

Some Environmental Problems with the Proposed North Carolina International Terminal and its Channel

A few comments of State and Federal agencies

NCDENR Division of Marine Fisheries:

The water column is important for the migration, transport and maintenance of life history stages of all marine and estuarine species found in the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean,... Increases in pollutants and turbidity associated with construction of the channel and operations at a port will cause disruption of these functions.

Particularly important are intertidal populations of oysters and sub-tidal populations of hard clams which would be destroyed

Deepening and dredging of these areas will destroy the nursery function of the shallow soft-bottom habitat as well as populations of forage species... .

Deepening of the channel will destroy any hard bottom habitat in the alignment of the channel.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Dredging adjacent to these islands (within the Cape Fear River) could result in significant adverse impacts to the bird populations known to use these islands.

The new roadways potentially will have significant direct and indirect impacts to important wetlands.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Other issues that should be addressed include the potential for salt water intrusion, storm surge issues, groundwater aquifer issues, oil spill potential, loss of aquatic habitat, wetlands, and terrestrial habitat, erosion of shorelines, impacts on commercial and recreational fishing, and impacts on recreation and tourism.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

The project, when considered in its entirety, is very likely to result in permanent loss of environmental value and would convert the area from residential use with commerce based on recreation and tourism to an industrial center and transportation hub.

The NCIT ... would result in a permanent loss of environmental resources and ecosystem services from the region.

There is no federal interest in projects that would result in permanent environmental loss of such magnitude.