

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

PROGRESS REPORT DATE
FEBRUARY 12, 2018

Report Period: January 01 thru January 31, 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 (97.00% complete)

Items Previously Completed: (95.00% 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

- M&N completed the draft CAMA permit applications for Turtle & Mary's Creek as well as the Feeder Canal and Bay Area in late December. (The applications include the EFH, BA and Cultural Resource Review).

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 continued efforts to complete the shellfish survey and report. Efforts have concentrated on completing the CAMA major permit applications for Mary's & Turtle Creek as well as the Feeder Canal & Bay Area.. However, the shellfish survey report should be completed in mid-February so the results can be discussed at the Feb. 20th council meeting.

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. DCM also noted additional changes to the Feeder Canal and Bay Area application may be necessary to show the project will not dredge deeper than the connecting waters. Additional clarifications on how the permit application can satisfy DCM's concerns should be provided by mid-February.

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.

Outstanding Items and Anticipated Completion Dates:

2.0 Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

- The shellfish survey report will be provided to the Town for review in February. Pending any comments from the Town, the document will be circulated to the resource agencies to determine the most appropriate permitting path for Jinks Creek.

4.0 3rd Agency Coordination Meeting

- The 3rd coordination meeting will be scheduled after the shellfish survey report has been circulated to the resource agencies. The survey results should help define a clear path for permitting northern Jinks Creek, in terms of the type of permit needed and the overall process for obtaining. The agencies have indicated the 3rd meeting may not be necessary based on the shellfish survey results. Email correspondence and phone calls may suffice to disseminate the project information and responses. A decision will be made following agency review of the Jinks Creek shellfish survey. The shellfish survey results are anticipated to be discussed at the February 20th Town of Sunset Beach council meeting.

5.0 CAMA Major Permit

- DCM, the Town, and M&N will meet to review and discuss the Feeder Canal & Bay Area permit application on February 13th. The meeting should provide clarification on the revisions necessary to show consistency between the proposed work and the allowable dredge depths compared to connecting water bodies.

