



Minutes

Dare County Oregon Inlet Task Force Meeting

Dare County Administration Building
Manteo, NC

9:30 a.m. July 15, 2025

Attendance: Steve House, Harry Schiffman, Anthony Lloyd, Bob Peele, Brown Douglas

Staff: Barton Grover

Others in Attendance: Jordan Hennessy, Patrick Tallant, Michael Flynn, Brad Rosov, Mark Vrablic, Ronnie Smith, Stuart Wescott, Shay Hutchings

- **Welcome guests**
 - Meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Chairman House.
- **Review Minutes- June 10, 2025**
 - Bob Peele motioned to approve minutes, with edits on page 2 clarifying permission was granted for the northern section of Old House Channel Range 2, motion to allow the Miss Katie to depart included the month of August if necessary, and clarification that the Corps has not allowed dredging in Old House Channel Range 2 due to concerns with their contract. Anthony Lloyd seconded. All in favor.
- **USCG ANT Wanchese Update**
 - Patrick Tallant introduced Lieutenant Shay Hutchings, who is the new waterways management division chief.
 - Patrick reported they temporarily disestablished buoy 13 in the Alternate Channel to facilitate dredging. When the Miss Katie returns, they will temporarily relocate 16 and 27 and then the Coast Guard will mark best water once dredging is finalized. There is a crew repairing the jetty light currently.

- **U.S. Army Corps Update**

- Ronnie Smith reported the pipeline contractor will return September 1st to continue dredging Old House Channel Range 2. Steve House asked if there was a timeline for completion. Ronnie Smith stated they do not have the schedule yet, but they will provide that before construction.

- **EJE Dredging Update**

- Jordan Hennessy reviewed the daily dredging summary report for June. The Miss Katie has worked in federal channels range 14 through part of Old House 1 and the northern section of Old House 2. Through June she dredged approximately 68,000 cy from Oregon Inlet and Katie Cut and approximately 23,000 from in the interior channels.
- Jordan Hennessy reported the Miss Katie is now in the shipyard for the three-year required haul out and inspection. Steve House asked when the Miss Katie is expected to return. Jordan answered hopefully next week.

- **CPE Update**

- Brad Rosov updated the Task Force on recent dredge events. He informed the Task Force that the reinstated Oregon Inlet permit requires a new survey if the Miss Katie is not dredging the Alternate Channel or Ocean Bar for more than 14 days. Jordan Hennessy responded they will obtain a survey if it appears ship maintenance would go beyond the 14-day mark since last day of dredging.
- Brad Rosov also discussed the meeting with the Corps, Coast Guard, and NCDOT on the situation in the Alternate Channel. The channel has been pushed further and further south away from the lighted navigation span 22 requiring boaters to take a left hand turn on their way offshore. 21 is the last viable span that is in the dredge corridor and is not ideal due to the shoal east of the bridge.
- Brad Rosov stated this meeting provided situational awareness to the Corps, Coast Guard, and NCDOT. Corps Navigation reiterated their position on deepest water, however Josh Pelletier with Corps Regulatory indicated Dare County could modify their permit to deviate from the Corps defined channel in this area if the County can show a purpose and need. Previously Dare County had been informed the permit must mirror what the Corps defined as the federal channel, due to the County being tied to the Corps Environmental Assessment.
- Brad Rosov continued that he believes there is good justification for this modification and he is ready to put together a package of ideas to modify the Oregon Inlet permit if the Task Force would like him to pursue. The Corps asked

that Dare County put together all their requests into one modification. Brad mentioned this could be funnels, a wider channel, and a defined channel near the navigation span, anything that is justified and defensible to provide safe navigation. Steve House commented the meeting was very informative as well as frustrating at times. Corps Regulatory seemed to understand the situation and the need for safe navigation. Harry Schiffman commented the Task Force should seek to go ahead to not necessarily follow deep water to avoid having to go back and argue over the Corps interpretation again. Brad Rosov said that is the sort of thinking the Task Force should consider and craft language such as best navigable water. Anthony Lloyd commented that the definition of navigable water is broad and its in the code that the water body is not extinguished by later action or events which impede the naval passing which existed prior to the impediment. Anthony went on to state that we should keep our ability broad to maintain the navigable waters. Harry Schiffman stated we should list all the possible modifications we can make and for Brad Rosov to present a comprehensive list and not be overly restrictive or discount any possible amendment that would improve navigation.

- Steve House stated he would be in favor of a permit modification and made a motion for Brad Rosov to develop a comprehensive list of modification needs for the Oregon Inlet permit to be discussed at the next meeting. Bob Peele seconded. All in favor.
- Anthony Lloyd asked the Coast Guard if they could pull a report of search and rescue operations in the area so the Task Force could use that information in support of the requests. Patrick Tallant stated they could. Harry Schiffman cautioned the use of this data because the mariners who run these boats, if they have a grounding, do not want to report it due to all the paperwork associated with a grounding. Harry went on to state the report will not give a good picture of the situation at Oregon Inlet due to underreporting and it also won't take into account the near misses. Mark Vrablic commented he has suggested multiple times there should be a number fishermen can call to anonymously report these issues. Mark stated when he calls the Coast Guard about these issues, they respond they have not heard about any groundings. These boats with 80 to 100 tons coming through there 150 ft wide with the outriggers need enough room to line up to get though the bridge and they cannot turn at the last minute. There was a boat aground due to a shoal last Saturday drawing 9 ½ to 10ft, this channel is constantly shifting. They cannot make that left turn west of the bridge on a flood tide.
- Jordan Hennessy asked the Corps about the recent change in waypoints on their survey. Ronnie Smith said they were adjusted based off where they feel the deepest navigable water is. Jordan Hennessy commented the recent waypoint

change does go to span 22 and asked if the Dare County dredge box could be changed to follow the Corps coordinates. The Task Force reviewed the survey and it was decided to look into creating a dredge box aligning with those coordinates.

- **Administrative comments**

1. Current Budget

- .1.1 Miss Katie DEQ Contract Remaining Funds (as of March 31)

- .1.1.1 Oregon Inlet – \$8,500,000

- .1.1.2 Wanchese to 17ext. - \$1,000,000

- .1.1.3 Crack & Walter Slough - \$2,000,000

- .1.1.4 Old House 2 - \$500,000

2. Barton Grover stated we have received all new contracts for FY26 other than the Crack & Walter Slough. Once the last invoice is received for June, Barton said he would send a comprehensive review of the FY25 dredging numbers to the Task Force.

3. Harry Schiffman asked if a copy of the Oregon Inlet permit could be provided to the Task Force. Barton responded he would email the permit to them.

4. Michael Flynn asked for a status update on the SAV report and status update on installation of cleats and dredging at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. Brad Rosov stated a SAV survey has been completed and they are working with a licensed surveyor to sign off on the report. Jordan Hennessy stated they would do the install and dredging once the Task Force requested a Crack & Walter Slough event.

- **Adjourn**

Anthony Lloyd motioned to adjourn. Steve House seconded