

**Memo To:** Scoping Committee

**From:** Sunset Beach Environmental Resource Committee

**Re:** Review of Sunset Beach Shoreline Management Project

**Date:** 3/15/17

The Sunset Beach Environmental Resource Committee (ERC) has performed extensive research on the proposed Shoreline Management Project, including consultations with several academic scientists who have expertise in shoreline management. Based on this research, we have two major concerns about the proposed dredging of Jinks Creek. We

believe it is critical that the scoping committee members be aware of our concerns with the hope that the concerns will be discussed at the next scoping meeting.

Our first concern is the fact that Jinks Creek has a high density of oyster beds. (See the attached five photos). ERC believe it is important to address the oyster bed issue because CAMA regulations clearly states that dredged navigational channels must be aligned so as not to interfere with shellfish beds (1 and attached CAMA Shellfish Regulation). Furthermore, Jinks Creek has been designated a shellfish area and a high quality water area (attached North Carolina Waterbodies List). Other CAMA rules prohibit dredging if dredging would violate water quality (attached CAMA Land Use Plan). The ERC believes both the shellfish and water quality issues need to be addressed.

Our second concern is the status of the nursery designation of Jinks Creek. It appears Jinks Creek was deemed a non-primary nursery area in the 1970s by default. The relevant data generated for Jinks Creek are from a single survey conducted in 1971; apparently this single one-month survey did not generate sufficient data to merit a written report. Obviously, a primary nursery area (PNA) could not have been designated on the basis of these data nor could such a designation be ruled out (2 and attached Pat Smith's email). Jinks Creek is completely surrounded by PNAs and is the connection between the PNAs and the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. The Creek provides for a flow of nutrients to the PNAs and a pathway for juveniles to move to other areas. Furthermore, Jinks Creek has never been dredged. The ERC believes more research needs to be performed in order to develop the appropriate nursery area designation for Jinks Creek.

1. [https://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fpublic/Coastal Management/documents/PDF/CAMA/tl5a-07h.Q200.pdf](https://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fpublic/Coastal%20Management/documents/PDF/CAMA/tl5a-07h.Q200.pdf)
2. Correspondence (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017) Patricia Smith, Public Information Officer, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

15A NCAC 07H .0208 USE STANDARDS

(a) General Use Standards

(b) Specific Use Standards

- (1) Navigation channels, canals, and boat basins shall be aligned or located so as to avoid primary nursery areas, shellfish beds, beds of submerged aquatic vegetation as defined by the MFC, or areas of coastal wetlands except as otherwise allowed within this Subchapter. Navigation channels, canals and boat basins shall also comply with the following standards:

7

- (A) Navigation channels and canals may be allowed through fringes of regularly and irregularly flooded coastal wetlands if the loss of wetlands will have no significant adverse impacts on fishery resources, water quality or adjacent wetlands, and if there is no reasonable alternative that would avoid the wetland losses;

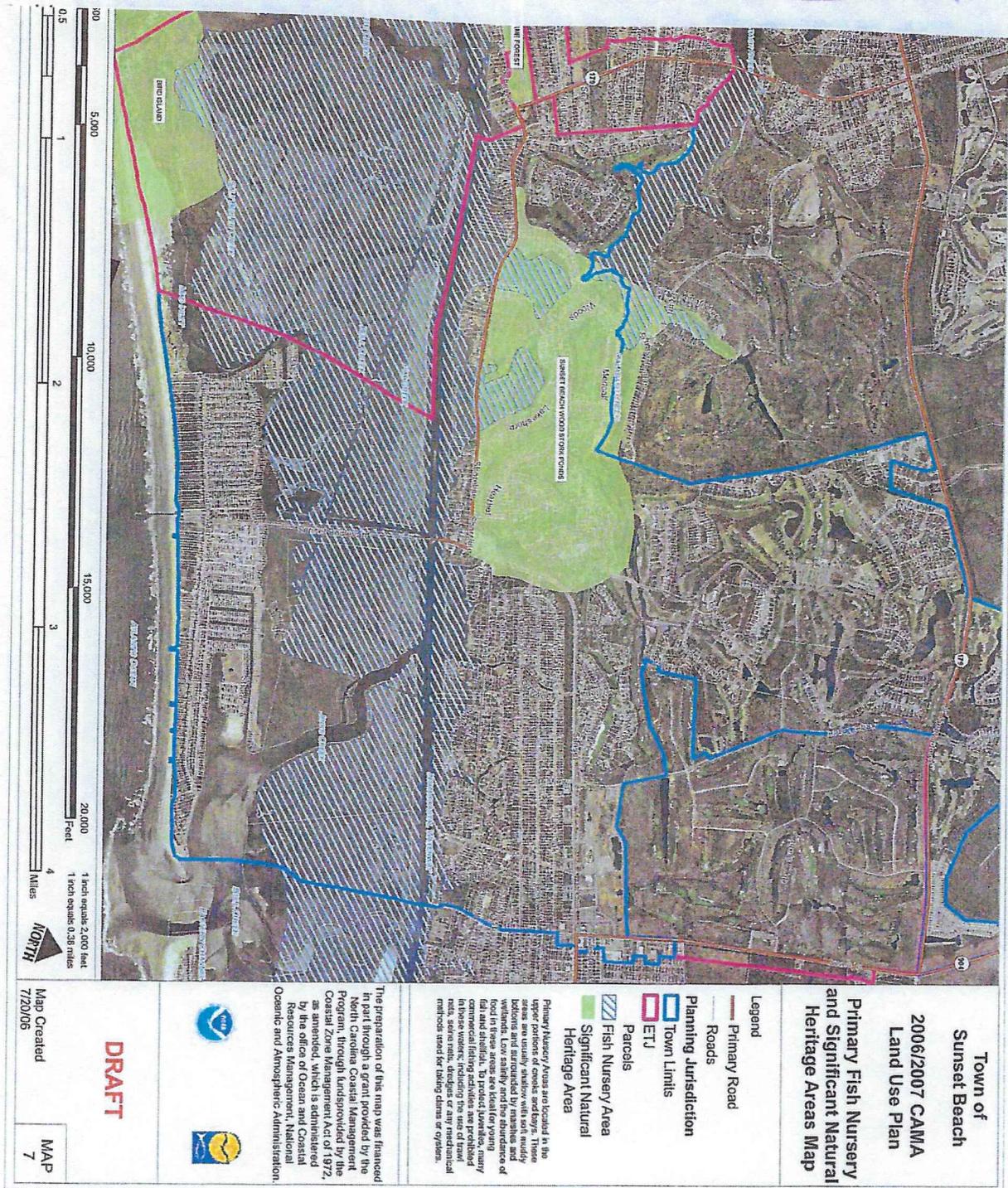
Name & Stream	Description	Curclass	Date	Basin	Stream Index #
	Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-5
Gause Landing Creek	From Kilbarr Slough to Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-5
Eastern Channel	Entire Channel	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-6
Clam Creek	From source to Eastern Channel	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-6-1
Sols Creek	From Eastern Channel to Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-7
✓ Still Creek	From Eastern Channel to Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-8
✓ Jinks Creek	From Eastern Channel to Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-9
✓ Cooter Creek	From source to Jinks Creek	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-9-1
✓ The Big Narrows	From Jinks Creek to Intracoastal Waterway	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-10
✓ Blane Creek	Entire Creek	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-11
✓ Fox Creek	From source to Blane Creek	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-11-1
✓ Salt Boiler Creek	From source to Blane Creek	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-11-2
✓ Bull Creek	From source to Blane Creek	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-11-3
✓ Little River	Entire portion	SA, HQW	12/01/63	Lumber	15-25-12

SA = Shellfish Area  
 HQW = High Quality Area

These maps are from the CAMA land use plan:

[http://www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/vertical/sites/{A2C1D077-15B6-49E5-B8FD-53D65FA0DC5D}/uploads/CAMA\\_LUP - AOE Maps.pdf](http://www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/vertical/sites/{A2C1D077-15B6-49E5-B8FD-53D65FA0DC5D}/uploads/CAMA_LUP - AOE Maps.pdf)

Map seven in this set indicates that Jinks Creek is not PNA. New dredging in Jinks Creek is therefore not prohibited by the PNA standards. Other CAMA rules prohibit dredging if the channel is not aligned to avoid shellfish beds or if dredging would violate water quality standards. Shellfish beds would include oysters and clams, and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries should sample the channel alignment to determine if there are shellfish there (typically with clams, if they found 1 clam per square meter that qualifies as a "bed.")



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Subject: RE: DMF PNA documents

Attached per your request are the database data and the data sheets from Jinks Creek sampling in 1971. This was the year DMF sampled Brunswick County to determine nursery areas. There are only datasheets and database data for December 1971. On the excel sheet, staff highlighted the fields you need. The waterbody codes are on a separate sheet in the Excel file. Jinks Creek sample sites are TU1, TU2, TU3. COLNUM is the number of fish collected for that species. In speaking with retired staff who took part in the sampling, current staff was told that they sampled very comprehensively in 1971, then established stations at some subset for 1972. We do not know if we are missing data for 1971 or not, but Jinks Creek was not sampled in 1972.

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