

## **Questions Pertaining to the Shoreline Management and Dredging Proposal**

1. The March Scoping Application stated one of the reasons for the proposed dredging was to establish a deep water path through the canal.
  - A. How is deep water defined in this application?
  - B. Is the intent to allow deep water boat use of Jinks Creek?
  - C. What is the definition of deep water boat?
  
2. Shallow water boats can enter the ICW from Jinks Creek at low tide.
  - A. What is the current depth of the proposed channel in North Jinks Creek?
  - B. What will be the future depth below mean low tide of the channel in North Jinks Creek?
  - C. Usually dredging is used for transportation purposes/economic value unless it is used for environmental purposes (which it is not in this case). If dredging is going to be used to increase the depth in this area, what is the point if it is not a navigational channel for international/national trade purposes. (Moffat & Nichol's Pre Dredge Analysis dated May 2, 2016, page 9, Elevation Legend for Jinks Creek depth at present is -5 to -3 feet at mean low water. The design depth is -6 mean low water.)
  
3. Jinks Creek was determined not to be a PNA in the 1970's.
  - A.. Should the status of North Jinks Creek as a PNA be reevaluated prior to applying for a dredging permit?
  
4. CAMA regulations state that navigational channels, canals and boat basins shall be aligned or located so to avoid PNAs, shellfish beds and beds of submerged aquatic vegetation.
  - A. Should North Jinks Creek shellfish beds be mapped prior to applying for a dredging permit?
  - B. Should North Jinks Creek submerged aquatic vegetation be mapped prior to applying for a dredging permit?
  
5. The shellfish in North Jinks Creek have ingested sufficient concentrations of pollutants to be inedible.
  - A. Should the types and concentration of the pollutants on the bottom of the creek be determined prior to applying for a dredging permit?

- B. Are there marine pests that could be transferred from the dredged material to its resting site that may pose an environmental concern?
- C. Are there human health risks to this dredging project? I.e. toxic algal Species have a resting stage which lies in the sediment. If dredging disturbs this, they can transform to algal bloom which can be harmful to humans.

6. Scientists at the Shoreline Development Project at Western Carolina University are not aware of any data that supports the hypothesis that sediment removal may improve tidal flushing and help improve nursery habitats within the tributary stems. However a document drafted by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, 2015 North Carolina Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, suggests that dredging will have a negative impact on habitats and ecosystems. This document has been approved by Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal Resource Commission and Environmental Management Commission. The report has been forwarded to DENR for submission to the legislature for approval.

- A. Is there scientific evidence that supports sediment removal helps improve tidal flushing and nursery habitats?
- B. Should <sup>WJ</sup> North Jinks Creek only be accessible to shallow water boats, canoes and kayaks?

7. The Moffat and Nichol report states that the four finger canals, A, B, C, D are presently -3 to -1 foot below mean low water and the design depth is - 4 feet below mean low water.

- A. Why is the Moffat & Nichol Proposal to dredge - 6 feet below mean low water in Jinks Creek, when the canals can only support -4 feet without danger of bulkhead blow out?

8. The waters of Jinks Creek are clearly designated SA and HQW by Marine Fisheries.

- A. Why is no shellfish survey required or proposed for Jinks Creek?

9. Regulations prohibit the contamination of waters on State Conservation Reserves such as Bird Island.

- A. How will this dredging project affect the surrounding waters of the Bird Island Conservation Reserve on the west end of the island and Tubbs Inlet on the south part of Jinks Creek.

10. What happens to the ecology of the small feeder creeks off Jinks Creek when the Creek is dredged to -6 to -7 feet below mean low water?

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