

SHORELINES – February 2002 **As presented to the Island Review Magazine.**

The past year has been extremely busy in regards to the County's Shore Protection efforts. There has been an abounding amount of information about Section 933, Section 111, long-term projects, local projects, and a host of associated issues that have appeared in the news. Understanding what these projects accomplish and how they are incorporated into a comprehensive Shore Protection Management Plan can most easily be conceptualized by dividing these projects into two categories; **(1) Long-Term and Supplemental Beach Restoration Projects** and **(2) Morehead City Harbor Sand Management Projects**. In this article, we'll briefly discuss the components of the first category.

The most fundamental and comprehensive project is the 50-year ***United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works Project***. Under this project, the USACE plans and implements a beach nourishment strategy that will incorporate the entire Bogue Banks barrier chain. At the earliest, initial nourishment could begin winter of 2008. Given this timeline, portions of our beach ecosystem, maritime forest, recreational beach and infrastructure would be severely depleted, or removed entirely, if other alternatives were not pursued.

There are presently three supplemental projects that are aimed to restore the beach in the 6+ year interim before the construction phase of the USACE Civil Works Project. In winter 2001, the towns of Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach implemented a 100% locally-funded beach nourishment project (***PKS/IB Joint Restoration Project***). This supplemental, emergency project is scheduled to place approximately 2.1 million cubic yards of sand on the beaches of Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach. Emerald Isle voters will have the opportunity to initiate a similar project this March. Such a project would augment the PKS/IB Joint Restoration Project, thereby increasing the shore protection capacity of Bogue Banks until the USACE Civil Works Project is initiated.

USACE Dredge Disposal to Eastern Bogue Banks is part of the USACE's lowest-cost dredge disposal policy of the Morehead City Harbor and is implemented at no cost to the county or local municipalities. The geographic range of this project is the Fort Macon State Park and Atlantic Beach areas of Bogue Banks. Sediment that is dredged from the inner harbor is stockpiled on Brandt Island (located north of Fort Macon), and is discharged (pumped out) to the beaches every 8 years to provide accommodation space for future dredged sediment.

Carteret County has also applied for a ***USACE Section 933 Project*** that will be implemented concurrently with the next scheduled Brandt Island pump out in winter 2003. This project will place sand along the beaches of Pine Knoll Shores and possibly Indian Beach, thereby serving as an insurance measure for the PKS/IB Joint Restoration Project.

Next month we'll discuss the most critical shore protection issue for Bogue Banks and the second tier of the Shore Protection Management Plan (Morehead City Harbor Sand Management Projects). We are presently working on the Shore Protection Office webpage that will provide detailed information and visuals aids regarding all of the aforementioned projects.