

**Proposed Questions Pertaining to the
Shoreline Management and Dredging Proposal**

(As developed by the Sunset Beach Environmental Resource Committee
and finalized during the 11/02/16 Committee Meeting)

1. The March Scoping Application stated one of the reasons for the proposed dredging was to establish a navigable passageway through the canal.
 - a. Once Jinks Creek is -6 to -7 feet of mean low water, what size boat will be able to pass through Jinks Creek?
 - b. How will the wakes of these boats (recreational and commercial) change the impact of turbulence to the sediment and the shoreline?
 - c. How can we control the impact of these wakes?

2. Shallow water boats can enter the ICW from Jinks Creek at low tide.
 - a. What is the current depth of the proposed channel in North Jinks Creek?
 - b. What will be the future depth below mean low tide of the channel in North Jinks Creek?
 - c. Usually dredging is used for transportation purposes/economic value unless it is used for environmental purposes (which it is not in this case). If dredging is going to be used to increase the depth in this area, what is the point if it is not a navigational channel for international/national trade purposes? (Moffat and Nichol's Pre Dredge Analysis dated May 2, 2016, PAGE 9, Elevation Legend for Jinks Creek depth at present is -5 to -3 feet at mean low water. The design depth is -6 mean low water.)

3. Jinks Creek was determined not to be a PNA in the 1970s
 - a. Should the status of North Jinks Creek as a PNA be reevaluated prior to applying for a dredging permit?

4. CAMA regulations state that navigational channels, canals and boat basins shall be aligned or located so to avoid PNAs, shellfish beds and beds of submerged aquatic vegetation.

- a. Should North Jinks Creek shellfish beds be mapped prior to applying for a dredging permit?
 - b. Should North Jinks Creek submerged aquatic vegetation be mapped prior to applying for a dredging permit?
- 5. The shellfish in North Jinks Creek have ingested sufficient concentrations of pollutants to be inedible.
 - a. Should the types and concentration of the pollutants on the bottom of the creek be determined prior to applying for a dredging permit?
 - b. Are there marine pests that could be transferred from the dredged material to its resting site that may pose an environmental concern?
 - c. Are there human health risks to this dredging project? I.e. toxic algal species have a resting state which lies in the sediment. If dredging disturbs this, they can transform to algal bloom which can be harmful to humans.
- 6. Scientists at the Shoreline Development Project at Western Carolina University are not aware of any data that supports the hypothesis that sediment removal may improve tidal flushing and help improve nursery habitats within the tributary systems. However a document drafted by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, 2015 North Carolina Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, suggests that dredging will have a negative impact on habitats and ecosystems. The document has been approved by Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal Resource Commission and Environmental Management omission. The report has been forwarded to DENA for submission to the legislature for approval.
 - a. Is there scientific evidence that supports sediment removal helps improve tidal flushing and nursery habitats?
 - b. Shouldn't North Jinks Creek only be accessible to shallow water boats, canoes and kayaks?
- 7. The Moffat and Nichol report states that the four finger canals, A, B, C, D are presently -3 to -1 foot below mean low water and the design depth is -4 feet below mean low water.

- a. Why is the Moffat & Nichol Proposal to dredge -6 feet below mean low water in Jinks Creek, when the canals can only support -4 feet without danger of bulkhead blow out?
8. The waters of Jinks Creek are clearly designated SA and HQW by Marine Fisheries.
- a. Why is no shellfish survey required or proposed for Jinks Creek?
9. Regulations prohibit the contamination of waters on State Conservation Reserves such as Bird Island.
- a. How will this dredging project affect the surrounding waters of the Bird Island Conservation Reserve on the west end of the island and Tubbs inlet on the south part of Jinks Creek?
10. What happens to the ecology of the small feeder creeks off Jinks Creek when the Creek is dredged to -6 to -7 feet below mean low water?

New Question from Environmental Resource Committee Meeting of November 2, 2016:

11. The Moffat and Nichol Proposal suggests that any beach quality sand from the dredging project be sold to Ocean Isle Beach to offset the cost of the project. North Carolina Statute 113-229, North Carolina Dredge and Fill Law section (h1) and (h2) directs how beach quality sand is to be handled. The “down drift beach” seems to be in conflict with the proposal.
- a. Is Moffat and Nichol aware of this Law?
 - b. How did they consider this Law in their proposal to sell beach quality sand to Ocean Isle Beach?