



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

January 16, 2015

F/SER47:FR/pw

(Sent via Electronic Mail)

Colonel Kevin P. Landers, Sr., Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1398

Attention: Tyler Crumbley

Dear Colonel Landers:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the public notice for Action ID No. SAW-2014-02301 dated December 17, 2014. Mark Lewis Crewboats, Inc., proposes to install 850 linear feet of vinyl bulkhead waterward of the existing, deteriorating bulkhead, to add a fixed walkway platform over open water along the northern side of the new bulkhead, and to conduct maintenance dredging within existing slips adjacent to Stump Sound at the Swan Point Marina, Sneads Ferry, Onslow County. The project area is not designated as a Primary Nursery Area. Submerged aquatic vegetation is not present in the project area. The Wilmington District's initial determination is the proposed project may adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH) or associated fisheries managed by South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, or NMFS. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and diadromous fishery resources, the following comments and recommendations are provided pursuant to the authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

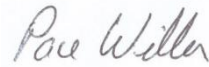
The proposed new 400-foot section of vinyl bulkhead on the northern side of the property would be constructed approximately five feet waterward of the existing wall. The applicant states this alignment is necessary to avoid existing debris waterward of the deteriorating bulkhead. The remaining 450 linear feet of new proposed bulkhead would be approximately two feet waterward of the existing wall. The applicant is also proposing a fixed platform (walkway) measuring approximately 360 feet long 6 feet wide that would extend waterward along the entire northern section of bulkhead to the property line. No additional slips are proposed. The proposed maintenance dredging of approximately 1053 cubic yards of material around existing slips within the marina footprint would use the bucket-to-barge method. The proposed dredging area is on the southern side of the existing gravel access area and measures approximately 325 feet in length by 35 feet in width. The existing average water depth is -4 feet NLW, and the proposed post-dredging depth is -6 feet NLW. The dredged material would be placed in an upland area.



NMFS has no objection to the proposed project as long as no dredging is allowed between April 1 and September 30. This window is designed to protect juvenile shrimp and fish from the deleterious effects of dredging operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Related questions or comments should be directed to the attention of Mr. Fritz Rohde at our Beaufort Field Office, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-9722, or at (252) 838-0828

Sincerely,



/ for

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:

COE, Tyler.Crumbley@usace.army.mil
USFWS, Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov
NCDCM, Doug.Huggett@ncmail.net
NCDCM, Shane.Staples@ncdenr.gov
EPA, Bowers.Todd@epa.gov
SAFMC, Roger.Pugliese@safmc.net
F/SER4, David.Dale@noaa.gov
F/SER47, Fritz.Rohde@noaa.gov