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SAW-2014-02218, North Carolina State Ports Authority, Morehead City Port, dredging, bed levelling, CAMA Major, GP 291 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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To: Pace Wilber - NOAA Federal <pace.wilber@noaa.gov>

I first received a call from Todd Walton with the State Ports describing the need for emergency dredging. A ship that was docked at the facility was sitting on the bottom during low tide due to the full moon extreme tidal fluctuations. Another ship was due to dock soon and needed more depth than was currently present. I subsequently discussed the issue with Ronnie Smith, Regulatory Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. The area in question is EFH for estuarine water column (SAFMC) and mud bottom (MAFMC). Given the depths in the proposed area and that it is regularly hydraulically dredged, I felt that the use of the sled to dislodge the material would have little direct impact on EFH at that spot. But to avoid any potential impacts to shallower EFH upstream of the site, I requested that the sled only be used on falling tides. Both State Ports and ACOE felt this was a reasonable request.

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