



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**69 DARLINGTON AVENUE**  
**WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343**

September 25, 2025

Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Cameron Luck  
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Coastal Management  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Dear Mr. Luck:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, has prepared the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Snow's Cut Stabilization Project, located in Wilmington, North Carolina, dated September 2025. The proposed Federal action would stabilize the shoreline of the land cut, as erosion has significantly impacted the 1.6-mile shoreline surrounding the federal navigation channel. This action would stabilize the federally-owned land and provide safer access to both the Cape Fear River and Atlantic intracoastal waterway (AIWW).

An electronic version of the draft document is available on the USACE Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/PublicNotices/>

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is seeking Federal Consistency concurrence for proposed stabilization activity of Snow's Cut in Wilmington, North Carolina. In order to maintain current authorized uses of federal lands bordering the federal navigation channel at Snow's Cut, and to protect infrastructure, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat within those lands, USACE proposes to stabilize eroding banks throughout Snow's Cut, subject to available funding and resources.

The existing navigation channel through Snow's Cut includes three segments of the AIWW (from west to east): Section 5 Tangent 3, Section 5 Tangent 4, and Section 5 Tangent 4a. These channels are fixed (non-movable) and are dredged to an authorized width and depth as authorized by the Navigation Act of 1927. The dimensions of Section 5 Tangents 3 and 4, the majority of Snow's Cut navigational channels, are 90 feet wide and 12 feet deep with an additional two feet of overdepth, as measured at mean low lower water (MLLW). Section 5 Tangent 4a, the turning corridor to the eastern end of the Cut, is 12 feet deep plus two of overdepth, is a short section that widens from 90 feet to 260 feet, back to 90 feet. To the west of the Cut's navigation channels is the Cape Fear River navigational project; to the east is the AIWW channels. Both navigational channel areas run north to

south, while the Cut's channels run east to west, connecting the river channels to the AIWW channels.

Under the proposed action, the USACE would evaluate and deploy the most appropriate designs to protect and stabilize Snow's Cut's banks on an as-needed basis, in addition to the four initial stabilization efforts. The USACE would identify areas at most risk of continued erosion and utilize bank stabilization measures tailored to the areas' topographies, vegetation, bathymetries, and other physical and environmental considerations, as it has done for the initial stabilization effort.

Construction of additional stabilization measures at other eroding areas within Snow's Cut may be considered in the future depending on funding and available technologies. The impacts of proposed stabilization measures will be assessed for all bank areas of Snow's Cut that are not considered wetlands or intertidal marsh, and where bank stabilization measures have not already been constructed. Construction of proposed bank stabilization measures will avoid wetlands and intertidal marsh areas unless future conditions require reassessment, in accordance with all NEPA regulations.

The USACE is committed to balancing safe reliable navigation and environmental stewardship. There are no major identified impacts to any resource within the project area, and no environmental timeframe to abide by for placement of rock or sediment.

In accordance with Section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, USACE has determined that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's Coastal Management Program. This determination is based on the review of the proposed project against the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program, which are principally found in Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code. We request that the NCDCM concur with this consistency determination and provide a response no later than **60 days** from the date of this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. John Policarpo, Acting Environmental Resources Section Chief, at (910) 251-4700 or by email at [John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Bret L. Walters  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch