



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: February 24, 2012
Comment Deadline: March 26, 2012
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2011-01914

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) is holding a scoping meeting for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States that is proposed by the Town of Holden Beach. Specific plans and location information are described below and are available on the Wilmington District Web Site at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/Projects/index.html>

Applicant: Town of Holden Beach
C/o: Mr. David Hewett (Town Manager)
110 Rothschild Street
Holden Beach, North Carolina 28462

Contracting Engineer: Applied Technology & Management, Inc. (ATM)
C/o: Mr. Fran Way
360 Concord Street, #300
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this project pursuant to applicable procedures for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor; and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the proposal. The Corps will be coordinating with North Carolina Division of Coastal Management and North Carolina Division of Water Quality in the development of the EIS to ensure the process complies with all State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

Location

The project site is located at 33-54-53.59 N, 78-14-35.80 W, and encompasses approximately 0.75 miles of Holden Beach ocean and inlet shoreline, starting from the east side of Lockwood Folly Inlet and moving westward near Avenue B and McCray Street, in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

The Town of Holden Beach is an approximate 8.0-mile long barrier island with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach located to the west and Long Beach (Oak Island) to the east. The island is a south facing island, bordered by Shallotte Inlet to the west, Lockwood Folly Inlet to the east, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) to the north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. It is a typical North Carolina barrier island that has undergone a variety of natural and anthropogenic changes. The majority of the island has been developed by residential activities, but does contain a small concentrated area of commercial buildings located near the high rise access bridge. Over the last decade, separate authorizations have been granted to the Town, as well as individual owners and developments, to conduct various activities, such as dredging, beach bulldozing, and shoreline nourishment, within waters of the U.S. along the ocean shoreline. It should also be noted that the Corps has performed several beach nourishment projects associated with its Federal navigation maintenance activities.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The stated purpose of the project is to implement an erosion control and beach/dune restoration that will provide long-term protection to residential structures and Town infrastructure along the east end of Holden Beach. This proposal, which would complement existing island wide nourishment activities, is also expected to maintain and promote a recreational beach area along with public parking and access points.

Project Description

In the 1970s, a temporary terminal groin, consisting of 15 sand-filled nylon tubes, was constructed to protect the east end of the island from erosion. The Town deemed that the groin field was successful and economical, but was short-term in nature. With chronic erosion at the east end continuing, the Town is proposing a long-term shoreline protection solution by installing a single terminal groin and conducting supplemental beach nourishment. Plans for the terminal groin, at this time, are preliminary conceptual layouts based on shoreline movement and historic conditions. The general design goals include: protection of public access, stabilization of the east end of the island, improvement of recreational beach area, enhancement of upper beach/dune habitat, and to reduce beach and AIWW dredging maintenance costs.

Two conceptual terminal groin layouts have been evaluated: Groin Alternative 1 and Groin Alternative 2. Groin Alternative 1 consists of a groin structure approximately 1,600 linear feet long that would be directly located along Lockwood Folly Inlet shoulder. This rubble (rock) structure would include a 'spur' feature which extends out perpendicular near the base, or tie-in footing, of the groin. The terminal groin profile would be similar to the existing Fort Macon groin along Beaufort Inlet in Carteret County (i.e., crest height ~7 ft MLW, crest width ~10 ft, and 2:1 side slopes). Groin Alternative

2 would be located in the general area near the terminus of Ocean Boulevard East. The conceptual design for this rubble (rock) structure has the length between 400-600 linear feet with an asymmetric T-Head feature at the seaward end of the groin. The T-Head design is expected to enhance the fillet formation and to help minimize the formation of potential rip currents.

Both groin alternatives will involve supplemental beach nourishment to help form the structure's fillet area (or shoreline area adjacent to the structure). The beach fill footprint and volumes would be directly related to the size and configuration of the terminal groin, and therefore are also conceptual. Fill footprint for Groin Alternative 1 would encompass approximately 27 acres on the west side of the structure. Assuming a 40 cy/ft unit fill placement, approximately 160,000 cubic yards of material will be required for the fillet area. With Groin alternative 2 being shorter, the conceptual footprint contains approximately 14 acres and includes both the east and west sides of the structure. Assuming a 30 cy/ft unit fill placement for the fillet, approximately 80,000 cubic yards of material will be required. Potential options for sand sources are the following: 1) Corps Lockwood Folly Inlet AIWW dredging, 2) Corps Lockwood Folly Inlet outer channel dredging, 3) Upland Borrow Areas (Turkey Trap Road Site, Smith Borrow Site, & Tripp Site), and 4) Upland Dredge Disposal Islands (Monks Island & Sheep Island).

This notice is to inform interested parties that a scheduled public scoping meeting for drafting the EIS will be held on March 8, 2012 at 6:00 P.M in the Holden Beach Town Hall Public Assembly at 110 Rothschild Street in Holden Beach. The scoping meeting is designed to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties to incorporate in the Draft EIS document. The purpose of these comments concerning public interest factors, ranging from navigation to biological resources to private and public lands, will identify issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS.

Additionally, this notice announces that our Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for this project will be published in the Federal Register on February 24, 2012 and can be found on the Federal Register website, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR> . After connecting with the website, click through the dates to February 24, 2012 (Friday). Click on "Army Department"; and locate the Holden Beach project.

As disclosed in the Notice of Intent, any written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, must be submitted to this office, Attention: Mickey T. Sugg, and received by March 26, 2012. Questions can be directed to Mr. Sugg at telephone (910) 251-4811, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office.