

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
2016 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND PRE-DREDGE ANALYSIS
PERMITTING

PROGRESS REPORT DATE
MARCH 06, 2018

Report Period: February 01 thru February 28, 2018

The items below provide a description of key elements related to the current progress, including outstanding items and anticipated resolutions, for completing the work known as Town of Sunset Beach, 2016 Shoreline Management and Pre-Dredge Analysis, Phase 3 - Permitting.

Acronyms: M&N – Moffatt & Nichol
DCM – North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
DMF – North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service
WRC – North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.
USACE – US Army Corps of Engineers (Wilmington District)

Phase 1 – Feasibility Analysis (100% complete)

Items Previously Completed: (100%)

The Town of Sunset Beach (Town) and M&N initiated a contract on February 19th to study the feasibility of conducting approximately 3.5 miles of navigation dredging within the Town limits. The work areas include Mary’s Creek, Turtle Creek, Jinks Creek, the Feeder Canal and adjoining finger canals, and the Bay area. The results of the analysis were positive and the Town elected to move forward with the design and modeling of the proposed work on June 7th. The design work was authorized to begin July 1, 2016.

Phase 2 –Design (100% complete)

Items Previously Completed (100%)

M&N completed the design phase for the project in August 2017. The work included identifying a dredge alignment and determining the volume of dredge material. M&N also completed a shellfish survey for Mary’s and Turtle Creeks and identified material placement locations for the compatible and non-compatible material. The design will continue to be refined as new information becomes available from the environmental studies proposed through the permitting process.

Phase 3 –Permitting (99.00% complete)

Items Previously Completed: (97.00% complete)

1.0 Project Coordination

- The Town conceptually agreed to move forward with use of the USACE material placement islands 310 or 311 at a cost of \$5.75 / cubic yard as a tipping fee. The tipping fee will be paid to the underlying property owner if the material placement islands are used.

2.0 Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

- The field work required for the shellfish survey was completed on October 6th. Efforts are now focusing on completing the written report detailing the survey findings. The report findings will be circulated to the resource agencies to determine the appropriate permitting process for Jinks Creek. Figure 1 shows the initial results of the shellfish survey.

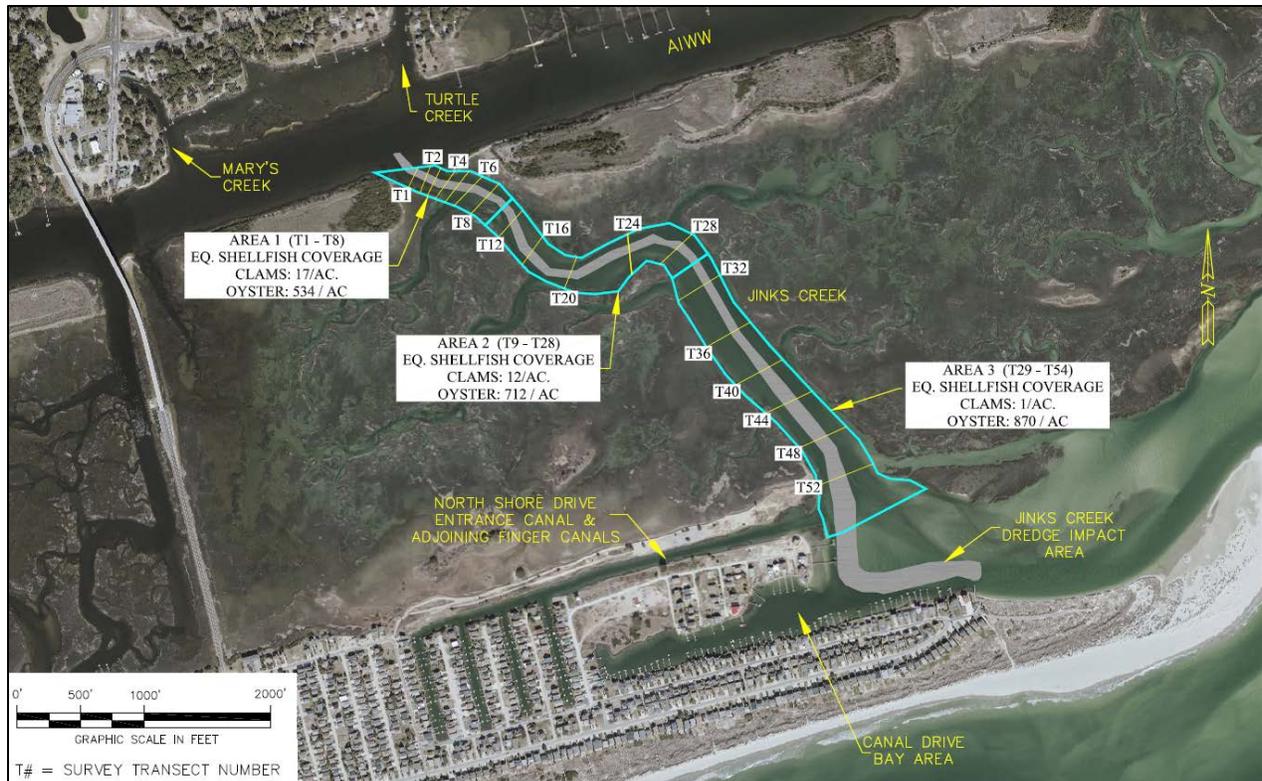


Figure 1. Initial Results of Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

3.0 Jinks Creek Site Meeting

- The Jinks Creek site meeting was held on Friday, July 21st with representatives from DCM, DMF, NMFS, USACE, WRC, the Town, and M&N. As a follow up from the site meeting M&N provided an extrapolated expected shellfish quantity in northern Jinks Creek. The list below provides the extrapolated results. (Note the area designations refer to those shown in the figure above.)
 - i. Area 1 – 17 Clams per acre / 534 Oyster per acre.
 - ii. Area 2 – 12 Clams per acre / 712 Oyster per acre.
 - iii. Area 3 – 1 Clam per acre / 870 Oyster per acre.
- Comments received from the site visit indicate NMFS supports the project, but will require some type of mitigation / relocation efforts for the impacted oyster in northern Jinks Creek. The agencies have also indicated the full shellfish survey of Jinks Creek will be required to evaluate the potential impacts.
- Alternate comments received from DCM suggested the agencies would prefer to see 3 permit applications for this overall project covering the following areas:
 - i. Mary's & Turtle Creek.
 - ii. Feeder Canal, Finger Canals, & Bay Area.
 - iii. Jinks Creek as a whole.

5.0 - 8.0 EFH, BA, Cultural Resource Review, & CAMA Major Permit Review

- DCM reviewed the draft CAMA Major permit applications for both Mary's & Turtle Creek and the Feeder Canal & Bay Area and recommended changes to each. DCM noted a buffer zone would be required around any existing marsh grass for both applications. Additional clarifications on how the permit application can satisfy DCM's concerns should be provided by mid-February.

9.0 Coordination with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach (OIB)

- The Town and M&N met with OIB officials and staff on July 24th to update OIB on the project status. The meeting also began official discussions concerning the cost share potential for beach compatible material placement on OIB. As part of the next step, the Town of Sunset Beach will provide a formal request for cost share consideration by OIB.

Progress this Period: (2.00% of total task)

2.0 Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

- M&N completed a draft copy of the shellfish survey and report for distribution and review by the permitting agencies. The findings were presented to the Town at the February 20th council meeting. The report noted some type of mitigation efforts would most likely be required as part of the Jinks Creek dredging. M&N will research potential options for the Town's consideration and discussion at the next agency coordination meeting.

4.0 Agency Coordination Meeting

- M&N submitted a request for the 3rd agency coordination meeting on March 6th to DCM. The meeting should occur in late March and will focus on the permitting and mitigation requirements for Jinks Creek.

5.0 - 8.0 EFH, BA, Cultural Resource Review, & CAMA Major Permit Review

- M&N submitted the revised CAMA major permit for Mary's and Turtle Creek in late February. The permit application included the EFH, BA, and cultural resource review as well as revised drawings showing a dredging buffer around the marsh grasses to minimize potential impacts.
- DCM also clarified that pursuant to NCAC 15A 07H.0208.b.1.f that any proposed work in the Feeder Canal and Bay Area would need to consider the controlling depth of Jinks Creek. The Feeder Canal and Bay Area dredging would not be allowed to extend deeper than the controlling depth of Jinks Creek, which is approx. -2 MLW. Therefore, Jinks Creek would most likely have to be dredged in order to achieve the current design for the Feeder Canal and Bay Area (-5MLW +1). This topic will be discussed at the next agency coordination meeting.

10.0 Environmental Management

- Environmental management efforts continued to provide oversight and guidance for the preparation of the documentation required for the CAMA major permit submittal and the Jinks Creek mitigation efforts.

Outstanding Items and Anticipated Completion Dates:

2.0 Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

- M&N will research and provide potential mitigation options for the Town's consideration. The alternatives will be discussed at the next agency coordination meeting.

4.0 3rd Agency Coordination Meeting

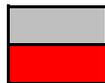
- The 3rd coordination meeting should occur in late March, pending the resource agencies schedule. The meeting will focus on the permitting and mitigation requirements for Jinks Creek.

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DESIGN & PERMITTING**

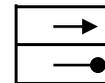
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Progress Schedule

Tasks	2016						2017						2018														
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Project Coordination																											
Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey																											
Jinks Creek Site Meeting																											
3rd Agency Coordination Meeting																											
EFH Assessment																											
Biological Assessment (BA)																											
Cultural Resources Review																											
CAMA Major Permit																											
Coordination with OIB																											
Environmental Management																											



Anticipated timeframe to complete task.
Anticipated overrun in task.



Work in progress (WIP) for task.
Actual timeframe to complete task.