

North Carolina Beach Inlet Management Plan

(summary provided by NCBIWA Executive Director Kathleen Reily)

The BIMP was first funded in 2007 from the General Assembly and updated in 2016. The state agencies involved include the NC DEQ, DWR and DCM. Moffatt & Nichol assisted the state with 1) data identification and acquisition of existing datasets, 2) determination of beach and inlet management regions, 3) scheduling and facilitation of stakeholder meetings, 4) development of draft beach and inlet management strategies, and 5) preparation of a final report.

The data contained in the BIMP is critical in understanding and evaluating the coastal natural systems. The nature of the beaches and inlets along the coast are influenced by factors such as geology, sediment, waves, sea level rise as well as storms and other natural disasters. In order to develop appropriate management regions and properly develop and assess management strategies, relevant coastal data.

The data presented in the BIMP is intended to serve as a resource, common reference, and starting point for beach and inlet projects and strategy discussions among stakeholders.

In addition to technical data, the BIMP also provides socio-economic values of the beaches and inlets. North Carolina beaches and inlets have tremendous economic importance to the state, providing billions of dollars in economic value through business and tourism, residential and commercial property value, water access for commercial and recreational fishermen, and the marina and boat building industries. The developed portions of the ocean shoreline also represent a considerable investment for the state however, the value of coastal property is at risk if the coastline is not protected.

In 2016, the primary focus of the update of the BIMP was to incorporate beach nourishment and dredging activities completed over the past seven years as well as refine the historical data evaluated in the initial report in order to develop an updated accurate estimate of the funding needed to maintain the State's beaches and inlets. **The more comprehensive data set served as the basis for refining the volume and cost projections of dredging and beach nourishment for current and future managed shorelines.** Potential funding sources to establish a statewide beach preservation fund were identified and evaluated. Similarly, the funding needed for appropriations to the state's deep draft navigation fund were also identified. Revisions to the socio-economic impact study of the state's beaches and inlets were conducted to highlight the importance of these vital resources and the need for the state to increase their participation in preserving them.

Without correct updated data, it will be impossible to accurately project direct expenditures generated by the beaches and inlets as well as the number of jobs created and the total State tax revenue from all these sectors. In addition, it will be impossible to determine the recreational consumer surplus resulting from beaches and inlets nor will it be possible to accurately determine the scope and costs associated with beach nourishment and dredging projects in the state.