In fact, back before any of the lots at the north end of the island were developed I refused to show or sell any of them to interested parties due to my knowledge of the migration of inlets and the risky nature of developing property near them. The fact that a few people did not do their own due diligence relative to the high risk associated with building there should not now mean that the taxpayers who enjoy the inlet and sandy beaches around it should have to live with the results of adding hardened structures to the area.

Unlike the controversy about manmade global warming, where clearly there is no "established science" the effect of hardened structures on barrier islands is factual and readily available to anyone who would bother to research it. Ignorance and greed combined to create the problem at the north end of Figure 8, and those folks should now have to live with the results of their folly.

Thanks for your consideration,
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North Carolinian's enjoy natural beaches that are the best on the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Do not temporarily protect a few rich people. Sea level rise from climate change will wipe out the island eventually. Figure 8 Island would be better used for a wind farm to generate electricity for all of ENC. Also consider the value of the natural resources when applying total economics to the use of mankind.

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I am not only very much opposed to the impact on the surrounding area, I am also completely opposed to spending any federal or state funds to support the interest of a few wealthy property owners. This type of action should ONLY be approved when it is in the best interest of the public and not a few short-sighted individuals who probably never should have built on the island in the first place.

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As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

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Rich Inlet is one of my favorite places to fish along the NC coast. It is unique, beautiful and very special. Over the past 30 years, I've seen many changes along this section of coast. We all know change is inevitable. Some changes have been natural, some have been man-made. The man-made changes never work out in the long term. Let nature be the architect of this process.

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Sierra Club on behalf of [REDACTED]
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A hardened structure here would take away from the natural beauty of this area and would have a negative impact on the fish and birds that rely on the natural state of the inlet. At some point people should understand that building on the ocean side of an island is not a smart thing to do.

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The good of the many should outweigh the interests of a few. All of North Carolina's citizens, its wildlife, and even its state coffers (to build and maintain this and then mitigate the inevitable damage) stand on one side - a handful of people on the other.

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Numerous studies, including recent documentation of the extreme environmental damage done by groins published by North Carolina prominent scientists, and statements by scores of international marine biologists and coastal scientists made public record by Western Carolina University, have conclusively demonstrated the uniformly negative impacts of terminal groins.

Shoreline erosion is epidemic along North Carolina coastal waters, and the legislative and executive branches of North Carolina government at both the local and state levels have made substantial investments in shoreline maintenance and restoration efforts that ultimately fail.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation and several prominent, nationally recognized North Carolina geologists and marine engineers have repeatedly demonstrated and documented that applying hardened shoreline countermeasures such as bulkheads, revetments, groins, jetties, and breakwaters cannot successfully offset shoreline erosion. (See, for example, S. Riggs et al., The Battle for North Carolina's Coast, University of North Carolina Press, 2011; also see several books by O. Pilkey, including O. Pilkey and K. Dixon, The Corps and the Shore, Island Press, 1996; and see O. Pilkey and R. Young, The Rising Sea, Island Press, 2009). In addition, hardened shoreline structures are strongly cost ineffective, especially in terms of protracted maintenance costs. (See, for example, Andrew D. Coburn, A Fiscial Analysis of Shifting Inlets and Terminal Groins in North Carolina, Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, n.d.) Fundamental to restoring a vulnerable shoreline and maintaining stability over much longer periods of time is the use of "living shorelines," whereby an attenuated sand
and silt gradient, that is, a gradually sloping intertidal area, is planted, in the first instance, with marsh grasses, and backed by salt-tolerant shrubs and trees, such as juniper, marsh elder, and other shoreline plants. The North Carolina Coastal Federation has several detailed reviews of the tremendous advantages of installing living shorelines in lieu of hardened or armored structures. (See, for example, "The Challenge of Living Shorelines," North Carolina Coastal Federation, Nov. 3, 2014, found at Blockedhttp://www.nccoast.org/article.aspx?k=e138d8d3-ce9a-4292-acd3-ba5f7995fe1.

Establishment of such an intertidal area to buffer incoming waves, both from natural forces and from marine traffic, has numerous, additional proven benefits, such as increasing the attractiveness of the natural shoreline to marine life such as birds, fingerlings, crabs, clams, and oysters, as well as providing conducive conditions for the natural establishment of desirable native plants and of insects such as bees and butterflies. Right now, the Southport waterfront shoreline appears to be suffering an increasing rate of shoreline erosion, which incessantly washes blanketing sediment into the water and creates a marine desert from the shoreline outward.

Even living shoreline installations in tandem with possible hardened structures are an ill advised marriage of natural shoreline management with hardened structures, a hybrid approach that can even counteract the optimal functioning of a living shoreline.

In addition, the public should know that in southeastern North Carolina, thousands of jetties, groins, and other hardened shoreline structures are routinely permitted each year through an expedited process that requires little effort at review prior to approval. In fact, North Carolina may be the only coastal state without a requirement for an environmental review for the use of bulkheads and riprap. Our state allows the issuance of a general permit for a bulkhead without any detailed written application coupled with an environmental review.

In contrast, as pointed in the North Carolina Coastal Federation web page cited above, "[g]etting a permit for a living shoreline in North Carolina requires a rigorous application and a multi-agency review process that can take anywhere from 45 to 90 days, depending on the type of permit." It is no surprise, then, that many property owners and governments take the path of less resistance and install hardened shoreline structures with the hope that it will stem erosion. This choice has been facilitated by the 2011 lifting by the North Carolina legislature of the moratorium on the use of groins.

A terminal groin at one end of Figure 8 island is an exercise in denial and knee-jerk desperation decisionmaking. Rapid movement of most barrier islands is a well-known, foregone natural phenomenon. Attempting save real estate through the use of a terminal groin on Figure 8 island is a doomed proposition that ensure the loss of enormous public funds with no benefit either to residents or to the coastal environment. A foolhardy political decision to spend millions of scarce dollars on a scientifically untenable project only perpetuates America's refusal to accept barrier island erosion and migration.
Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

Sincerely,
Aug 30, 2015

Mickey Sugg

Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

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I am a serious wildlife enthusiast.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches. Leaving our coastline in its natural state is the best choice for both wildlife and the human populace.

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Yes, this is a form letter, but it accurately conveys my feelings about an Issue or Action that I wish you to be aware of. Please give it your consideration.

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Figure Eight Island is, itself, a state treasure. Those who live there are fortunate indeed but the needs of the original avian inhabitants and seasonal visitors must be respected. All the birds who depend on the inlet are depending on us to preserve Rich Inlet because the survival of so many of them is at risk if this construction is allowed to go forward. Please allow the inlet to continue to exist as nature designed it to do.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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This is NOT the solution- this will only cause other problems. We either elect to protect, or we continue to destroy.

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Please do not harm this natural beauty. We owe it to future generation.

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Science trumps property values... if the homeowners were concerned then perhaps they should have done a bit of research before investing....

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As our natural environment is threatened more and more each day, it is imperative that we make wise decisions to protect what we have remaining.

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I lived in Florida for many years. Jetties and groins similar to this one totally destroyed the coastline, all up and down the Atlantic coast, causing erosion, then huge sums to replenish the sand that had washed away. Please do not do this to NC.

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The convenience of the home owners association should not outweigh the need to preserve the resources of the state and its citizens for the next generation.

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My family owns a house on Figure Eight. We are of the opinion that any one who builds property on an island does so with the understanding that it might be lost to the forces of nature. The shifting of the island is a natural process that should be allowed to occur to sustain area wildlife. The beauty of Figure Eight is the result of the limited development. Those of us with property on the island must understand that the future of the inlet and marsh is more important than our immediate financial investments in these houses.

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches. Please do not allow construction of a terminal groin which would work only to the advantage of a privileged few while threatening crucial wildlife habitat important to us all.

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I have to tell you that the entire concept of terminal groins is terrible. It may temporarily solve the problem for the subject property owners, but only by shifting the problem to their neighbors. The issue will remain and I have very little patience with any serious consideration for such hardened structures, especially with regard to property owners who purchased their property with notice of the matter. Please seriously consider this matter and reject the request. It will only create more issues, could cause damage to the ecosystem and the property owners' neighbors will surely hate what will happen to them.

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The outer banks are shifting sands that will always affect all the islands. It is not a healthy island and beach project to stop this flow, protecting 1 island at the loss of sand from other islands.

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My father fished along "Rich's" Inlet (as he refers to it) for years before I was born. Birds depend on it. It's part of our Home... as North Carolinians... and has supported animals from reptiles to fishermen for ages. Now the short-sighted and self-centered are determined to damage it. We can't let that happen.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches. Having spent time on Figure Eight Island I know that this is not the appropriate use of this beautiful area of our state.

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Please keep North Carolina beaches as natural as possible. Do not allow the construction of this hard structure. North Carolina should continue to be a leader in coastal management issues!

Sincerely, Karen Warr

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I'm a resident of Figure 8 and am acutely aware of how damaging a terminal groin will be.

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It is an established fact that terminal groins create more problems than they solve.

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Let's not compound past problems by continuing on this ineffective solution.

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As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state and is desirable and necessary for migrating birds along the Atlantic flyway as well as nesting sea turtles. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species. The unique food source for these migrating birds is found in the sandy shoals in the inlet which would disappear if a terminal groin is built.

I am against the building of a terminal groin in Rich Inlet because of the biological impact of this harden structure. A terminal groin does not benefit the greater good....as Rich Inlet is an important public resource.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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Figure Eight Island is, itself, a state treasure. Those who live there are fortunate indeed but the needs of the original avian inhabitants and seasonal visitors must be respected. All the birds who depend on the inlet are depending on us to preserve Rich Inlet because the survival of so many of them is at risk if this construction is allowed to go forward. Please allow the inlet to continue to exist as nature designed it to do.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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The natural flow of sands and coastlines should not be prevented by man-made structures. Those structures will impact the natural wildlife on the coastlines and the fisheries which provide jobs to North Carolinians. And the structures will be destroyed by weather and result in more expense overtime. The well-being and protection of the coast should outweigh those of a few homeowners who can easily move.

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Sincerely,
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My family spends a lot of time enjoying this area every year. As the new generation in our family grows up, we would like them to experience this same beautiful area in it's healthy, natural current state.

Thank you,
Allen Nelson

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My family used to go the Rich's very often for relaxation, wildlife exposure for my son and it's beauty. Must man destroy mother nature piece by piece?

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From: Sierra Club on behalf of [Redacted]
To: Sugg, Mickey T SAW
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Corps ID # SAW-2006-41158: Figure Eight Island Terminal Groin
Date: Monday, August 31, 2015 3:56:53 AM
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We have to stand against development that will ruin and destroy our last wild places. We don't want our beaches to resemble Miami, swamped with overdevelopment, traffic and noise. Do what you can to prevent this stupid, short sighted plan from becoming reality.

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Rich Inlet is a public resource and should be managed as such, for all users.
Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state.
Replacing natural sand beach with a hardened structure will wash away beach on the seaward side of the groin. Hardened structures don't prevent erosion, they just shift the problem.
Relocating the inlet will also reduce the amount of important foraging grounds for fish, and could jeopardize nesting areas for the Piping Plover and Red Knot birds, an area which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

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It's time for legislators, builders, and buyers to take responsibility for their actions and to consider possible - even likely - changes before allocating areas for their own purposes, rather than to expect this kind of fix after the fact. The better fix would be to remove the homes at risk at the expense of those who saw fit to build / buy there in the first place.

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I've seen what all the erosion engineering in the Wilmington area has done to the Brunswick Co islands, having spent time there each of the last 35 yrs. Sunset is accreting at a galloping rate. Having joined with Bird Island years ago, it's now on the verge of becoming one with Ocean Isle; Tubbs Inlet becoming a memory as Madd Inlet already has. Is this the vision you embrace so as to serve the wishes of the powers at restricted, privatized Figure Eight Island?

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My family owned property on Topsail Island for over a half century - which was subjected to severe storm and beach erosion many, many times (including Hurricane Hazel which almost destroyed the house and land). We did not know what we were getting into when it was built, but as years went by we learned that we were at the mercy of Mother Nature and it was she who would determine the fate of our property. It was not up to us to control her, we just had to accept the fact that she was in charge and she called the shots and made the rules. We eventually sold our property rather than continue to fight her, deciding that she'd been doing her thing on the NC coast a lot longer than we had and her plan had worked for eons (who were we to question Mother Nature?).

It has saddened me to see what has happened to NC's coastline and its wildlife as our beaches have been developed over the past 50 years. I fear for their futures. Please oppose any actions that attempt to control Mother Nature in NC.

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And building groins and sea walls is at best only a temporary solution to erosion - moving the problem elsewhere for a while, until rising sea levels make such efforts ineffective.

If you allow this construction, it will only increase pressure for other stop-gap measures to protect private investment in unsustainable coastal property developments in North Carolina and elsewhere. You know this, even though public perception of the results of climate change is sadly lagging.

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If a "few" home builders choose to build with "risk" -- let THEM assume the risk -- as it should be !

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People should not "own" barrier islands since decisions about them and natural inlets too often are based on monetary considerations: home owners, developers, etc. Figure Eight Island and the Rich Inlet are perfect examples. These natural formations should be managed by public entities and policy should be based on science.

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It has been proven scientifically that groins and hardened structures do no "save" beaches. Sand is meant to move up and down the coast and it is impossible to prevent such things from happening.

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North Carolinians deserve and demand protection of the natural coast for the many, not for the few that could potentially benefit in the short term.

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Those who build on our coastline must realize that Nature, not they, is the true owner of that land and can take it away or build it up. If they cannot accept this, let them go elsewhere.

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As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

Sincerely,
Aug 30, 2015

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component. PLEASE HELP PROTECT THIS INLET, NOT DESTROY IT!!

Sincerely,

--

It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.

-William Jame <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/williamjam157168.html> s
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Sent from my iPad
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Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a tax paying member of the public that enjoys the public beach at Rich Inlet. Our family enjoys boating, swimming, and fishing. I strongly object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of Figure Eight Island and I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

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Please help to protect these valuable resources.

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Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Good day Mr. Sugg,

My wife, [redacted], and I have lived in Hampstead NC since June of 2000. Our house is almost exactly between Topsail and Rich Inlet on Mill Creek.

We are fortunate enough to have a waterfront home and are avid boaters. We moved to this area specifically for the quality of this completely natural inlet. We realize the nature of ever changing conditions at the inlet and that is really the wonder of it all. It’s absolutely incredible and fascinating to see the differences each time we go there.

The trend I’ve noticed in the past few years is that the north end of Figure Eight is growing. The dunes there are getting larger and actually have vegetation on them. The island in the middle of the inlet is now a nesting site for many sea birds and the state routinely ropes it off so as to not disturb them.

Why at this particular time is it a necessity to construct a terminal groin there?

As you know, there are beautiful houses on the north end and I’m sure they were aware of the risks of owning property in that environment. My family has a beach front home at Emerald Isle and we know the risks. That is the price you pay for living in such a wonderful place.

And as I understand it there are no way to know what long term effects a groin will have. Isn’t that why NC has been so reluctant to build them?

Please give careful consideration to this project.

It must be in the best interest of the public at large and not just for the few homes on the north end of Figure Eight Island.
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Aug 31, 2015

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

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Leaving Rich Inlet alone is a critical issue.

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To Whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of Pender County since 1981. I have also been enjoying Rich's Inlet since 1981. Many wonderful years of boating, hiking the natural beaches, and fishing. I have witnessed first hand the devastation of many hurricanes and also witnessed the amazing rebound of this natural area. The rebound from the massive Northeasters and hurricanes is always spectacular to watch. This natural process always brings back the area in a more vibrant array of natural wonder and habitat than the last event. This regeneration has always kept the inlet open, provided habitat, and not interfered with the natural process and shift of barrier islands. I challenge you and the designers of this, so called "Groin", to spend some time observing this one and only site. Now rich with Piping Plover and many other species of birds nesting habitat. Experts can run all the computer models and design data they want but there is no guarantee the theory is correct. One can take a short airplane ride over this inlet today and witness first hand the great extension to both sides of the inlet that have improved the nesting and natural areas as never before. Currently we have in place a natural process that is working, providing a 100% purely natural process and habitat. One of the few remaining undisturbed areas. Now the Figure 8 "Island" community which has willingly and knowing the risks involved in building a structure on a shifting barrier island want to intrude, impede, and disrupt the natural process with a terminal groin? A few property owners in the higher socio-economic class get to create a barrier, intrude , impede, and disrupt, a rare eco system that has survived for generations, and will continue to survive for generations without the "bright ideas" of the elite.

What about the risks involved? Can you or any expert assure the public, the public which your office serves, that there will be no damages? Can you without a doubt determine that this unnatural seawall will not interrupt the shift, a natural shift of a barrier island, without any impacts to this natural habitat? Can any expert guarantee that this man made structure will enhance, help, or improve the natural environmental conditions of a barrier island which is scientifically known to shift, has always shifted, and is designed to be allowed to shift. To be altered or disturbed for the financial gain of a few humans. The cost is this...the loss of a rare, one of kind, never to be reproduced habitat. An inlet that has always been open, now closed with
sand that is not allowed to flow naturally. The up the coast or down the coast impacts to be felt by an interruption of a natural process that has been since the creation of the world.
Can your office or any expert guarantee the private citizen that this will not happen? Can your office or any expert honestly tell us the risk is worth it to benefit a few who knew the risks of building on this shifting barrier island?
To the average person this is a simple answer. No terminal groin is worth the risk.

Respectfully,

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

The potential harm caused by this proposed structure is simply too great. The beach currently is sufficient to protect property. Rather than potentially ruin a beach which is home to numerous birds and other species - including endangered or threatened ones - the permit for the groin should be denied.

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Simply put: groins/ seawall walls only create further problems down stream

Read" The Beaches Are Moving" Wallace Kaufman and Orrin H. Pilkey Jr.

I've heard Pilkey speak, he makes good sense!

Thanks for reading!

Jim Armstrong

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am writing to express my opposition to building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. My family and I live in Wilmington, NC and frequent the beach at Rich Inlet each summer. We enjoy boating, fishing and exploring nature in this area and it is an important part of our family’s experience. I object to this proposal because it will harm this beautiful beach and the wildlife existing there.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island. In fact, since we have lived in Wilmington since 2006, there is more sand at the north end of Figure Eight Island than ever.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

I feel that the money spent on this structure would be a huge waste. No roads or homes are in imminent danger and this money could be well spent on other more important projects to support wildlife and beaches in danger.

Sincerely,
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Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in North Carolina, and should not be altered with a terminal groin.

Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet would threaten bird life in the area, designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. The quality of our beaches depends on the continuing function of natural systems. Because of this, our state has traditionally banned hardened structures from our ocean beaches. We should continue to exercise this wisdom, and enjoy the benefits it conveys.

Please do not support the construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

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Our environment must be shared by all.

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Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

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I would like to see this natural area in the future. Please don't destroy it.

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a local resident who lives approximately five miles away from the affected area & uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for kayaking, swimming, and especially bird watching. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.
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Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

Sincerely,
Mr. Sugg,
I totally agree with this letter.

Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,  

[REDACTED]
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No, please no: do not grant a permit for a jetty on Figure Eight Island. Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets remaining in our state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will certainly harm bird life in the area, and this area has been named by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches. Please do not set this harmful precedent: no terminal groin at Figure Eight Island!

Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I am a local resident of Wilmington NC that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

WHY should anyone devastate our beautiful natural resources, enjoyed by the public, because private homeowners what it so? Does having money and big houses entitle people to ignore the home of NC's precious wildlife? Rich Inlet, a public space, will be destroyed at the whims of a couple people. How is that OK?

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

The construction of this terminal groin is completely unnecessary. I will ruin part of the ecology.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

I understand the desire of homeowners on Figure 8 to preserve their homes but I hope you will also understand the positions of many other North Carolinians who enjoy the beautiful barrier islands that will be effected by the hard structure built to protect Figure 8.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

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Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

I think it is extremely important to protect our beautiful coast for North Carolinians and for other Americans. Unfortunately, too much damage has already been done.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Please act to preserve this natural resource.

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As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state of NC. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could very well threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

North Carolinians enjoy the natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned this type of hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches. Please do not approve the construction of this environmentally damaging structure.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Your Plans to save the islands from high ocean levels, is a waste of NC State funds. Just like so may other States, It's that time to relocate those homes to a more secured location on the main land. Just like you did with the Light house. As we are in a hurricane season, there be others hurricanes that will destroy NC outer banks.

Just stop Dreaming in your make-believe world, that your plans will solve the issues.

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Although state law would allow a limited number of terminal groins - this is not the right choice for Rich Inlet, an important public resource.

Sincerely,
Aug 31, 2015

Mickey Sugg

Dear Sugg,

Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

People do not have to have there houses so close to the beaches. If you know there is a threat of flooding why build a house or business there. If you do than live with your place getting flooded sometimes. We do enough damage to our environment everyday. lets stop and think about everything involved in what we do.

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

As a concerned citizen and lover of the environment I am writing regarding the proposed terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This area is one of great beauty and flourishing wildlife as well as a great area for swimming, fishing, birding and boating. I strongly object to this proposal and have grave concern that it will degrade public trust uses of this unique area.

Further, it is my understanding that the erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island. Thus, it seems that construction of a terminal groin at this location no longer exists.

I urge you to stay the task of protecting the wildlife there and that is protected by the federal government as well as maintaining public access to this area. I would hope that working together for the common good of all would be our unified goal.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone
Aug 31, 2015

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

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North Carolinians enjoy natural beaches that are the envy of the East Coast. This is because our state has traditionally banned hardened structures -- seawalls, jetties and groins of any kind--from our ocean beaches.

Please keep this area as it stands and do not modify the way nature made it.

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Please accept this as public comment opposing the construction of a terminal groin, or jetty, at the north end of Figure Eight Island.

A terminal groin in this area would be disastrous to wildlife! Deny this request and leave this natural inlet. The homeowners knew about this inlet when they built there. Protect the environment please! As you know Rich Inlet is one of the few naturally functioning inlets left in the state. Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet could threaten bird life in the area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated as "critical habitat" for endangered and threatened bird species.

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

Regarding terminal groins, we feel strongly that alternative options based on scientific data, real short & long term needs, & anticipated optimal results for all(on nearby islands, too) will guide any planning for inlet & coastal stability. This planning should be reasonable & protect the coastal area north and south of Figure 8 and not just implemented for limited gain. Our home on Figure 8, since 1982, began as our home-of-record when we were Army based overseas. We have always been aware that it might be "risky" in the future with environmental changes that could occur. We have seen "nature take away & put back" the beach and do not agree that terminal groins are the answer to reality of environmental issues.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet appear to no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so we see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

I am hoping that you and your colleagues will find feasible alternatives, if truly needed, and that terminal groins will not go forward based on a few influential people, lobbyists, and disregard of what scientifically makes the most sense for all the surrounding areas and environment.

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Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

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Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
To: Mickey Sugg, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office

From: [Redacted]

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet NO longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see NO need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that does not exist.

A Terminal groin will degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government of which your agency is a component.

Save Taxpayers money stop!

Sincerely
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

**Please include your wedding date in the subject line of emails.**
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

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Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Additionally, I see this as squandering scarce public funds to possibly protect a few expensive homes whose owners are presumably smart enough to know the consequences of building on a barrier island! Please have your staff do a payback analysis and I suspect that rising water levels due to global warming will take the island before this project ever breaks even.

Sincerely,
Sirs -

Please do not authorize the building of the terminal groin on the north end of Figure Eight Island. I am a homeowner on the island, and I oppose this project. The island has been building sand up over the past two years, and the sand at that end of the island has waxed and waned for years. It is not time to intervene in natural forces. Who knows what this structure will do to the beach in the middle and south end of the island? The powers that be on the island have been pushing this project for years, but there are many homeowners who are not for it.

The end of the island is a wonderful place for birds. Almost all of the homeowners whose houses are threatened bought their houses with this knowledge. We do not need to bail them out. I seriously hope that you will not okay this invasive move.
The string of islands is not stable and all this messing around with beach nourishment, keeping inlets open or closing them will never be a permanent solution. Nature is going to do what it is supposed to, based on currents and storms. All the human efforts are expensive and will not last. Most people do not realize that all these efforts are paid for with tax payer money in the form of taxes and higher homeowner insurance.

Enough already.
I am writing to urge you NOT to construct a terminal groin on the Rich Inlet in North Carolina.

Birds need this natural habitat so to have healthy populations, for the health of our environment and the enjoyment of people.

We can not and should not try to control the forces of nature. People should not keep islands from changing the way nature has changed them for hundreds of thousands of years.

Thank you.
Please protect this delicate island.
Please do not build the terminal at Rich's inlet. It is such a beautiful spot to go and enjoy nature's bounty. Building it will destroy nesting areas for many shore birds. This is one of those times where I hope you will not let the needs of the few (figure eight inhabitants) out weigh the needs of the many.

Thanks
Please leave Mother Nature alone and don’t build on a barrier island – they are not permanent land and will flood and erode. That’s what they are supposed to do to protect the coast.
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am a recently retired professor of environmental studies and a long time birder. My husband and I enjoy the shorebirds we are blessed with in North Carolina, and we think that building this proposed groin would negatively impact nesting shorebirds, plus disrupt areas needed for shorebirds during their migration. We as a nation need to preserve and extend wild areas along our coasts to ensure the shorebirds and other wildlife will be around for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Thanks for reading this.

Take care,
WE MUST protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sincerely,
I'm writing today to convey the following:

* Please protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet. It is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Respectfully,
Please do not destroy this delicate environment for thousands of birds. Many of which are endangered. Also the beauty of our outer banks will be spoiled. Let us leave Rich inlet as it has been for thousands of years, unspoiled ecosystem!!
To whom it may concern:

As an important habitat for coastal birds, Rich Inlet is important for maintaining the integrity of the coastal ecosystem. Please protect it.

Thank you for your consideration,

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The significance of protecting Rich Inlet cannot be exaggerated. It is critical to the continued survival of many species of nesting birds. Far too many sites critical to shore birds and Coastal Wildlife have been destroyed already. Rich Inlet is one of very few areas remaining!
Protect our inlets in NC!
Thank you!!
Here are my comments:

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thanks,
The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.

Please, please, please do not allow this to happen. We must protect our wildlife, and keep our state attractive to visit. We must save our birdlife for the generations that follow us.
Dear Mickey Sugg,
As a lifelong North Carolinian, and avid sportsman and a coastal property owner I am opposed to any terminal groin or hardened structure at Rich Inlet
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Dear Sir:

I've lived in NC my entire life. My Mother lived on Ocracoke when there was no electricity, no ferry, just a mail boat, (a sailboat,) and water was pumped from a spigot outside. The beaches were really pristine. Birds were safe, as was most marine life in NC. So, we grew up acknowledging the importance of nature over man-made junk. We were and are very serious about protecting wildlife here and world-wide. I've spent the last year concentrating on the piping plovers and red wolves in NC.

Anyone who knows Figure 8 Island will tell you it was just about abandoned many years back, particularly the resort, that is the big hotel. It's been trying to fall into the ocean for years. All we need is to build a big, Gillian dollar "groin" for the benefit of a very few rich people who don't give a hoot about any wildlife or any natives who get near their little island.

You, sir, are apparently someone who can make a difference. As a citizen and native of this state, I've seen and you've seen what's happening, first hand, with the inlets, channels, and tributaries of this coastline, and we're losing so many hatching and nesting areas due to pollution, especially people pollution. Please save this inlet. Please save a little bit of natural NC. Please let us maintain what makes NC the incredible state that it is: a big wild "open" that is marred by things like I-40, the Triangle, and the pilot testing areas only from afar. Thank heavens the horror that Raleigh, Durham and Charlotte have become are far away from the beaches and the tributaries, and the Sound, Hwy 24's "secret landing zone" being the exception, across from Emerald Isle. Coincidentally, the only crime-free zones that exist are the remaining undeveloped mtns, few remaining pristine shores, and the pockets like my farm that still exist in their wild state.

Here is the gist:

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sincerely yours,
Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet!
Thank you for your time,

Sent from my iPhone
From: [REDACTED]
To: Sugg, Mickey T SAW
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We need to conserve Rich's breeding and nesting...and protect this valuable resource as good stewards...
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2015 2:00:06 PM

Sent from my iPhone
North Carolina has beautiful beaches that visitors and residents have enjoyed. Additionally, the beaches, inlets and sounds have been both migration stops for birds and places for them to raise their young. Rich inlet is one of the areas that needs to be protected for threatened birds. There are also sea animals that migrate through these areas and use the inlets and sounds as stop off areas during migration. These areas need protection. The idea that one group can cut off an area for their own purposes and prevent wildlife from using the area (which is necessary for their survival) should be prevented.
The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.

--

NOTICE: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, or believe that you have received this communication in error, please do not print, copy, transmit, disseminate, or otherwise use this information contained herein. Also, please indicate to the sender by telephone or email that you have received this communication in error, and delete the copy you have received. Thank you.
My family and I are opposed to the construction of a Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet in Pender County, NC. Rich inlet and its surrounding area have been designated as "Critical Habitat" for Piping Plovers and several other shore bird species.

I urge you to please reconsider this construction because of it's devastating results on the birds populations that use this area for their livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration.
Good Afternoon, Mickey:

I understand the Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association wants to build a massive wall at Rich Inlet.

Don’t let them do it.

Is there nowhere for threatened birds like Piping Plovers, Red Knots, Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers to live safely? Figure 8 Island is the largest colony of Least Terns in the state! Have they not noticed? Rich Inlet is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Haven’t we had this discussion before? Just where does the Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association propose these thousands of birds should go to rest, feed, and nest?

Historically, walls don’t fare well versus waves anyway. Walls change erosion patterns and more often than not degrade whatever they were trying to protect in the first place.

Rich Inlet is almost the last of its kind, natural and untouched habitat crucial to the survival of waterbirds and shorebirds. Imagine trudging along on it, listening to . . . nothing . . . because all is silent because no living thing is there.

Mickey, don’t let them do it.

Thank you.
As a professional ornithologist and a homeowner on Figure 8 island, I'm writing to urge you not to pursue groins at Rich's Inlet. It's bad for the birds and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Follow the money,
Please DO NOT build a habitat destroying terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Please DO NOT alter this inlet. It is an important habitat for those birds who cannot write this email for themselves.

Thank you,
Sir,
I understand from a communication from Audobon that a groin at Rich Inlet will seriously disrupt, if not destroy, a nesting and protective area for an endangered bird species. I urge you to scrap that plan. Leave a natural area for these birds to come to to nest, reproduce, and otherwise lead a natural life without such an impediment as that groin. There is plenty of shore their for human recreation without destroying a natural habitat for that or any other bird species.

John Adams, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."
Jefferson, “The germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the federal judiciary.”
Hi,

I am sending you my comments on why not to build a terminal groin on Rich Inlet. Building this very expensive structure only benefits a small number of people who built too close to the shoreline. Birds use this area for nesting and boaters/kayakers pass by taking pictures and watching the birds. The nesting birds have more to lose than those homeowners who knowingly took a risk to build in an area that will always see change and erosion. I think it is inherently wrong to move forward with this project. Please take a stand for the natural environment and bird population and Do Not Build!!! Please take a stand for those boaters/kayakers/fisherman who use this area and Do Not Build!!!!

Thank you very much,
Dear Mr. Suggest,

I have written before, but feel so strongly about this that I am writing again. NC has been my home all my life and I would hope that the natural beauty and important habitats outweigh the desires of the rich who live on Figure Eight Island who are behind the construction of the Terminal Groin, a massive steel and rock wall, at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC. I grew up understanding that all things on earth are connected and that God has ordained us as stewards of this good Earth and its inhabitants no matter their size.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds; designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for future generations. As a mother, grandmother, retired NC teacher, former Governors Award Environmental Educator of the Year and caring NC citizen, my grandchildren's future in NC is vitally important to me.

Thank you for reading and understanding my viewpoint.
The Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association’s Board of Directors is proposing to construct a massive steel and rock wall, a Terminal Groin, at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC.

This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds.
I'm concerned that there is consideration of a terminal groin placement at Rich Inlet.

This natural inlet is a crucial space for birds, other wildlife, and the enjoyment of nature by humans, too!

In my understanding, disturbing this natural inlet will affect THOUSANDS of birds, including Piping Plovers and Red Knots.

Please leave this critical habitat undeveloped; it is our duty to leave some wild spaces.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

--
As a native of Wilmington/Wrightsville Beach and lover of nature, I am writing to express my dismay at even the possibility that a groin may be built in Rich Inlet. I have grown up enjoying all the fun, knowledge, and recreation the ocean has to offer and feel it is vital to preserve this important piece of our coastline. Not only would the groin disturb the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast, but human use of the inlet would be affected also. Please do not let a terminal groin be built!

"Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend, and inside a dog, it's too dark to read." Groucho Marx
Dear Mickey Sugg,

Please protect Rich Inlet, one of the LAST natural inlets in NC!!!!

Sadly, the Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association’s Board of Directors is proposing to construct a Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet. This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for beautiful Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. We must protect this habitat for the birds, who continue to lose more and more habitat because of development, and now with rising sea levels!!!!

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. The construction of this terminal groin must stop!! Please do NOT build this terminal groin at Rich Inlet!!

Peace and love for our beautiful Earth,
Stop messing with mother nature leave the animals, birds and fish alone
Hello Mickey,

I have recently been made aware of the Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC. I would like for you, as well as everyone else in the US Army Corps of Engineers, to know why I think this is a bad idea. I visit Wilmington at least once a month. It has some of my favorite NC beaches. Although I have not personally visited the Rich Inlet, I know that many animals call it home. The Terminal Groin would destroy their natural habitats and I can only imagine how much it will cost tax payers to build. It is important to me to preserve North Carolina's natural landmarks, especially since this is one of the few inlets left untouched in our state. This inlet has become a critical safe place for many birds to feed, rest, and nest. Please consider the lives of these magnificent creatures before you decide to destroy their homes forever. We are all beings on planet earth and we all have a right to live here.

That's my 2 cents!

PS. Look at these baby shorebirds. LOOK AT THEM! Please stand for them.
Wilmington U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Regulatory Office c/o Mickey Sugg:

As a North Carolina citizen I am asking you to please protect Rich Inlet and the shorebirds and waterbirds it, in turn, protects. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential and without this critical habitat, they will not have a place to feed, rest and nest. Please do NOT build the terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you,
Please preserve this area for the birds and animals that live and nest there.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

NC Resident

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy critical habitat for already endangered birds and probably other creatures and plants indigenous to that area.

We - all over this country - are destroying nature at a furious rate. My understanding is that Rich Inlet is the last natural inlet in North Carolina. We see how things are right now not just in North Carolina, but all over the planet.

North Carolina is a beautiful state. We have a phenomenal and unique ocean front and a choice hunk of the Appalachians. We've seen what's been happening in other states in the country where nature has been threatened or destroyed.

Tourism has been a huge draw for our state. And here, what most draws people is Nature. We don't have the extreme heat that Florida has. We have a longer season when ocean front is available to tourists.

Is it possible to achieve the objective of the Terminal Groin project without being so destructive to nature? Has anyone been consulted who is really focused on getting urban needs met with little to no damage to the habitat? There is a whole movement dedicated to this purpose. And new, less harmful technologies with which to undertake such projects.

An inlet here, a mountain top or river there . . . it's like selling off parts of your soul. And it creeps up on us, because people invested in their own project probably are not noticing that others are similarly bent on their own projects. it's a way to do business, to make money . . . Then one day someone notices, where did our beautiful Nature go? And where did the people go who used to come here?

North Carolina is beautiful and attractive in so many ways. Even as others are destroying and selling off their states in various ways, let's be the exception. Let's continue to be the special place where people come to get away from the missing soul of the other states that have not fared so well. To do that we must protect and nurture the natural habitats, such as of all these birds and other local fawna and flora that are becoming rarer and rarer.

Soon enough, hopefully before it's all gone, we will wake up to realize that without that soul element, there is nothing left to inspire and sustain us.

Please, let's do all we can to protect the SOUL that is North Carolina.

Thank you.

Transforming the world one person and one experience at a time
Please leave the inlet alone in North Carolina near figure eight island. This is the way God and nature intended for it to be. I am so tired of man changing things and making it worse for animals.
I am writing to oppose the proposed terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Such efforts routinely cause more negative than positive results. In this particular case, the groin would have a negative effect on important shorebird habitat. More generally, the beaches are dynamic, continually changing, and trying to fix a particular part into place is futile. It also generally spends large amounts of taxpayer money for a short-term benefit to a few property owners. Especially with ongoing rises in sea level, it would be better to encourage people to move back from the beachfront.
Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will only postpone the day when the water level will rise so much that people will have to give up their shore homes. In the meantime critical habitat for shore and water birds will have been destroyed. Do not permit building it.
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Please vote NO on this project.

Sincerely,
Dear Mickey Sugg:

As you may know the piping plover is critically endangered and the little red knot has been for many years. These and many other birds have almost no natural habitat where they can find food, rest from their migrations or a nesting environment. Please do not build a terminal groin in this special area between Figure Eight and Lea-Hutaff Islands, one of the last areas where these birds can be found.

Building this would not only destroy the home environment for these thousands of birds but will also negatively impact my and many others' enjoyment of the inlet. This inlet is essential to the environment as it is, and to these shore- and waterbirds.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

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"The happiest people don't have the best of everything they just make the best of everything they have"
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am distressed that, once again, economically privileged humans, this time those who own property on figure 8 Island, are endeavoring to save or expand their "playground" by attacking an environmentally delicate and important area. Any one of my hundreds of earth science students could tell them exactly why groins do not work—a simple matter of sand and water movement. Stop or slow longshore current erosion in one place, and watch what happens down the beach. I strongly object to the loss of habitat for endangered creatures so that a certain group of humans will, they think, be benefited. Why do we keep fighting the laws of nature and physics? In the end, there is no way to fight the uneven heating of Earth’s surface, move the continents, or stop Earth’s spinning on its axis. Until humans can control these, the end result of each and every groin is going to be the same. Barrier islands move because the sand moves because the water moves in longshore currents, and people need to accept this fact when they buy beach property. So what if a few birds lose their nesting and feeding grounds? Well, so what if a few—a very few of the total number of humans on Earth—find that the ocean is going to remove their beach houses? The ocean will win in the end, anyway. Always does. And what about the people who will suffer as erosion is increased due to the groin? Is building the groin not injurious to them? Does the inlet not benefit the coastal counties economically by attracting tourists who travel there to enjoy its birds and beauty? I urge you to let common sense and scientific fact prevail, and deny the permit for this atrocity.

Yours truly
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am very concerned about the proposed terminal groin at Rich Inlet. We do not have many habitats left for shorebirds and waterbirds. The proposed terminal groin will destroy one of our last untouched inlets in NC. There must be another answer than to build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. The thought of losing another of our beautiful inlets breaks my heart. We need it and the wildlife that depend on it need it too.

Please, I beg of you, do not construct a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sincerely,
Do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This is one of the last surviving natural inlets in the state and the habitat of many types of birds. Please protect this area.
Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. It will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and water birds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Thank you,  
Audubon supporter
Do not put a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Leave it like God made it. NC
To whom it may concern,

I am submitting a public comment as a North Carolinian who cares about protecting our fragile habitats for shorebirds. Rich Inlet is one place where environmental protection is needed and will make a difference. I want to enjoy seeing these birds in their natural habitat and to be able to pass down this legacy to future generations. Who are we if we disregard the natural world around us, and destroy the existence of part of what makes North Carolina so beautiful!! Natural inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds, for their livelihood and for their protection in order to nest and have offspring. If we set out to build a terminal groin in this region, this precious and fragile habitat for so many birds will be destroyed forever!

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet! Doing so will ruin forever a much-needed habitat for these birds which have been a part of the North Carolina landscape for centuries! Destroying this habitat will negatively affect my ability to look out at Rich Inlet and see many bird species nesting and bearing offspring, and I do not want future generations to look back at us with resentment because we had a chance to save this habitat, but were too short-sighted to do the right thing.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

I am formally submitting my comment asking that NO terminal groin be built at Rich Inlet. Terminals groins are not an environmentally-sound solution to address naturally-occurring erosion. The groin will simply create more distress further up on the shoreline, initiating an endless cycle of cries for more structures that will create major devastation to the homes of North Carolina shorebirds, including the Least Terns.

Each year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested at the north end of Figure 8 island -- not only is it the largest colony of these birds in our state, but it is one of the largest on our Atlantic coast. It is imperative that we protect their habitats as well as other shorebirds, including Black Skimmers and American Oystercatchers.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will lead to the unnecessary loss of many bird species that are a critical part of our coastal ecosystem and communities. And, it will ultimately have a negative impact on the people visitors as well - resulting in loss of tourism dollars, small business revenues, and potentially even increased property taxes.

Building a terminal groin is a lose-lose for our bird and people populations, and I hope the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reaches the same conclusion.

Thank you,
Please do not approve COE 401 permit to build a groin altering the natural flow of this inlet. This structure would eventually affect the natural flow and ultimately the dependent biota.
I am not in agreement...I vote and my vote matters...please listen to the people who support our community and pay your salary.
We are writing to request you not build a Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet in our beautiful State of NC! It is one of the last untouched inlets in our State where water birds and shorebirds feed, rest and nest. They depend on the unaltered inlet and building a Terminal Groin will destroy the habitat needed to support thousands of birds. Do not destroy something so special, do not cave in to the 8 Island Homeowners Association's Board of Directors. This habitats is enjoyed by more than those members of the 8 Island Homeowners Association. We don't want a a Terminal Groin. We want a natural place for these birds!

Thank you for your consideration,
Mr. Sugg and Wilmington U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Regulatory Office:

I am writing to you to express my opposition of the proposed Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet. If constructed, the Terminal Groin will destroy habitat for many already threatened birds, including Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds such as Wilson's Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. It will also prevent people, including those proposing it, from enjoying one of the last natural inlets in North Carolina. Rich Inlet has been designated as crucial habitat for Piping Plovers, an already threatened bird.

Sincerely,
Please don't let the "Terminal Groin" be constructed at the Rich Inlet in North Carolina. I am sure the Army Corps of Engineers can do something somewhere else, like New Jersey or Maryland, where there are less bird habitats. Don't be among those contributing to the loss of precious species of birds, like the Piping Plovers, the Red Knots, Terns and many other birds that need these areas to survive.

Will all our seabirds and shorebirds be lost because of these projects that damage their habitats?!!!
Hello,

I rarely get involved in these types of things but I feel that a terminal groin at Rich Inlet would be a huge mistake. It will destroy the natural beauty of the location and according to experts at the Audubon Society will destroy the habitat of many shorebirds.

I do not believe it will hurt the general population to leave Rich Inlet as it is but could be devastating for the wildlife and our coastline in North Carolina.

Thank you,
I'm a native of North Carolina and New Hanover County. My family, friends and I have enjoyed and PROTECTED the waters between Masonboro and Rich inlets for our entire lives. Rich Inlet was always the favorite destination for a picnic in the boat - marine nature at its best! Today, many more TAXPAYERS enjoy the waters of Rich Inlet, it's ecosystems and the "beaches" that fringe it.

God charged us in the beginning, to care for the land and the wildlife he created FOR US. The Figure Eight Island Homeowner's Association's proposal to construct a terminal groin to protect their northern shore, will destroy PUBLIC lands that are presently being enjoyed and cared for by grateful visitors to this most pristine area. There will be no more boating trips, no more enjoyment of the birds, sea turtles and other marine life if this proposal is approved. There will be no beaches to anchor off so you can share a picnic, a swim or a walk to point out ghost crabs or sand fiddlers to your children or grandchildren. BUT this is what Figure Eight has wanted all along: Not only do they not want non-resident taxpayers on their beaches, they want you away from the waters surrounding it! The terminal groin will accomplish the F8 HOA's arrogant and narcissistic endeavours and destroy the essence of the Rich Inlet we enjoy today.

Finally, taxpayers are not responsible for the poor decisions these landowners made to build close to the inlets on a barrier island. It's despicable that these property owners could even entertain such a scheme to get taxpayers, who are forbidden on their island, to fund, on a continuous basis a structure to rescue them from the consequences of their dereliction in deciding where to build! It's their beach and THEIR PROBLEM!

Thank you
Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet, which is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. These things count. A terminal groin would provide no lasting help to anyone, and would do great harm. Thanks,
The idea of a rock wall at Rich Inlet defies common sense. The always changing coast is not a place to solidify. The bird habitat will suffer, and it is very important for many threatened species. What happens when it is hit by a hurricane? The wall might hold, but surrounding areas will suffer because the wall is unforgiving. Will you please re-think this expensive mistake. Thank you.
Please keep this inlet intact. Our birds are more important than some rich person wishes. Time to protect our earth and the inhabitants that can't speak for themselves.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
I am concerned about any Rich Inlet construction.

Every time I travel to the Outer Banks I am concerned with the damage that too many people have incurred there. I am completely convinced that ANY construction, such as the Terminal Groin will be devastating to the natural system there.

As people of the Earth we need to protect the Earth and it's wildlife systems if we are to survive on this planet in the future.

I say NO to the Terminal Groin.
Dear Sir,

As an avid bird lover and avian ecologist, I am very disturbed about the proposed groin on the north end of Figure Eight Island. Simply put:

1. I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

2. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

3. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.

4. Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. The resulting habitat loss would be highly significant.

Very sincerely,
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thanks,
After twenty years on the Inland Waterway and many kayak trips to Rich's Inlet. I am a strong supporter of preserving Rich's Inlet and letting Figure 8 solve their problems without impact on the inlet, or its surroundings.
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.
Mr. Sugg,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the construction of the terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This construction will destroy nesting grounds for a number of species, potentially interrupt migration patterns, and in the long run, be of questionable effect. As it stands now, Rich Inlet is a location of natural heritage for all of us in North Carolina and I would not like to see it destroyed in an attempt to protect areas that are not natural areas along the coast. Please consider turning down the application for this construction, our shorelines have enough pressure in them as it is.
Dear Sirs,

My wife and I are frequent users and bird watchers at Wrightsville Beach, especially the stretch of beach near the Rich Inlet. We want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet. Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Respectfully,
Rich Inlet is designated Critical Habitat for Piping Plovers. I understand that the Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association’s Board of Directors is proposing to construct a massive steel and rock wall, called a Terminal Groin, at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC. I do not know WHY they need this but do know that this project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system. Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds. Please don’t build the wall and destroy the bird habitat. Thank you for reading my comments.
Dear Sir:

Please protect this state's beauty. This inlet of the proposed site is untouched as of now. That's why so many of us move to the beautiful state of North Carolina, to view natural beauty, not to see something like this put there to ruin the naturalness of the area.

Many birds need that area untouched in order to survive. If you build this, many birds will not survive. Please keep it the way it is, for beauty's sake and for the bird's sake.

Thank you.

NC resident
Like 90% of what the Corps of Engineers does, this is an environmental disaster. By all means stop it...
Developers don't need another terminal groin or whatever they're proposing at Rich Inlet.
Migrating and indigenous waterfowl and wildlife along the Rich Inlet will be delivered a terminal notice if this project goes forward.
DO NOT ALLOW the RICH INLET to be kicked in the groin.
If the Terminal Groin at the Rich inlet is going to destroy the habitats of already threatened wildlife it should not be allowed. Human beings need to stop destroying our planet, our wildlife and our natural beauty.

--

retired and loving the life
The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.
I strongly oppose the building of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This is a beautiful natural area teeming with birds and other wildlife - we need to protect this habitat.
Though I am not a marine biologist or oceanographer, I am aware of the great potential for terminal groins to unintentionally destroy beaches nearby. The beaches on or near Figure Eight Island are nesting grounds for many shorebirds and water birds. I understand that the options for the birds are nearly nonexistent. Additionally many water people might be negatively impacted from making a living and/or enjoying the inlet access and surrounding beaches. As a concerned citizen, I implore you to say NO to a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sincerely,
The Terminal Groin project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds.

I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Thank you for your consideration.
I'd just like to know WHY. WHY do people believe that they have ANY RIGHT AT ALL to interfere with, or destroy, ANYTHING that is part of GOD'S GLORIOUS CREATION????
I'm an elderly disabled veteran, born/raised/& have come home to NC The motto that has worked for me is:
"IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T TRY TO FIX IT!!!!!!"
THESE BEAUTIFUL PLACES AIN'T BROKE!!!!!!!!!
They are a VITAL ECO-SYSTEM, & this stupid, ill-conceived project will bring nothing but havoc, destruction, & death to areas that are ALREADY too few in number in this unique, & VERY MUCH-LOVED & VALUED part of our state.
Yet, there remains a small, but WEALTHY & VOCAL, group whose collective ego is evidently out of joint over this, & to whom NOTHING MATTERS except that THEIR WILL BE DONE. I wonder how many of these potential despoilers are NC NATIVES??? Not many, I'm guessing.
& of course, we all know how `capable’ & `pure-of-motive’ the Army Corps of Engineers was when they built the levees that broke down & flooded New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Later analysis of the situation exposed this group’s way of using the CHEAPEST route possible in their construction, while the big money they were paid went into the head conspirators’ pockets.
If you can stop, or slow down, this awful mess-to-be, I beg you, with all my heart--------PLEASE DO SO. PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HIDEOUS PLAN GO ANY FURTHER THAN IT HAS.-----
I've paid my taxes, & I've served my country. I'd like to think that my home state, which I love, has officials that are willing to stand up against the wealth/influence of outsiders & others who threaten our precious wild, unspoiled areas. I served in the USN Hospital Corps, mostly in Southern California, but I HAD to come back here to NC. My children & grandchildren were brought up here, & my family has been here for at least four generations. Shouldn't WE have a say in matters like this? I want my kids/grandkids to have the spiritual joy that I have had in these naturally beautiful places. I hope that's not too much to ask........
Thank you.
Dear Sir,
I have ancestral roots in the Wilmington area and have spent many happy days on Wrightsville Beach, from where one can see and enjoy the multitude of birds that make their home by Rich Inlet. I and my family have enjoyed exploring the area with wildlife officers charged with their protection.

PLEASE do not let the residents of Figure 8 Island destroy bird habitat and also deny ordinary citizens the joy of witnessing nature's beauty.

Sincerely,
I have lived in North Carolina all my life. We are so blessed to have a state with beautiful coastal areas, natural habitats and a way of life that has been preserved for our enjoyment. When I heard about the plans for Rich Inlet, it upset me so much. Please don't touch this beautiful place! It will never be the same again. We will lose many of our bird populations, This is their habitat! Rich Inlet is so beautiful....keep it that way.

Sent from my iPad
Good day

This information brought to you is of interest to me and I ask that you consider further the plight of the nesting birds/ habitat in these very sensitive places.

I believe that it would be very serious indeed if you ignored the plea of the many thousands of birdlovers who will be aware of this planned metal structure you intend erecting. Shortsighted to say the least.

Thank you
Sincerely
Please, please, please DO NOT BUILD A TERMINAL GROIN IN OR NEAR RICH INLET!
I am sure you are aware of the huge negative impact this permanent structure would/will have on the priceless natural inlet and nearby beaches. Leaving this inlet in its natural state will preserve nesting and resting places for thousands of migrating birds. Again, please leave Rich Inlet alone.
Dear Mr. Sugg,

Please work to protect Rich inlet. It is home to piping plovers, red knots, and other rare birds. The large proposed sea wall will destroy their nesting and feeding habitat, ruining this great treasure of a place. I am an ecologist and educator, and I want my family and I (and all of the people in the state) to be able to enjoy Rich inlet in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Building a terminal will destroy our state's natural heritage and this is one of the last untouched inlets in our state. These issues matter - I vote based on these issues as do my family and friends. Without these important habitats shorebirds and waterbirds would not have their critical environment to feed, nest and rest. Please do not destroy one of our few places of untouched beauty with a terminal. That would be so awful.

Sincerely,
Hello,

I am writing to implore you not to build the proposed terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This inlet is one of North Carolina’s last untouched inlets and the terminal groin would ruin it for many potential visitors who would otherwise enjoy it - thereby driving them away. Furthermore unaltered inlets like Rich Inlet are vital for shorebirds and waterbirds who would have no other place to rest, eat, and nest. The terminal groin would do away with these critical habitats that are the livelihood of thousands of birds. Once again I ask you to not destroy such an important part of our state’s natural heritage.

Sincerely yours,
Let natural processes of change shape our coast line, not wealth and power of commercial interests. Put up buildings if they want but no artificial protections for man made creations.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask that Rich Inlet be preserved as a natural habitat and that no changes be made to it. North Carolina has long been a source of beauty for tourists and residents for the natural habitats we have. We have also been a proud military source. Let's leave this area as a natural habitat for there are so few left. As a lifelong resident of the state I am very concerned that our natural areas are slowly but surely being taken away. We will at some point be bereft of these areas and cease to be an area of natural beauty. Please, I implore you to leave this area for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
I travel from Virginia to North Carolina twice a year to Kill Devill Hills and Hatteras and all of the outer banks to see birds, mostly sea birds that I do not see in Richmond, Virginia. I know that this means a lot of tourism for North Carolina and recreation for residents. We have a responsibility as well to safeguard migratory birds for the rest of the world and these migratory shore birds are facing many problems from habitat loss to sea level rise. Has the community explored living shorelines? There could be planting of coastal shrubs and trees on land as well as restoration of oyster reefs in the water which would block some erosion. Houses should be built back from the shore also so that natural erosion and sand shifting may take place without huge expenses from the federal taxpayers for the few houses built too close to the shore.

Rich Inlet is critical habitat for many shorebirds including endangered piping plovers as well as the breeding grounds for the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the east coast. Please do not destroy this place of worldwide importance.
To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Regulatory Office:

I am quite concerned to learn that a Terminal Groin has been proposed for Rich Inlet. This will destroy essential habitat for a number of threatened birds such as shorebirds, terns and skimmers, as well as prevent people from the free use and enjoy of this natural wonder. I urge you to protect the last of our natural inlets in North Carolina.

Sincerely,
US Army Corp of Engineers,

The rate at which we are losing and detrimentally altering natural environments is frightening and so very sad for us as humans and for the creatures that we share this planet with. Please do not add Rich Inlet to that list by building a terminal groin. Our efforts should be spent in restoring what we have decimated and protecting areas that are still mostly intact.

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect visitor and area resident’s enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
In this day and earth, when many around the world are doing their utmost to protect and preserve our God-given natural spaces, why is the ACE even contemplating this project? Who is going to benefit from this project? And, is this benefit really worth species extinction? When-ever I see projects like this, I am reminded of that old line ‘Follow the money’.

Thank you
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. Not to mention, add a tremendous eye sore to such a beautiful area if the Carolina coast, truly one of the best resources we have. Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet. Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Best regards,
I attended the Public Hearing regarding the SEIS for Figure Eight Island yesterday evening at Ogden Elementary, and I am writing to express my deep concern for the environmental impact the proposed terminal groin project would have on Rich's Inlet and neighboring Hutaff Island. Two citizens very clearly expressed numerous reasons this project is NOT an acceptable solution, and I am in total agreement. My children have grown up boating and beaching on those shores, and I would very much like to have my grandchildren do the same someday. Nature has an ebb and flow...it is not our place to try to alter that to save a few dozen homes that were knowingly built on changing land. The environmental impact would not "balance" the needs of humans as the SEIS states, rather it would benefit a small number of people while destroying natural habitat for wildlife and valued recreational areas for hundreds of residents and visitors.

Please do not allow the building of the terminal groins off the north end of Figure Eight Island.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

Many times over my life, private interests have overrun the interests of the all the people. It never works out well. In this case, attempting to thwart the natural flow of the ocean around the barrier islands will no doubt generate an unintended outcome, with concomitant greater damage, somewhere else. Barrier islands are what they are – a built-in manager of the ocean’s forces against land. They also form homes and passages for birds, fish, other wildlife that we, as stewards of the earth, must stand and protect. It is in the interest of all of us that this wildlife continue to survive and, where possible, flourish. Please leave the Rich Inlet up to nature to manage.

Thanks for you doing what you do, and for your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,
Dear Sir,

I strongly oppose the proposed Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet, NC. This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other sensitive shorebird species including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. As an avid birder and naturalist, I can state with certainty that building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect negatively my enjoyment of the inlet and surrounding area.

Please DO NOT permit a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Best regards,
Please take the time to read this short article on the negative impact of terminal groins written by those extremely knowledgeable in the field of coastal geology. Note that they cite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Engineering Manual regarding the negative impact of these structures. For the reasons listed in this article as well as the negative impact on the habitat of endangered birds affected by the building of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet, I ask that you protect one of the last natural North Carolina inlets and deny the Figure Eight Island Homeowners'Associations request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Please save the rich in habitat rich inlet. We need to remember they cannot be replaced and they are God's creation and we should take care of them not just us.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone
Appealing to cooler heads on your team. As a former geology major, it's well known for decades that the use of terminal groins are for the advantage of people on the upper side of a groin, with consequences of downdrift erosion, destroying nearby beaches. The losers in the building of this groin will be the wild bird habitat in Rich Inlet and the owners on the lower nearby beaches.

Seeking your help to prevent further destruction of beaches at the cost of taxpayer dollars "and" protection of our natural habitat for our wildbird life.

Grateful thanks in advance...
I used to live in Wilmington and this area is not only beautiful but the home to many beautiful birds. Please leave them alone.
I am writing in reference to the proposed terminal groin proposed at Rich Inlet.

I am opposed to the construction of this feature because of the adverse impacts it will have on the natural environment in the area.

Construction of the proposed groin will:

prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system

destroy protected habitats for threatened bird species including the Piping Plover and Red Knot, as well as other shorebirds

The importance of the inlet for shorebird habitat is supported by the fact that Rich Inlet is designated as Critical Habitat for Piping Plovers (Critical Habitat Unit NC-11).

Critical Habitat is defined as: “specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management consideration or protection.”
Please save and protect Rich Inlet. It is such an important area for fish, shorebirds, sea turtles and one of the last of its kind in NC. You should be committed to protecting and preserving it, not threatening it with a terminal groin structure. Once these things are gone, they are gone forever. Make a wise and compassionate choice and save Rich Inlet.
Please Do Not Construct The Terminal Groin Project at Rich Inlet. The damage to our wildlife resources will far exceed any benefit from this project. As you are surely aware, bird populations have been steadily dropping over the last few years. The project would be devastating to all concerned. Respectfully.
Please do not install this project as it is vital for many endangered birds. It also serves humans as a beautiful inlet to swim in.
Dear Micky Sugg,

Yes I did copy and paste my list below from an action site for this cause but, to me it states everything that I feel about this situation. Everyday I hear of more and more destroying of natural habitat that our earth needs for nature. We continually find reasons why do or create things that have no benefit to nature or people. If we continue to destroy what is natural we will no longer have the beauty or joy of seeing these fantastic creatures in our lives. We must keep a balance with nature to continue to exist. When your day is done at work or in the service where do you go to find peace? Most of us go to nature. For all of the reasons below please do not build this terminal groin.

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sincerely,
We have always been proud that NC was pretty staunch in not allowing hardened structures on our coast….and we have an oceanfront home on Holden Beach, Brunswick County. These structures have uniformly shown that you can only speed up the damage to others property. We understand that ours may be lost eventually. It is hard and sad, but we would not want to hurt others property on down or our pristine coast. There will be a hardened structure on the east end of Holden: three rows of houses have been lost in the past there, but they have been rebuilding and building on the lots behind for the longest time. Is this a good use of taxpayer’s money? Just to help a few reckless property owners?

Rich Inlet is one of the last natural inlets and it has remained in about the same place for a hundred years, which is unusual. It is very necessary to so many water bird species, some becoming endangered. This would possibly finish some off, because NC has the best nurseries. The enjoyment to boaters would certainly be adversely affected.

At Folly Beach, SC there are massive diagonal groins that are dangerous, unsightly…and simply shift sand from one place to another with the loser being the one at the end of the groins.

Our NC beaches, inlets, marshes are getting so much more traffic because of an explosion in population that it is of high importance to protect our natural resources, not making unnatural things happen.

Thank you for your time and attention,
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Please work to preserve Rich inlet. There are NO other places like this in the world! It is essential for wildlife habitat and breeding ground! Thanks for your help!
Rich Inlet is one of the last pristine inlets in the state of North Carolina. It's part of our state's natural heritage, and provides an essential, natural habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds. These habitats provide areas where birds can feed, rest and construct nesting sites. This site also serves as a draw to tourists, who come to observe the birds at Rich Inlet.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet, would disrupt the natural feeding, resting and nesting activities of birds such as plovers, and other shore and water birds. Because this is one of the last untouched inlets in NC, there must be other sites that are better suited to development, where environmental impacts would be less severe, and where present development would embrace such construction.
If you pass legislation for the groin ... can't something stay pristine ????
Please the rich inlet near wilmington, NC for this future construction that will threaten the remaining habitat of many seabirds which are important to the local ecosystem.

Thank you,
I beseech you to not allow the terminal groin to be built at Rich Inlet. It may help protect buildings belonging to wealthy people. But the birds were there first. They deserve to have their homes protected. Their nest sites preserved.

Already there has been such destruction of bird habitat and such a diminishment of numbers. It should be criminal to take from the birds to give to far more recent interlopers!

Please, please preserve Rich Inlet that birds may simply live, nest, exist.

Thank you,
Please don't contribute to the destruction of our state's last natural inlet!!

Have an absolutely beautiful day!

-from mobile mail
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Do not allow this wall to be built!! Surely our birds deserve to live!
So much of North Carolina’s environment is being challenged by big business and development. I see Rich Inlet as another one of these precious environments that may succumb.
The idea of installing a terminal groin at Rich Inlet is outrageous. It is incomprehensible that the parties involved, including the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers can not see and/or care about the disastrous effect this would have on the large shore bird population in this area. Cost of this groin will obviously be prohibitive, long term effectiveness will be doubtful....and the destruction of this very natural habitat would be unforgivable.
PLEASE LET NATURE BE NATURE, DON'T BUILD!!
THE BEAUTY OF THIS STATE IS THE NATURAL WONDERS WE NEED TO PROTECT FOR
GENERATIONS....
DON'T RUIN IT
PLEASE!
Dear Sir or Madam:

I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Of the twenty inlets in North Carolina, Rich Inlet is one of the few natural inlets left in the state. It has escaped hard structures like jetties and terminal groins that drastically alter inlets and destroy habitat that birds require. Rich Inlet is also one of the most stable inlets in the state and has remained in the same general location for the past 100 years. Rich Inlet (link), located in Pender County between Figure 8 Island and Lea-Hutaff Island is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds.

Rich Inlet is designated as Critical Habitat for Piping Plovers (Critical Habitat Unit NC-11). Critical Habitat is defined as: “specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management consideration or protection.” Audubon North Carolina has been monitoring how birds use Rich Inlet since 2007 and our surveys confirm that Rich Inlet is important as a migratory stopover and wintering habitat for Piping Plovers from the threatened Atlantic Coast breeding population and the critically endangered Great Lakes breeding population.

In addition, over 500 pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located on the north end of Figure 8 Island, along with American Oystercatchers, Common Terns, Black Skimmers, Piping Plovers, Wilson’s Plovers and Willets. Rich Inlet hosts the largest colony of Least Terns not only in North Carolina but on the entire Atlantic Coast.

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
I live on the ICW and frequently visit Lee Island and Rich Inlet. It is a beautiful natural habitat for birds and wildlife. Please don't allow a terminal groin to be built. It will destroy the natural ecosystem by disrupting the natural flow of the ocean and will likely create a new set of unnecessary challenges. Mother Nature cannot be stopped and we shouldn't try.
Dear Sir,

(With back-to-school meetings and activities going strong, we were unable to attend the recent public meeting regarding the possible Rich Inlet terminal groin project. We feel strongly about this issue and appreciate the ability to submit via email the words we would have shared in person at the meeting.)

As a taxpayers and recreational users of Rich Inlet, we are strongly opposed to the possible construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Our family enjoys boating and fishing in this unique area, and our kids have learned a real appreciation for nature by watching the various critters that use the area for nesting and feeding and gathering. It’s a special place, and it should be preserved for all of the creatures (human and otherwise) that use and enjoy it. Frankly, this terminal groin project looks an awful lot like an expensive and unnecessary bailout. Let’s not require taxpayer dollars, access to public land and waters, natural habitat, and the well-being of federally protected species to be wasted in order to subsidize the risky real estate choices of the few. Please do not move forward with this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best Regards,
On behalf of the Audubon Society's recommendation, and being a local resident for many years, I am writing this to urge you "public comments" to give a lot of thought about the proposed groin at Figure 8, how it will affect local bird populations like piping plovers, already endangered.

Thank you,
Do not build the terminal groin at Rich Inlet on Figure Eight Island. A hardened structure had repercussions for areas all along the coast. Regards,
Dear Sir:

I'm writing to ask you not to build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. I have enjoyed Wrightsville Beach and its area for many years, and perhaps the biggest thing that I love is the rich, natural environment. A groin would interfere with the nesting habits of both shore and water birds. It would change the look of the area and make it harder for "everyone" to enjoy the water there. There has been enough development and interference with our beautiful NC coastline, and We need to keep our ocean front environment as natural as possible! Please say "no" to building a terminal at Figure 8 Island.

Sincerely,
Is a terminal groin at Rich Inlet really necessary? I much prefer that the inlet remain untouched for the sake of its beauty and the fowl there.

Thanks!
I believe we must protect NC natural resources and
Rich Inlet is a special resource for shore birds and humans.
Please do all you can to prevent the destruction of this valuable
habitat.

thank you. sincerely.
I oppose the proposed construction of a terminal groin on Figure 8 Island, North Carolina. The inlet there is an important nesting habitat for shore birds. The barrier islands are eventually going to shift positions, as is their nature. People cannot hope to change that. Gradual change, without human interference, will protect the birds.
Mr. Mickey Sugg,

Building another groin on the North Carolina coast, especially at Rich Inlet, would be a waste of taxpayers’ money. This is a project that will only benefit home owners on Figure Eight Island. These homes will be in standing water in a few short decades due to ocean levels rising and the threat of even more damaging storms, with or without the groin.

This is also critical habitat for shorebirds and sea turtles. I believe the wildlife using this area will adapt to natural conditions arising from the afore mentioned climate change, only if this area is allowed to change slowly and naturally. Construction damage, unnatural alteration, and human intrusion have caused enough strain on the North Carolina coastal ecology. It is time to reconsider the path we are on regarding our natural heritage.
Dear Mickey

We’ve debated at school on the Rich Inlet project. Frankly our state can’t afford to see how developers will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers.

The groin will also deny people the use of enjoyment this unusual inlet system. In one sentence: Don’t do it.

Sincerely,
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to sustain our current sea bird populations including the threatened piping plover. Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Sent from my iPhone
I oppose construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet for the following reasons:

Rich Inlet is one of the last completely natural inlets remaining in North Carolina; and Shorebirds and waterbirds require natural inlets to thrive; and Construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will destroy critical feeding and nesting habitat for thousands of shorebirds and waterbirds.

Please do not allow construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Find a local lawyer and free legal information at FindLaw.com.
Hello,

I am from Asheville, North Carolina, and North Carolina's beautiful coast and its nature and wildlife is very important to me. Rich Inlet is one of the few remaining untouched inlets in North Carolina, and building a terminal groin there would devastate the habitats for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, along with the habitats of other birds like American Oystercatchers, Wilson's Plovers, Common Terns, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers. They need these untouched habitats in order to survive. These habitats are necessary for feeding, nesting, and resting. And not only is Rich Inlet crucial to birds, it is also a beautiful place for people to enjoy. Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. If the terminal groin is built, I would no longer be able to enjoy the inlet because of the huge steel and rock wall, especially knowing that the terminal groin would hurt the populations of so much wildlife. Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you,
I attended the Public Hearing regarding the SEIS for Figure Eight Island yesterday evening at Ogden Elementary, and I am writing to express my deep concern for the environmental impact the proposed terminal groin project would have on Rich's Inlet and neighboring Hutaff Island. Two citizens very clearly expressed numerous reasons this project is NOT an acceptable solution, and I am in total agreement. My children have grown up boating and beaching on those shores, and I would very much like to have my grandchildren do the same someday. Nature has an ebb and flow...it is not our place to try to alter that to save a few dozen homes that were knowingly built on changing land. The environmental impact would not "balance" the needs of humans as the SEIS states, rather it would benefit a small number of people while destroying natural habitat for wildlife and valued recreational areas for hundreds of residents and visitors.

Please do not allow the building of the terminal groins off the north end of Figure Eight Island.

Sincerely,
Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds. Please keep the natural harmony of this inlet in place. Thank you.
Mickey,

I want to voice my concern about allowing a terminal groin to be built on Figure 8 Island.

Do not allow anything that would destroy the natural cycle that occurs there and the wildlife habitat.
I am a resident of the Cape Fear Region, and I visit the north end of Wrightsville Beach weekly, and more often during shorebird nesting season. I'm writing on behalf of the fragile habitat, and for our native and migratory birds and waterfowl.

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers, an endangered bird. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast.

I want to protect our state's natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state. Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support the feeding, resting and nesting of thousands of birds. It will also affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT BUILD A GROIN at Rich Inlet!
* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you!
I am writing to voice my opinion against the Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet. Many of us in North Carolina, and indeed from other states, come to the coast to enjoy and photograph the shore birds. This project would destroy important habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people like me from using and enjoying this natural inlet system and all it offers for bird watchers and naturalists.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds and for NC residents and other tourists who are bird watchers.

Thank you,
I am writing to you to urge you to leave Rich inlet alone and not build a man made structure in the inlet. Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds. There are so few unaltered places left on the coast for birds to nest and use during migration. Please take into account the many threatened and endangered species including turtles that will have limited access if you plan is approved and followed through.

The decisions you make now will have lifetime consequences for these species
Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

While saving a few homes of a few people from the inevitable changing shoreline, the groin will destroy the habitats that thousands of birds need to feed, rest and nest. The birds cannot simply move on to a different location. Because of coastal development by humans, there are very few natural, unaltered inlets remaining in the state. Rich Inlet is one of them.

Along with the thousands of birds that depend on the Inlet are the thousands of people who enjoy watching the birds during migration and nesting seasons. A beach without birds is a sad place. Protecting our state’s natural heritage is in the interest of birds and future generations.

Citizen of North Carolina
I'm strongly against constructing a wall and possibly destroying a beautiful natural bird sanctuary.

Thank you,
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds and will affect my enjoyment of the inlet.

DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed groin at Rich Inlet. This area is one of the best, if not the best, sites for shorebirds in North Carolina. There is a lot of development on the MC coast but few sites for birds. Please block this effort.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Sugg,

The proposed Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC should not be built because this project will destroy habitat for threatened birds (Red Knots and Piping Plovers) and other shorebirds (Least Terns, Common Terns, Black Skimmers, Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers) and prevent people from using and enjoying the natural inlet system there.

The existence of all of these birds is under constant onslaught and threat by human and natural activity so the health of Rich Inlet is critical to the health and survival of shore birds and other species. The area is vital as a migratory stopover and wintering habitat for Piping Plovers. The extensive tidal flats, sandy spits, and open and sparsely vegetated sandy habitat are the source of food, shelter, and rest for birds and other shore life.

Rich Inlet is one of a scant number of remaining natural areas along not only the North Carolina coast but also the Atlantic coast. It is a beautiful place for human recreation and appreciation. Make it a wildlife sanctuary or conservancy area instead. That is what is needed to protect the survival of the birds and the continued enjoyment of nature by appreciative humans.

Building a Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet would destroy essential habitats for already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers. Please deny the request to build the terminal groin and allow the inlet to remain natural and unaltered by human hands. Leave it natural so that your grandchildren and mine will have the chance to kayak through the inlet and appreciate and take wonder at Nature’s beauty and bounty. It would be a legacy for them.

Thank you for your anticipated time and consideration,
Mr. Sugg:

I would like to comment on SAW-2006-41158, the Figure Eight Island Terminal Groin Project SEIS. I am very opposed to the project. It will wipe out the habitat of many rare and threatened shorebirds that depend on Rich Inlet. The habitat itself is rapidly disappearing along our coast. In addition, terminal groins are a temporary fix for coastal erosion. They do not work and they are a waste of limited taxpayer financial resources. This project is being considered to benefit a small, special interest group, the Figure Eight Island HOA.

Please do not go forward with this project in any form.

Thank you very much.
To whom it concerns,

It is with horror we learn of the intention to destroy the natural habitat around this beautiful area of the North Carolina coastline.

I am certain you are aware of the devastation it would cause to the natural movement and nesting for millions of birds.

It must be left alone as it has been for thousands of years. We dare not risk the beauty of this splendid area... It is not our right to do so......

Sincerely.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I wish to submit comments concerning the proposed terminal groin at Rich Inlet on Figure Eight Island. I lived in Maryland for many years and saw first hand what these jetties do to the shore. They rob Peter to pay Paul. And placing these structures at the ends of barrier islands is also hugely destructive to shore-nesting birds like terns and plovers.

People who build on our shifting barrier islands have to come to grips with the fact that these islands are constantly moving. With rising sea levels shore-side buildings are in harms way. We need to be as concerned with our wildlife as the homes of people who can afford to move elsewhere. The birds are running out of places to nest, however. Fewer birds on the NC coast will greatly lessen my enjoyment of the beach experience.

So I strongly object to building any type of hardened structures on the NC coast, but especially at the ends of islands where shore-nesting birds are concentrated.

Thanks you for considering my comments.
This area needs to be protected as a natural inlet. It is very important nesting area for Least Terns and Piping Plovers. Please do not destroy this beautiful natural area!

Sent from my iPhone
I am asking that you all be fair and consider not granting the Homeowners Assoc. access and destruction of habitat for endangered birds and other wildlife. Will you side with big money? Please do what is right. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am writing to you to strongly urge you to prevent the building of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds and not build the groin.

Thank you.
Dear Mr. Sugg:

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and prevent the unnecessary loss of habitat for shorebirds that include plovers, terns and skimmers.

Thank you for your consideration.
Terminal groins should be terminated. They are non-functional and destructive to habitat. The dynamic nature of barrier islands are something humans need to live with, not attempt to control. It is a fool's errand especially so in the face of rising sea levels.
Dear Mr. Sugg,
I am writing to request that you protect Rich Inlet, one of the last if not the last natural inlet in the state. The shore birds and the endangered ones especially need Rich Inlet. Please stop the Terminal groin project and protect the shore birds
Sincerely
Hello Mickey,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed groin to be built on Figure 8 Island. Rich's Inlet is a prized spot for my family's enjoyment, fishing, and of course, the coveted bird sanctuary. This area is very special to our already struggling bird populations, as well as Wilmington's boaters and beach-goers for their enjoyment. I would hope that Figure 8 can come up with a better solution.

Thank you,
Protect our land. We have the means and technology of powering our vehicles with natural means. Money doesn't help us breathe.. it smothers us through greed.
Dear Policymakers:

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin and the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.
Dear Sirs,

I am sensitive to the concerns of property owners at the Rich Inlet site in their desire to create a groin that will (supposedly) protect their homes. I am also a lifelong resident of several locations that are affected by oceanic trends. Overall, the consensus, proven by time and tides, is that ALL man made efforts to stop the ocean have unexpected consequences, and often, short term aid for the properties of men. People built on shifting sands. Sands that have served a sensitive natural world. Nature adapts constantly to the changes on the planet. Man tries to exempt himself and his precious property from nature and her fluidity. This effort to stop and secure man made things is short sighted and selfish. Certainly these property owners are not thinking of the big picture. They are not anticipating the effects on the natural environment. This is why personal property has boundaries and beyond those boundaries, nature and the rest of us have rights. Please consider the big picture.

Thank you,
Our state is beautiful and offers much enjoyment for outdoor activities. One thing I am proud of is the areas where wildlife thrive. Because of our extensive coastal areas, we have many shorebirds and waterbirds that use these areas as important habitats.

It is my understanding that a proposal has been made to build a groin at Rich Inlet Please weigh the decision carefully. If the groin is built it would be a tragedy not only for our state but also for these birds, which are facing many threats against their survival including loss of habitat areas.

Please veto the groin. Thank you.

Regards,
Mickey,

I think it's a great idea to improve Rich Inlet with a terminal groin. If it improves the inlets navigable reliability without restricting foreshore access it would be a HUGE economical benefit to the area. Specifically the people who are most likely complaining. I would hope that after this is complete that the Topsail inlet could eventually get the same improvement. The entire eastern shore would improve the value and use of the ocean. It would also increase safety for our fisherman, social boaters and increase transit boaters to area.

Good luck. I look forward to the completion of inlet and wholeheartedly endorse the proposal.
Sent from my iPhone
Please do not allow the construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. There are many threatened species that nest in this area.
Please save our shore birds and our Rich inlet. NC needs to keep our natural resources safe.
I am a resident of Wilmington, and have been for 40 years. I moved here to live in this beautiful coastal environment! I was unable to attend the recent hearing held at Ogden Elementary and would like to take this opportunity to voice my opposition to the proposed terminal groin on Rich Inlet.

I fear this terminal groin would have a terminal effect on the coastal environment!!!

I realize the purpose of the proposed groin is to save the $900 million dollar property value of Figure 8 Island, but you must also realize it will negatively impact the undeveloped barrier island which is a sanctuary to more than 90 species of nesting and migrating birds, a nesting site for sea turtles and a habitat for other plants and animals. Residents of New Hanover County and Pender County enjoy the undeveloped barrier islands and the beauty of the surrounding waters - I wonder how many homeowners on Figure 8 are actual full time residents. Should this exclusive island have the power to dismiss the value of our coastal natural habitat?

Please take into consideration all the pleas you read and hear in opposition to this project. Our planet is suffering due to the impact of humans- this decision to deny the construction of the terminal groin in Rich Inlet may be a small but mighty method of saving one of North Carolina's beautiful and valuable pristine habitats for living creatures other than humans!
Last Thursday night I attended the Army Corps of Engineer's public forum about Rich's Inlet groin project. Everyone there was against this whole ill conceived project with the exception of the consultant that Figure Eight Island HOA hired. I would like to add my name to the list of "cons".

This is a special interest group with unreasonable demands. As one lady, who was a graduate from US Naval Academy, said this idea of taming the ocean is doomed to failure. She also mentioned that her family has a home on Emerald Island. When you build on a barrier island you take chances that it could not be a permanent home. If a Category IV or V came through the NC coast and took a direct hit on Figure Eight Island or any of the barrier islands, you would see nothing but piles of lumber.

Please, throw this whole idea of groins out the window. And do not allow any more to be build along the NC coast.

I am also a member of NC Audubon. I am bird steward on the south end of Wrightsville Beach and help the bird surveys with the coastal biologist once in awhile. The wildlife needs our help to survive.

Thank you,
The right decision is to not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Experience has shown this effort to stop erosion is not effective. Wildlife will be negatively affected and also limit recreation for people.
We must protect the inlet at all costs.
Dear Army Engineers,

Please choose to protect vital shore bird habitat by deciding against construction of the terminal groin at Rich inlet.

Thank you for allowing the community to give input on this topic. I hope you will find that it is in the best interest of the people of north Carolina to protect our endangered wildlife over the second homes of elite who probably should have never built on such a fragile, evolving part of the coastline in the first place.
The Figure 8 Island Homeowner’s Association’s Board of Directors is proposing to construct a massive steel and rock wall, called a Terminal Groin, at Rich Inlet near Wilmington, NC. I believe this project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers.

Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state and one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds. It is a designated critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns nest on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is said to be the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast.

The Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet will destroy essential habitats for these already threatened birds. Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest. We must protect this habitat for birds. We must stop the construction of this terminal groin because it will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds, and result in the unnecessary loss of shorebirds, terns and skimmers.

Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

You have a chance to help us by protecting this beautiful and critical habitat for our birds. Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
To whom it may concern,

I am an environmental science major at UNC Asheville and will graduate this year. Through my studies I have learned that an ecosystem needs several features to function properly. If we want to keep our coasts clean and full of aquatic life, we need to keep the inlets intact. Let's make a smart decision for our environment and the future of our people.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone
A terminal groin at Rich Inlet will destroy the habitat of shore birds, including the threatened piping plovers and red knots; it is one of the last nearly pristine areas they have for nesting. Rich Inlet is home to the largest colony of least terns in NC. Terminal groins are proven to increase beach erosion and have been disastrous everywhere they have been build. Please protect the natural environment of Rich Inlet for all the shore birds and for humans who enjoy the natural state of our coast.
Mr. Sugg and Corps of Engineers Managers:

We have reviewed the Figure 8 Island Shoreline Management Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, proposing to construct a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. We would like to submit our comments for inclusion in the public record.

We speak on behalf of public beach users in North Carolina.

In 2010 to 2012, we walked every mile of shorefront on the North Carolina coast. One of our goals was to become familiar with the entire coast, to get a grasp on the entire NC shoreline. We accomplished that goal, and we learned much from our journey.

One firm conclusion we formed on our coastal trek was that any and every human-made structure on the public beach has a detrimental impact on public use of our beaches. Currently, at least thirteen such structures exist on the North Carolina coast. Construction of any other human-made structures should be considered only if clear evidence of significant public benefit exists. Clearly, such is not the case with the Figure 8 Island/Rich Inlet proposal.

The Figure 8 proposal states one of its main purposes is “to ensure the continued use of the oceanfront beach.” Construction of a terminal groin would not serve this stated purpose. In fact, a terminal groin would be detrimental to public use of the beach. If you doubt this fact, please walk the Bald Head Island Groin Field on the south end of Bald Head Island. Then walk the unimpeded east beach on Bald Head. No doubt will remain in your mind that terminal groins impede the use of public beach.

The Figure 8 homeowners application also states, “Action is needed to alleviate this threat” (threat of erosion). Public beach will exist wherever ocean meets the shore. The “threat” occurs whenever a structure is erected close to the shoreline; the threat is to the structure, not the beach. A terminal groin will not protect the public beach; it is designed to protect private property. Any action that is harmful to public beach and waters (including inlets, sound, and ocean water) and not clearly beneficial to significant public interests should not even be considered.

In summary, please do not approve this terminal groin project. Clearly, this project violates NC laws of public trust that protect public beaches for the benefit of all. If the project is approved, we would hope that the this decision would be challenged in court as a breach of public trust laws.

Respectfully submitted,
NC Environmental Defense Fund

Mike Giles
North Carolina Coastal Federation
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I am writing to you regarding the Terminal Groin proposed at Rich Inlet. I have seen the destruction of beach and shoreline where a groin was built on the Caribbean coast of Belize. There was erosion and the disappearance of a long stretch of beach, and the population of this area was attempting to prevent the toppling of trees that was occurring due to the erosion. Terminal groins not only destroy the natural beauty of an area; there are often unintended consequences to adjacent beaches.

North Carolina shoreline is a special place for birds and humans. The beaches are mostly unspoiled and they provide essential habitat for a variety of species. As one of the last natural inlets in NC, it is crucial that we protect it, along with the threatened and other species that require this type of habitat to feed, rest and nest. Rich inlet has been designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers, and also provides nesting area for one of the largest colonies of Least Terns on the entire Atlantic coast.

I always tell my friends in Southern California that they have never seen a truly beautiful, unspoiled beach. Until they come for a visit to NC beaches, they have never spent the day on an unspoiled beach area rich with wildlife. They come away wildly impressed. I am so proud of the ecological richness of my state. Lets do all we can to maintain that richness

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet or anyplace else on our NC coastline.

Thank you for taking my opinion under consideration.

Best,
Thank you for the opportunity to write comments on this topic.

I am opposed to the building of terminal groins on our coast; any coast; any time. These elements are costly mistakes in the long run, both economically and environmentally.

Rich Inlet is one of the last natural inlets in our state. I enjoy watching birds. I also enjoy the other elements of a good, unspoiled beach. There aren't many of those left. I take people of all ages on birdwatching tours around the State, including the coast. I would like to see more areas left alone, including the coast, and Rich Inlet.

These groins very negatively affect the habitats at the build location - they cause unnatural erosion which leads to other negative consequences. Our coast and estuaries have been damaged by our activities so much, and we can't seem to leave anything alone anymore. I say 'enough!'. There are so many animals of all sorts, more than just the highly visible birds, that depend on these beach habitats (it's not just one type of habitat, even in a relatively small area).

Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Please do not construct the Terminal Groin at Rich Inlet. This project will alter, if not destroy, the habitat of many sea animals including the Piping Plover which is endangered as well as compromise the beauty of the Carolina coast. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Mickey Sugg,

One would think, after losing the battle to tame the Mississippi River, the Corps of Engineers would have learned some humility when dealing with Mother Nature. The battle for humans to "tame" Rich Inlet is another one humanity will, eventually, lose. I want to urge the Corp of Engineers to employ some common sense and stop fighting Mother Nature and leave this precious piece of bird sanctuary to the birds.

Sincerely,

North Carolina resident
Good morning Mickey,

Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Shorebirds are already in serious decline as a result of habitat loss or degradation, particularly at inlets. Natural, unaltered inlets provide essential habitat for many species of shorebirds like sandpipers, Wilson’s and Piping Plover, American Oystercatchers, and other migrating birds. In fact, according to a 2005 study of 361 sites in the southeastern U.S., it was found that the lives of seven shorebird species are completely tied to inlets. Six of these species are listed as “High Conservation Concern” or “Imperiled” in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan.

Rich Inlet is one of the few natural inlets left in the state. Its sandflats, mudflats and tidepools, as well as sandy spits on both sides of the inlet serve as essential foraging, nesting, resting and roosting habitats for many species of shorebirds, including the federally-threatened Piping Plover and Red Knot. The abundance of fish near the inlet also attract terns, skimmers and other waterbirds. Last year, more than 800 pairs of Least Terns nested on the large, sandy spit located on the north end of Figure 8 Island. It was the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast.

Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in our state and part of North Carolina’s natural heritage. Please do not move forward with plans to build a terminal groin that would permanently destroy the habitats of thousands more shore and water birds.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these comments from a concerned citizen of North Carolina who values our beautiful shoreline and the diversity of wildlife it supports.

*If these comments are to become part of the "public record", please protect my address/identity. Thank you!
Please do not destroy the habitat enjoyed by Piping Plovers, Red Knots, Wilson's Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers by building a terminal groin there. Terminal Groins have not been proven effective for managing erosion, and we cannot risk losing these beautiful birds on North Carolina's coast. We humans have taken enough habitat away from all the beautiful animals we enjoy seeing, and if we continue to do so, there will be fewer and fewer left for us to enjoy at all.
Mr Sugg,

Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina for shorebirds and is designated as critical habitat for Piping Plovers. Year after year, hundreds of pairs of Least Terns have nested on the large, sandy spit located at the north end of Figure 8 Island. It is the largest colony of Least Terns in North Carolina and one of the largest on the entire Atlantic coast. We must protect this habitat for birds. This project will destroy habitat for threatened birds like Piping Plovers and Red Knots, and other shorebirds including Wilson’s Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers. The groin will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system. Please do not build this terminal groin.
The NC coast does not need another terminal groin to foul the natural beauty and tourist attraction to our coasts. Our human footprint has destroyed too much habitat that other animals depend on to survive, and another terminal groin would simply add to that destruction. Have we not altered this world enough? Are we so selfish and greedy that we cannot leave space on this earth for other animals...enough space for them to survive not just a sliver of land that we can say is dedicated to them and a full and meaningful space untouched by human hand.

It's unfortunate that people do not realize or take the time to think about the reality that our survival depends on the survival of our ecosystem. And it's also unfortunate that the Army Corp of Engineers has been at the center of so many land altering projects that have ruined our environment, under the guise of human progress. Progress that destroys the earth, pushes species to extinction and causes the world to be over populated with people is not progress. It's more of a steady march to our own demise, and the demise of our children and their children.

We don't need another terminal groin. It will do more damage than it prevents. Leave the earth alone and help restore it to its prior state in which it can protect all species at a far less cost than the cost to maintain engineering projects that are far less effective.

Charlotte, NC
Please Do Not build a terminal groin, our natural heritage needs protecting.  
Thank you,
Please, please do not approve another one of these terminal groins. This one will ruin one of the last natural inlets in North Carolina. I cannot understand why terminal groins continue to be considered in any circumstance: they have proved again and again to be an expensive project that results in ruined beaches, diminished tourist and property values, and harsh on wildlife. The fact that property owners are willing to grasp and straws and consider a terminal groin does not mean that they should ever be approved.

Thanks for your consideration.
Could it be someone owes someone a financial favor for political support? Why would something as ridiculous as this suddenly come up after 25 years of knowing it is a bad idea.

Shame on you.
I am opposed to building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet due to the impact on shore birds and the critically important habitat. Being one of the last natural inlets in North Carolina, Rich Inlet should be preserved in its natural state.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPad
Mr. Sugg,

I am emailing to express my concern over plans for building a terminal join at Rich Inlet. While I understand the concerns of the few property owners this will affect, the larger concern is the many of which that will be denied the rich ecosystem which supports a variety of wildlife including several at risk bird species.

The property owners choose to build on the water front with all the attending risk that goes along with building on flood planes, sides of mountains that tend to slide and a host of other "prime" sites that must be heavily manipulated so the few can enjoy a "good" view.

It is crucial that decisions are made to protect our cultural heritage and minimize the impact so that our grandchildren and their grandchildren and so on, can experience the beauty and diversity that nature has to offer. Please be the champion of the voiceless and spare Rich Inlet and all who live and thrive in the ever shifting sands.

Regards,
Sent from my iPad
Mr. Sugg,

I am writing to request denial of any terminal groin placement at Rich's Inlet. I spend a tremendous amount of time there fishing, boating, and enjoying nature. Last weekend we saw two sea turtles, HUGE runs of mullet, dolphin, and the multitude of birds that thrive there. The houses built on shifting sands knew the risk and while I am sympathetic, the solution is not to turn this inlet into an attempt to stop Mother Nature. It would just be wrong.

Thank you for your time
Those second homes should not have been built. No a hardened structure to protect them. Risk the birds, the water quality, downstream beaches? No!

And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Rev. 21:5
Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

As a North Carolina resident who enjoys going to the beach at least twice each year, I take a special interest in our barrier islands. Also as a grandmother, I watch for opportunities to preserve wildlife habitats so that my granddaughters can have the chance to enjoy wildlife as I have.

A plan to "stabilize" Rich Inlet by building a terminal groin will be detrimental to coastal stability as well as significant populations of shorebirds, terns, and skimmers. Rich Inlet supports large breeding populations of terns, among many other sea and shore birds. It is a crucial migratory stopover and wintering habitat for two different populations of piping plovers--one population threatened, and one endangered. Interfering with this important habitat will take a heavy toll on our wildlife.

Since Rich Inlet has stayed pretty well in place for the last 100 years, it appears counter-productive to "stabilize" it. Please do not build on this habitat.

Sincerely,

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.
Dear Mr. Sugg,

* North Carolina should protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitats needed to support thousands of birds.
* Building a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will affect my enjoyment of the inlet. I have been at the inlet many times and hope to continue to enjoy it.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Dear Sir,

My husband and I live in Hampstead NC and we have enjoyed the natural beauty of Rich Inlet for many years.

We are very much against the terminal groin that some people on Figure Eight want to build. The sand is always moving out there and Figure Eight has more beach than ever. We believe in leaving mother nature alone. It would be a crime against nature to allow that.

Thank you

Vote NO!!
Dear Mr. Sugg:
I wish to voice my opposition to the construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet on Figure Eight Island. The profound injurious environmental consequences are simply too great and far outweigh the financial interests of property owners on the island, in my opinion. Moreover, there appear to be many troubling and questionable aspects of the process under way.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPad
North Carolina had been protected for years from terminal groins. One only needs look to other states where groins are permitted to see the destruction they cause to inlets and beaches.

As a citizen interested in protecting our natural resources, I strongly oppose a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Rich Inlet is one of the few inlets in North Carolina that has been left in its natural state. As a result it provides essential habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds for food, rest and nesting. A terminal groin will change all that and destroy essential habitat for thousands of birds.

I’m a frequent visitor to the coast and a terminal groin at Rich Inlet will have a negative impact on my enjoyment of the inlet. It’s one of the few places to enjoy the beauty of natural forces of nature at work.

Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Best regards,
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
As engineers, who know a little of the scientific method, shouldn't we start with a few small projects to see what occurs, rather than a massive effort immediately. Think of if you had a summer shore home just south of this proposed project. NC
As a taxpayer and utilizer of north Carolina's wild beaches, I urge against building a groin at rich inlet. This is one of the last natural inlets in the state. It is a destination for migrating birds in increasing numbers. These areas are disappearing and we need them. I am against you using my tax dollars to build something we do not need. Destructive, expensive, wasteful. so sad for the wildlife we are pushing out, and for humans who also need wild spaces.

Thank you for your consideration.
I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.

Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.

Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitat that supports thousands of coastal birds.

Building a terminal groin will impact my enjoyment of the inlet.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.
Please do not build the terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Please consider our shore birds and their habitat.

Sincerely,
Please do not allow the construction of a Terminal Groin at Rich’s Inlet. The negative impact would be devastating to our area. As a Landscape Architect, I am against any hard structures such as groins or jettys being built along our coastline. We do not wish to look like New Jersey! The damage of such a structure far outweighs any benefit. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mickey,

I am writing in complete support of your project at Rich Inlet in Wilmington, NC. My understanding is that you want to build a Terminal Groin -- a permanent jetty system to protect and give the inlet a stable eco system. Dredging has done little but shift mountains of sand into the inlet, making passage questionable or impossible at times. Water flow in-and-out of the marshes and intracoastal waterway should be kept open!

Stabilizing the barrier islands, protecting the viability of the inlets for navigation and allowing adequate water flow is needed! It will support the fish, bird life and shellfish throughout the marshes, creeks and the ICW itself.

Critics may claim that the project will cause harm to the bird nesting population, but history of other projects around the state have not proven this to be true -- in fact, protecting the inlet will most likely add to the safety and even expansion of the nesting areas by stabilizing the barrier islands.

BUILD IT!

Thank you!
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am writing to oppose the construction of a terminal groin on Figure 8 Island adjacent to Rich Inlet. The flats, sandbars, and shoals in the inlet provide critically important resting and feeding areas for hundreds of thousands of federally protected shorebirds and seabirds year round. For boaters this is a spectacular landscape where people can go to relax and get away from all their cares and worries and droves of people on the mainland.

Construction of a terminal groin benefits only the wealthy, private homeowners on Figure 8 island and will be detrimental to the public and hundreds of thousands of federally protected birds that use the ephemeral habitat surrounding the inlet that is augmented by sediment drifting along the shore past Figure 8 island. There's something very wrong about using public funds and a public agency to bolster the value of private homes on private land.

NO to construction of a terminal groin on Figure 8 island!

(vacationing annually on the coast of North Carolina)
Please do not construct this. NC needs to have some part of it left free and natural. Not every where should only be dedicated to development. I am tired of my money going to support rich peoples vacation homes instead of our natural heritage.
To whom it may concern,
Please protect the bird populations in NC. Please do not damage Rich Inlet! Please do not build the terminal groin. It will seriously impact the natural environment & will drastically alter the habitat for birds and other indigenous wildlife.

Concerned Citizen of North Carolina
Hello,
I am writing to urge you not to allow the construction of a terminal groin. I think it's a horrible idea-- for the animals and other community members who use the beaches around the inlet. There are endangered birds with nesting habitats here as well. Below are the most obvious reasons to please not allow a terminal groin at Rich's Inlet.

* I want to protect our state’s natural heritage and Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in the state.
* Natural, unaltered inlets are essential to shorebirds and waterbirds. Without these important habitats, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest and nest.
* Building a terminal groin will destroy the habitat that supports thousands of coastal birds.
* Building a terminal groin will impact my enjoyment of the inlet.
* Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you for your support,
Sir:

I am writing to implore you to please keep Rich Inlet intact

Nature has an implicit beauty of its own. Once man interferes it starts a chain reaction heading in a downward spiral.

I would love to protect the beautiful birds and their habitats on Rich Inlet so my grandsons will be able to see the beauty I see.

Thank you for your time.

NC
are AGAINST ANY GROINS ALONG THE COAST.

Thank you for any help you can give to prevent allowing any of these mistakes from being built.
Hello,

As you know, Figure Eight Island is attempting to build one of the four terminal groins approved by state legislature. Please reconsider the use of this terminal groin at a public beach, where it will actually help protect land available to the public-- not just the elite and wealthy who knowingly built on vulnerable land on figure eight island.

This is one of the last undeveloped inlets in the state, and the waterways directly north of figure eight (at Rich's inlet, Green/ Nixons Chanel and Lea- Hutaff island) are one of the most popular boating and beach spots for the PUBLIC and tourists in our area. A terminal groin would deplete the damage the natural sand shifting essential to healthy beaches in this habitat. This is a larger issue than just protecting the birds (which are also important to coastal environmental health); it is a matter of protecting public beaches from the wealthy, attempting to over-develop and control something that should be left natural-- for all to enjoy. Have you ever boated to this area on the weekend, or a holiday? The beaches will be completely altered as a result of this terminal groin, negatively affecting public waterways and beaches to serve the affluent island. Save 1/4 terminal groins allowed in the state to protect public land, not private.

Here are just a few photos of birds and boaters enjoying the habitat that will be permanently impacted by a terminal groin-- and ask yourself, were these homes built in a safe spot to begin with?
Yet again, money and greed are front and center. Leave Rich Inlet alone! To even consider wrecking this inlet by building a terminal groin is a shame. We are down to only a handful of areas that have not been touched by the hands of money and greed. We should ALL be proud to have areas in our state that support thriving waterbird colonies and coastal wilderness. Undeveloped, unaltered areas are almost non-existent. How is that not seen as a major problem? Please, DO NOT build a terminal groin.

Thank you,
Please protect the most valuable habitat for all terns, piping plovers, skimmers, and all other shorebirds. Hopefully, the terminal groin will NOT be built. Wildlife has little protection from human encroachment, and humans are NOT endangered! Wildlife was here long before humans...we need to think about their welfare instead of our own greed and wants.

Sent from my iPad
Dear Mr. Sugg,

Thank you for taking the time on September 2nd to discuss the proposed Figure Eight Island Terminal Groin project.

It was helpful to understand the regulatory role of US Army Corp of Engineers in this process.

I literally grew up on Rich Inlet and am fortunate to still have a family home on the water across from Nixon Channel.

As such, I have seen the natural migration of this pristine inlet for over fifty years.

This migration has enabled and sustained a rich ecosystem while providing recreational enjoyment to the public.

It has never been an issue until a few houses were built on the far north end of Figure Eight Island.

I oppose the proposed Figure Eight Terminal groin project as its impact far outweighs any potential benefit to the nineteen property owners.

First, the proposed structure does not prevent erosion, just shift where it occurs. It is my understanding that groin and jetty programs are usually paired with beach renourishment in order to hold the sand in one place as best they can. This proposed terminal groin will only shift the erosion south to Mason Inlet - which would surely make for some interesting Figure 8 Homeowner Association meetings in the future as well as for some potentially interesting lawsuits between members. The renourishment also adds another whole host of environmental issues to consider, including disturbing bottom habitat and disrupting nesting beaches for shorebirds, such as the endangered piping plover and loggerhead turtles. The required dredging of Nixon Channel would turn this unspoiled wetland area from a marine nursery into a mining pit. If the nineteen property owners think the sand will not be missed, try forgoing flounder, croaker, spot, shrimp, clams, blue crabs, and other local commercial species that require inshore sandy or grassy bottoms for nursery habitat. I would encourage the Corp of Engineers to evaluate both the environmental and economic impact on North Carolina’s fisheries for dredging this area for the next 30 years.

Secondly, there is currently no need for this terminal groin. Rich Inlet runs substantially north of Figure Eight Island, with a wide beach/sand spit separating it from the potentially threatened houses. Moreover, even in 2006, at the height of the erosion on Figure Eight side, none of these vacation homes became unusable or tumbled into the inlet. I know this from personal experience by attending birthday and dinner parties in some of these very same homes. It seems deeply unjust to harm a natural public resource such as Rich Inlet for a perceived threat that may not even come to pass for a very limited number of houses.

Finally, even ignoring environmental concerns, terminal groins represent a huge financial burden. At current real estate tax...
rates, the costs of installing and maintaining terminal groins over 30 years is 4 times higher than property tax revenues from threatened coastal properties. Combining projections of costs, tax revenues, changing property values, etc. the overall costs are expected to be 10 times. While the Figure Eight Island Homeowner Association may be wealthy enough to foot the initial $26 million bill, I wonder if the next category five hurricane will ultimately lead me, as a New Hanover County taxpayer, to subsidize a terminal groin that is not needed and whose only assured effectiveness will be in destroying a the rich ecosystem of Rich Inlet.

I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

All the best,
Please do not build a terminal groin at Rich's Inlet. This will affect many bird species as well as enjoyment of the inlet.
Dear Mr. Mickey Sugg,

I would like to take a moment to express my concern in saving and protecting our state's natural heritage, Rich Inlet. Of the twenty inlets in North Carolina, Rich Inlet is one of the last natural, untouched, and unaltered inlets left. Furthermore, Rich Inlet is one of the most stable inlets in the state.

Audubon North Carolina has been monitoring how birds use Rich Inlet since 2007 and their surveys confirm that Rich Inlet is important and very essential as a migratory stopover and wintering habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds from the threatened Atlantic Coast breeding population and the critically endangered Great Lakes breeding population. I quote Audubon North Carolina: "Rich Inlet is designated as Critical Habitat (Critical Habitat Unit NC-11). Critical Habitat is defined as: 'specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management consideration or protection.'"

The proposed terminal groin will drastically alter the inlet and destroy protected habitat that birds require. The threatened bird species include the Piping Plovers and Red Knots. Many other species will be affected as well including Wilson's Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, Common Terns, Willets, and Black Skimmers.

As you see, Rich Inlet is one of the best inlets in North Carolina and is a crucial habitat for these threatened and endangered shorebirds and waterbirds. Without this important habitat, shorebirds and waterbirds would not have critical habitat to feed, rest, and nest. Building the terminal groin will destroy the habitat that supports thousands of coastal birds and will also prevent people from using and enjoying this natural inlet system.

Please consider my concern and the effects the proposed groin will have on the endangered and threatened birds. Likewise, please consider the effects it will have on preventing visitors from enjoying the natural, unaltered Rich Inlet.

Respectfully,
Please do not alter rich inlet. I love that we have an untouched inlet for shore birds.

Sent from my iPad
It seems we need to apply a little common sense to this situation. Nature has already taken care of the problem, a fact agreed upon by even the people from Figure Eight who are proposing the groin.

Why in the world should we destroy a beautiful inlet and all it represents for so many living creatures (man included) just to appease a handful of people who have seemingly lost sight of ‘the big picture’? I wonder if they have just worked on this project so long that they now have tunnel vision and the main goal is ‘to win the battle’ and build the groin whether it is worthy or not! (I will not get into a discussion on the risks people need to consider in the first place when they build a home right on the ocean!!)

We already know what many of the negative effects will be on wildlife and people. What about the possible unintended consequences-- that may include beach erosion for the very neighbors of this core group?

It also appears the data the group is using may be faulty. Please get the real facts and urge everyone to step back and look at this big picture with a good dose of sound judgment before moving forward. If the groin does indeed get built, the damage will be irreversible!!!!

Thank you,
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threatens the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,
Don't allow a terminal groin to be built at Rich Inlet. This is an essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. Your mission doesn't include supporting wealthy landowners at the expense of the environment. Please do the right thing and deny this ridiculous request. Thank you in advance for doing the right thing!

Sent from my iPhone
Please do not allow a terminal groin to be built at Rich Inlet! It is one of the last natural inlets. Protect the environment and important habitat for birds and other wildlife. Vote down a terminal groin!

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am writing to express my opposition to any type of shore structure (groin, etc) at Rich Inlet.

I am a citizen who uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for many recreational activities, such as boating, swimming, and fishing. I have used this area for over 50 years. My grandfather was stationed there as part of a mounted beach patrol (north side, on Lea-Hutaff Island) during WW2, in the shack which used to stand there (since vandalized and destroyed, sadly). I and my family (parents, uncles, cousins, etc.) have always enjoyed the natural beauty of this area. Rich Inlet is one of the last untouched inlets in NC, and I object to this proposal because I want to protect our state’s natural heritage, and the proposed structure will degrade this area, and the public trust uses of this beautiful beach and inlet. It will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Please DO NOT allow the building of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

As a life-long NC resident I've been boating and fishing at Rich Inlet my entire life. The inlet as it is now and has its been for the 50+ years I've been visiting, is one of the most beautiful and unspoiled inlets on the NC Coast. The proposed Terminal Groin will destroy the beauty of this otherwise near pristine inlet used by thousand of beach goers and boater every year. And why would this be done - to 'potentially' protect a few houses and benefit a handful of property owners on the north end of Figure Eight.

As I recall, the last time I visited Rich this past summer, none of the houses on the north end were currently threatened. This of course could change, but the Inlet itself has been remarkably stable over all the years I've been visiting.

Please take into consideration when reviewing the proposed project the damage it will do to one of the true treasures of the NC Coast.
Dear Mickey Sugg,

I am writing to urge you to save Rich Inlet. It is a natural inlet that is critical for shorebirds and water birds. Please don't try to alter nature along the NC coast. It won't work and it will cause permanent damage.

I am an avid birder who is quite concerned about bird conservation: breeding and nesting habitat, stopover, and wintering grounds. You must protect this habitat for threatened and endangered birds and the enjoyment of the citizens of North Carolina. Stop the construction of the terminal groin which will destroy habitat for Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and many other birds.

I am counting on you to do the right thing for the birds.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone
Good afternoon Mr. Sugg,

Please see attached written comments regarding the proposed terminal groin at Figure Eight Island. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

Please see the attached comments for the Rich Inlet SEIS. Thank you.
Dear Mr. Sugg,
I am 50 years old. I have been enjoying the beauty and natural offerings at Rich Inlet all my life. My father was from Wilmington, and enjoyed the same all his life. Please do not take measures that will jeopardize this treasure in our lives.
Most sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Sugg:

I am a member of the public that uses the public beach at Rich Inlet for boating, swimming, bird watching and fishing. I object to this proposal because it will degrade public trust uses of this beautiful and productive beach and inlet complex.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist.

Not only will a terminal groin degrade and destroy public use of the inlet complex, it will also destroy critical wildlife habitat that is protected by the federal government, of which your agency is a component.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Sugg,
Please reconsider the proposed construction of a terminal groin at Rich Inlet. Not only would its construction threaten an important habitat and access to natural areas, but it could also encourage the further development of sensitive areas with little to no focus on long-term sustainability or resilience.
Thank you for your time,
Dear Engineer Sugg:

Please accept my input against constructing a groin at Rich Inlet. This is important national wildlife habitat for migrating shorebirds, which have fewer and fewer places along the Atlantic seaboard where they can rest and carry out their essential habitat functions to survive as a species.

Building a groin at Rch Inlet will impair my enjoyment of North Carolina's coast. I have visited this place and it is one of natural beauty and enjoyment of nature. But in addition to its importance to humans who visit this place, it is critical habitat for nesting and feeding shorebirds, many of which are endangered, or whose populations have suffered great losses in recent years.

The groin will further degrade and harden North Carolina beaches which are already at risk due to political pressure to maximize excessive economic gains to landowners who have unwisely over-invested in a place that is naturally and obviously prone to change.

The inlet is already a very stable inlet, having remained in its present location for the last hundred years. A groin is simply overkill.

Very truly yours,
Dear Mr. Sugg,

I oppose the construction of a terminal groin on Figure 8 Island. I submit, below, just a few points in support of my position. Many more points could be made.

The erosion issues at Rich Inlet no longer threaten the homes at the northern end of the island, so I see no need for the construction of a terminal groin to address a problem that now does not exist. Even if the problem still existed, I would oppose this groin.

Clearly, crucial government agencies have not been consulted enough. The SEIS says,

“The USACE will be conducting additional consultation efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Endangered Species Act; and with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act.”

How can an EIS, whether draft or supplementary, be complete without such consultations prior to the EIS?

Proposed solutions to erosion problems have changed several times beginning before terminal groins were approved and continuing to the present. The Applicant’s Preferred Alternative in the initial DEIS has been modified dramatically in the current SEIS. Obviously, the science and engineering behind these alternatives cannot provide a definitive long-term solution. Should a pristine ecological area be endangered with projects based on guesses by scientists and engineers? As I trust the ACE knows, modeling is not definitive. These proposals are based on guesses.

The SEIS, like the initial DEIS provides no bonding against failure and necessary removal of this groin, against damage to down-stream properties, or to provide for studies to validate that down-stream damage has occurred. Are some property owners more important than others?

Finally, as many will have pointed out, the endangered species that use these islands and this inlet must be protected – by law. They should be protected for the long-term good of the environment and most people. We should not wreck the environment for the short-term benefit of very few people.
Mickey Sugg, Wilmington U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Regulatory Office:

I wanted to voice my concern regarding the proposal to build a terminal groin at the Rich Inlet. I am a life long birder and protection of critical habitats like this is crucial. We have lost too many sites already and are not leaving much of a legacy for our heirs. I am also a homeowner on the outer banks, so I know that there is tension between maintain private property and the natural landscape, but even as a homeowner on the banks, I accept I am only “borrowing” my land from the wonderful environment that surrounds. Therefore I wish to let you know that this is one of the last untouched inlets in the stat, and part of the resting/feeding area for water and shorebirds/pelagics. If the inlet is affected by this terminal groin it will affect 1000s of birds.

Please DO NOT build a terminal groin at Rich Inlet.

Thank you,
Please do not destroy this delicate environment for thousands of birds.
Many of which are endangered. Also the beauty of our outer banks will be spoiled.
Let us leave Rich inlet as it has been for thousands of years, unspoiled ecosystem!!
PLEASE, PLEASE TRY NOT TO LET THEM GET BUILT. PLEASE LEAVE MOTHER NATURE ALONE!!!!
I live on the intracoastal waterway and can see Rich Inlet from my house. It remains one of the beautiful and pristine natural areas along the waterway. Disrupting nature to accommodate a small number of homeowners would be irresponsible and will only cause erosion elsewhere. I grew up on the Jersey Shore. I am hopeful NC will continue to manage its coastline much better than we did up North. The needs of a few should not outweigh common sense and good coastal stewardship.

Please do the right thing and leave Rich Inlet to Mother Nature. She has preserved it well for many years!

Thank you,