



North Carolina International Terminal (NCIT) Position Statement

The BHI Conservancy does not support construction of or further concept investments in the proposed International Terminal near Southport, North Carolina for the following reasons:

- Environmental risks associated with this project are immense and include:
 - a. Destruction of wetlands
 - b. Fragmentation of habitat
 - c. Alteration of habitat
 - d. Increases in noise, air, light, and water pollution
 - e. Destruction of species including organisms listed as endangered or threatened
 - f. Saltwater intrusion into the fresh water aquifer
 - g. Increase in erosion
 - h. Potential for increase in storm surge damage
 - i. Increased probability of invasive species introduction
 - j. Conflicts with recreational uses and loss of cultural resource.
- The substantial economic impacts for the region, state and nation including job creation, increases in tax revenue and attraction of new residents and businesses are based upon a business plan (CH²M Hill, Inc.) with unsupported assumptions and exclude the negative impact on jobs and revenue related to destruction of sensitive natural resources.
- The proposed NCIT is a very large scale project that would negatively impact the character of the lower Cape Fear area from a tourist, recreation and retirement based economy, linked to the scenic and productive environmental resources, to one based upon shipping and transport.
- These and similar concerns have also been raised by the following entities: NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Department of Cultural Resources, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, US Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- Construction of the NCIT in close proximity to the Progress Energy Nuclear Plant, Archer-Daniels-Midland chemical processing plant, the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point, and the communities located in Southport and Oak Island provides an exceptional terrorist target and therefore a huge security concern. Impacts on these resources would not only affect human concerns but could have catastrophic impacts to the environmental resources, the current source of jobs and revenue for the region.

Given the above array of problems, questionable economic benefits, and competition from larger East Coast ports; the North Carolina legislature would be well advised to end consideration for the port and pursue economic development that supports natural resources, like wetlands to protect from storms, and promotes established industries like fishing and tourism.

The Bald Head Island Conservancy will continue to evaluate data produced in relation to the NCIT, its associated costs and benefits and communicate this information to the Conservancy's constituents.