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# HCD South Atlantic and Caribbean Branch

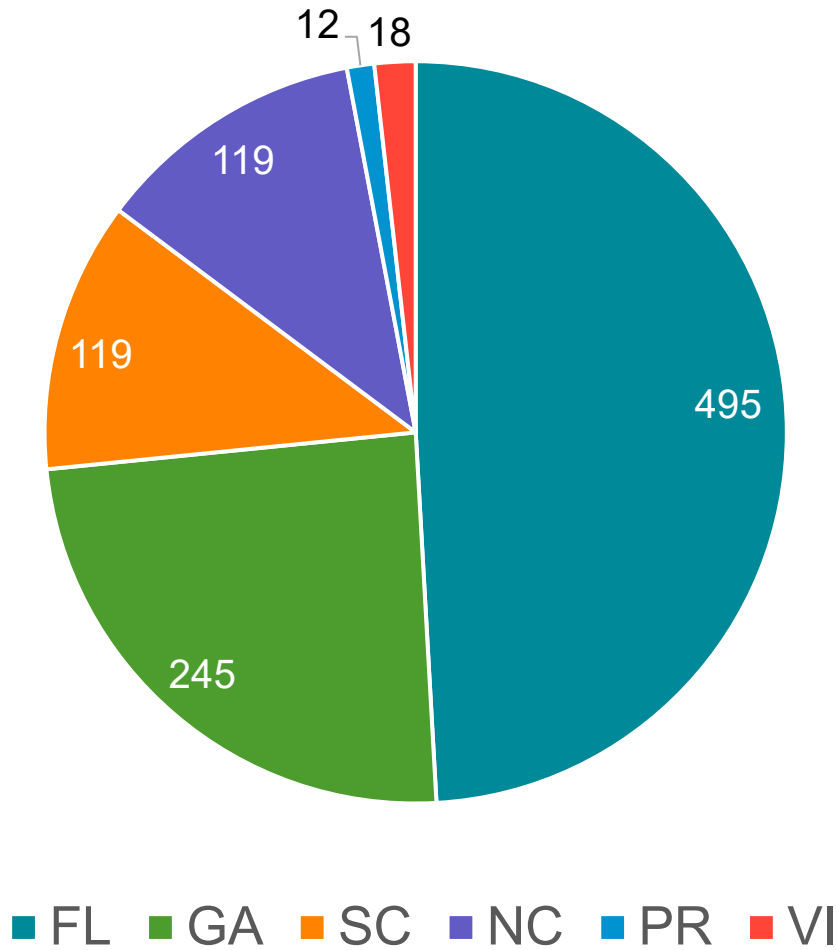
## SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Meeting

January 29, 2026

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# NMFS Consultations Received

## By State, FY 2025



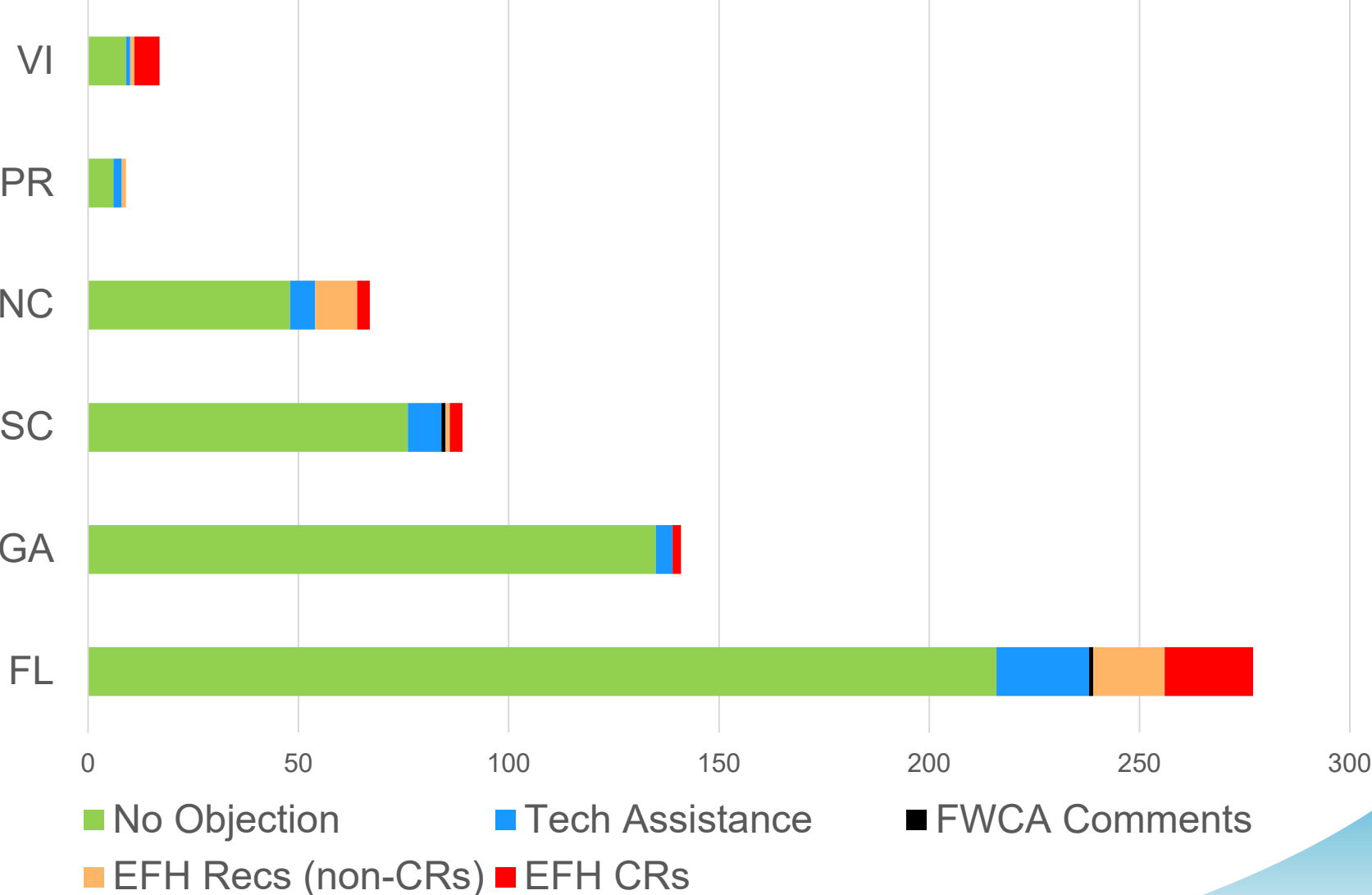
## South Atlantic Region FY 2022- 2025

FY	Total
2022	832
2023	960
2024	849
<b>2025</b>	<b>1010</b>

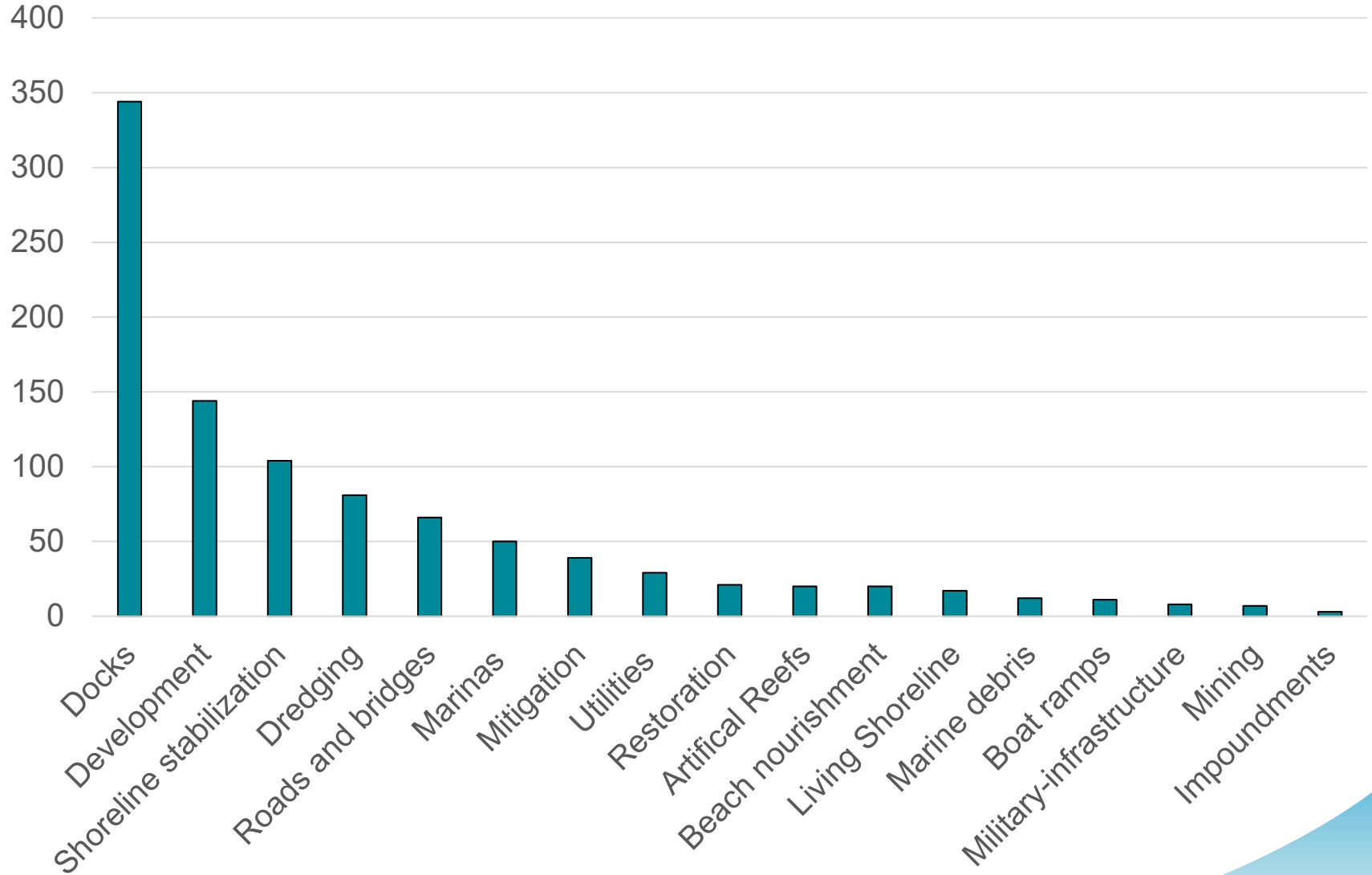


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# Consultation Response by State, FY 2025

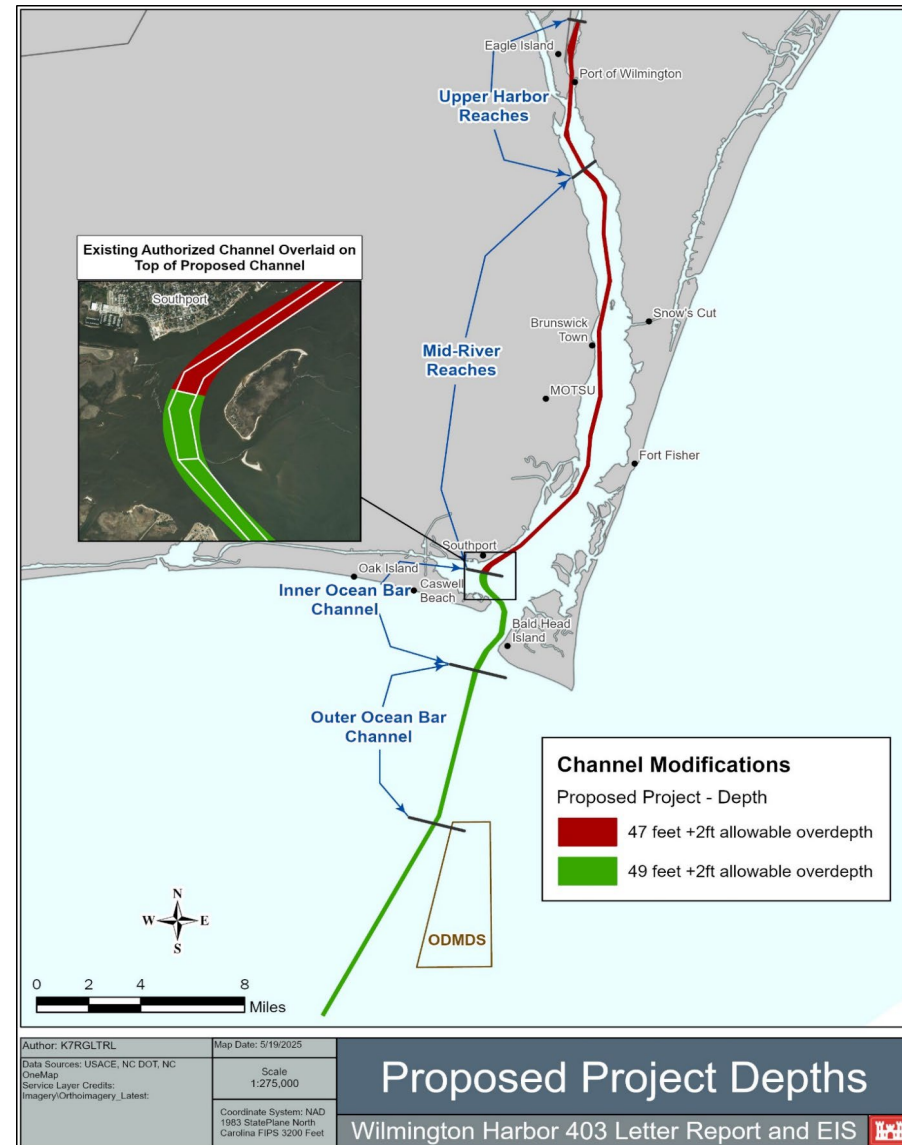


# Types of Projects Reviewed, FY 2025



# USACE Wilmington Harbor NIP

- Extending Ocean Bar Channel 9 mi (-49 ft MLLW)
- Deepening inlet channels to -49 ft
- Deepening inner harbor channels from -42 to -47 ft
- Widening inner and outer channels 0 to 600 ft
- More beneficial use of dredge material - subtidal areas of the Cape Fear River to create mud flats and enhance bird islands, and for ocean beach nourishment



# USACE Wilmington Harbor IP

## EFH Impacts - deepening and widening of channels:

Area	New Channel Dredging (ac)	New Side Slope Dredging (ac)	Total New Dredging (ac)
<b>Inner Harbor</b>			
PNA	95.0	165.7	260.7
SNA	27.0	71.8	98.8
CSS	172.0	69.2	241.2
Other Subtidal Bottom	36.0	61.4	97.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>330.0</b>	<b>368.1</b>	<b>698.1</b>
<b>Outer Harbor</b>			
CSS	6.0	18.7	24.7
Other Subtidal Bottom	699.0	132.2	831.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>705.0</b>	<b>150.9</b>	<b>855.9</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>1,035.0</b>	<b>519.0</b>	<b>1,554.0</b>

No mitigation offered for impacts to designated nursery areas and inlet spawning areas- HAPC



# USACE Wilmington Harbor IP

## Other Impacts

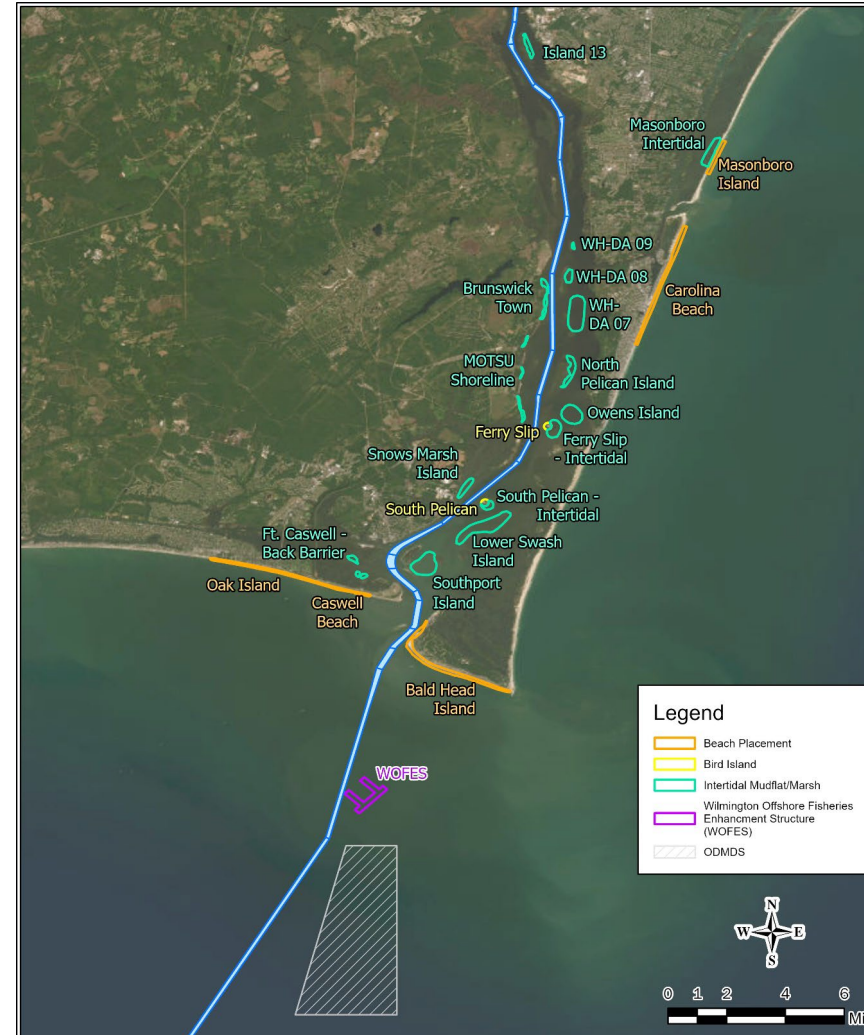
- Blasting in upper portion of inner harbor south of Eagle Island
- Resuspension of toxins – metals, PFAS
- Altered salinity regime- upstream shift- impacting wetland communities and anadromous species
- Ship wakes and increased water levels → wetland impacts
- No environmental windows



# USACE Wilmington Harbor IP

## Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

- Placement of approximately 50% of the dredge material:
  - 1) Nourish ocean beaches
  - 2) Enhance bird islands
  - 3) Create mud flats on subtidal and intertidal bottom - 13 sites
- Sediment transport modelling needed
- Input from experts on design and construction
- Add marsh planting and possibly riprap to stabilize sediment movement
- Monitor!



Author: K7RGLTRL  
Map Date: 4/29/2025  
Data Sources: USACE  
Service Layer Credits: World Imagery, Earthstar Geographics  
Scale: 1:240,000  
Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984

## Beneficial Use Sites

Wilmington Harbor 403 Letter Report and EIS

# USACE Wilmington Harbor IP - Mitigation

Black River Corridor Preservation



Lock and Dam #1 – fish passage - bypass



Photo: A. Cradick

Eagle Island/Alligator Creek



Photo: Eagles Island Nature Park

Lock and Dam #2 – fish passage – rock arch ramp



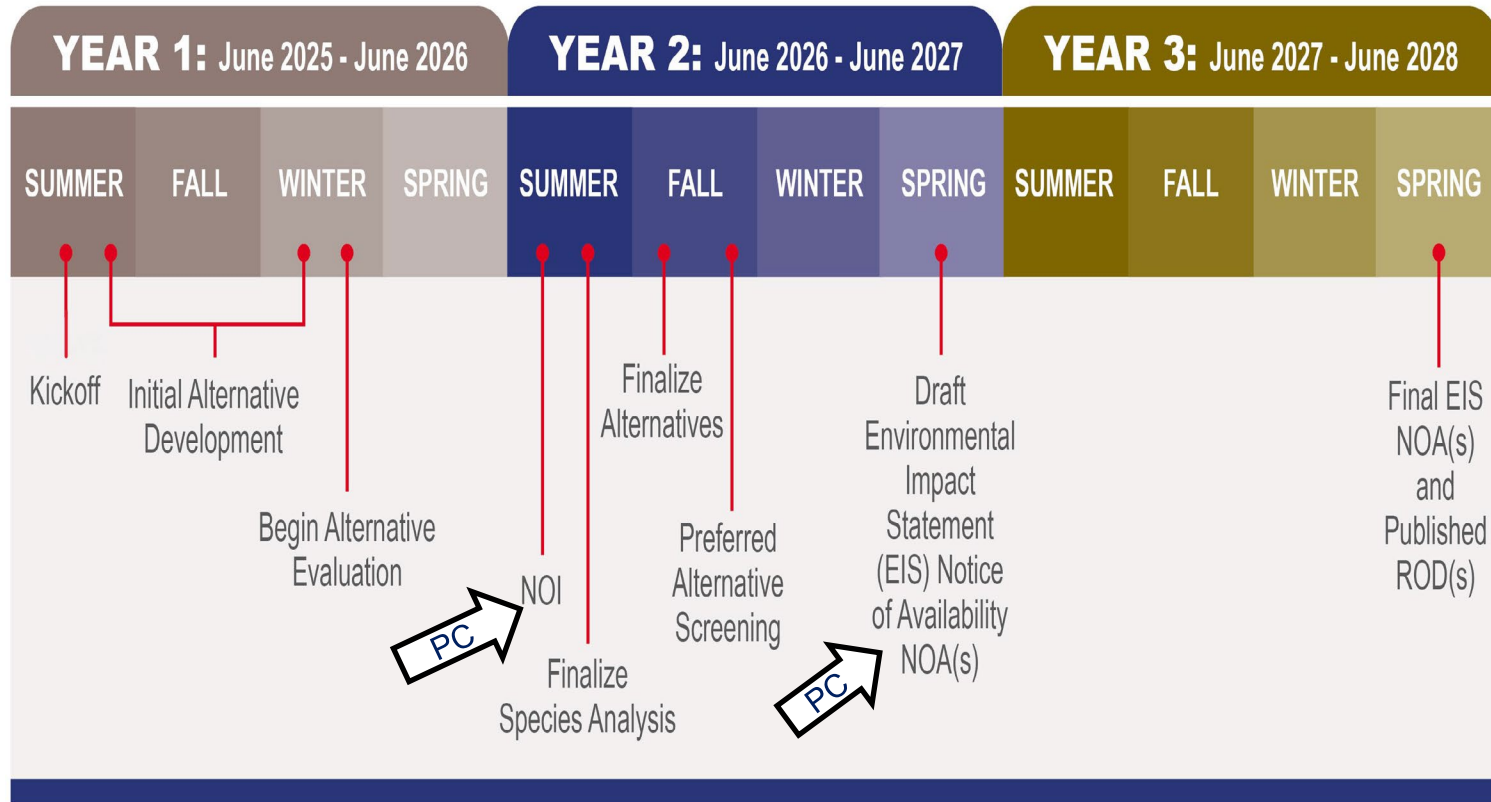
Photo: A. Cradick

# South Atlantic Regional Dredging EIS

## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development

2024 - South Atlantic Division held initial workshop for input on future EISs for Operation and Maintenance Dredging at four ports:

- Morehead Harbor
- Charleston Harbor
- Wilmington Harbor
- Brunswick Harbor



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# South Atlantic Regional Dredging EIS:

Scientifically based approach to determining TOYs

## Prioritized Fisheries of Concern

- Federal fishery species population health and economic value
- Vulnerability to TSS (life stage, water column position, proximity to dredge site)
- Time of year present in project area

## Sensitive EFH of Concern

- Direct and indirect risk to structured habitat
- Ecological importance of affected EFH

## Dredging Specifics

- Gear Type – hopper, pipeline cutter, mechanical
- BMP practices – no overflow, turbidity monitoring
- Project Size – volume, duration
- Sediment characteristics – grain size, quality

# Beneficial Use Activities

## USACE Navigational Projects

### Private HOA

- Use dredge material from entrance channel and boat basin for thin layer on salt marsh
- Dropped due to expense of renting equipment

### NGOs

- NC Coastal Federation
- Audubon – Currituck Sound

### Research

- Research Reserves
- NCCOS



# NC Living Shoreline Assessments



# NC Living Shoreline Assessments





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# QUESTIONS?

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