

Goals of the CBIA

Shallow Draft Inlet Maintenance

We must assume there is NO FEDERAL FUNDING in the future. That is why the State of North Carolina, along with coastal townships and counties, had to come up with emergency dredging funds for 2012. The USACE does not have the money in their budget for shallow draft inlet dredging.

Shallow draft Inlets at Risk:

CarolinaBeach
Lockwood Folly
New Topsail
Bogue
New River

Short Term goals for keeping the inlets open:

Secure funding at the state level so the USACE can maintain the shallow draft inlets. In years past the budget for the USACE was 1 million dollars an inlet for a total of 5 million dollars a year. We are the only state in the US that allows side cast dredging. Rodger Bulluck from the USACE told us we could keep the dredge Merritt in operation for 3.5 million a year. This buys us time so we can find a solid long-term solution for all of our shallow draft inlets.

Shallow Draft Inlet Funding:

1. Gas tax for boats

2. Increase the fee for Saltwater fishing license

(There were 360,289 sold from July 2010 to June 2011)

3. Increase fees on Boat registration

4. Create a property tax designated solely for Inlet and Waterway maintenance in Coastal Counties. This is already being done in Florida. They have a state agency called FIND (Florida Inland Navigation District) that oversees the use of these funds.

5. Increase tax on boats registered in coastal counties.

All funds created from the fees/taxes need to be designated/earmarked solely for Inlet and Waterway maintenance. These funds are not to go into the general fund.

Medium Term Goals:

Secure the Dredge Fry from the USACE and put it into the NC Ferry System. The USACE has decommissioned the Dredge Fry and can donate/sell it to another government agency. According to sources in the USACE the dredge is still intact. The dredge needs minimal work and funds (\$500,000 to \$750,000), before it could be brought back into operation. The Ferry Service already has the shipyard that does all the work for the USACE. According to sources within the USACE the state could operate the Dredge Fry at half of the cost.

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