

Town of North Topsail Beach

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Tom Leonard, Mayor Pro Tem
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2015

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PHASE FIVE BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY RESTORES SOUTH END OF NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH

NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH – The Town of North Topsail Beach has completed its Phase Five Beach Restoration Project. Approximately 1.25 million cubic yards of sand was dredged from an offshore borrow source approximately ½ mile off the shores of Topsail Island. The dredged material was used to rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of shoreline on the south end of North Topsail Beach (from 3682 Island Drive to the Surf City line). This was the first shoreline protection project constructed at Topsail Island using an offshore source for sand.

The Phase Five Beach Restoration Project was the second event of a five phase plan proposed by Coastal Planning and Engineering (CP&E) that will bring the Town into compliance with FEMA’s requirements for an engineered beach. The Town will now be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program. This assistance may be provided to replace material lost from the beach during a presidentially declared disaster. In order to maintain eligibility status the Town must establish and adhere to a maintenance program involving periodic nourishments to preserve the project’s original design. The Town has adopted such a program and is moving forward with the implementation which will include completing the initial restoration of Phases Two through Four and the maintenance of all the phases. The work was completed by Norfolk Construction at a cost of \$16.8 million. Construction began on December 18, 2014 and was wrapped up on June 30, 2015 in accordance with the Town’s extension to move past the April 30th dredge window.

The project was financed through an 11 year U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan. Funds from the Town’s 15 cent ad valorem tax and the Town’s 3 percent accommodation tax will go to pay back the loan in future years. “This has been the largest capital project undertaken by the Town, and despite some unexpected problems in executing the project, rocks in the borrow area and poor weather, everyone who visits the 3 ½ mile project area will be pleased with the results,” said Mayor Daniel Tuman. “We now have a wider beach which is a great recreational asset. The additional sand also improves wildlife habitat and provides shoreline protection which will mitigate potential storm damage,” Tuman added.

The public is welcome to enjoy the improved beach and can access it at one of the three public parking lots (North Topsail Beach lot at 3623 Island Drive, Onslow County Beach Access #2 at 2950 Island Drive and North Topsail Beach 21st Avenue lot) or several side streets along this 3 ½ mile area of North Topsail Beach.

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Aerial photo taken June 24, 2015 from the south end of the project looking north. Norfolk Dredging Company stopped pumping sand on the beach on the morning of Saturday, June 21st to begin demobilization efforts to clear the shoreline of equipment to meet the June 30th deadline.



Aerial photo taken June 24, 2015 from the southern end of the project looking south toward Surf City. Norfolk Dredging Company stopped pumping sand on the beach on the morning of Saturday, June 21st to begin demobilization efforts to clear the shoreline of equipment to meet the June 30th deadline.



Photo taken today (7/1/2015) near 3623 Island Drive.