



**Resolution 2011-07 in Support of Continual Annual Federal
Funding for Dredging of Oregon Inlet and
Appropriation of \$12 - \$14 million for Dredging during
the 2011 Federal Budget Year**

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet is the only deep-water access to harbors of safety for commercial and recreational vessels for a distance of 220 miles along the United States east coast; AND

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet acts as a "flushing" mechanism for the Albemarle, Currituck, Croatan, Roanoke, and Pamlico Sound systems and all tributaries of these systems, allowing these bodies of water and rivers to properly flush, thus ensuring regional water quality; AND

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet is vital to the economy of Dare County and the surrounding region with an annual documented economic impact of over *\$682 million; AND

WHEREAS, in May 2003 the Bush Administration's United States Council on Environmental Quality, the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration issued a decision not to move forward on the construction of the Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay project (jetties) but did promise to "improve navigation of the channel," "and to continue working with the local elected leaders on other actions that can be taken toward these goals"; AND

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, whose duty it is to maintain the Oregon Inlet channel, acknowledges that as much as \$20 million per year is needed to properly dredge these channels to ensure dependable navigation through the inlet and provide for the safety of fishermen and boaters; AND

WHEREAS, federal budgets have continued to provide inadequate budget levels for Oregon Inlet maintenance dredging; AND

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the United States Army Corps of Engineers have re-located a permanent survey team in Dare County which enables daily and weekly surveys of the Oregon Inlet channels, the Bar channel and the internal channels that provide a route for the commercial and recreational fishermen of this region; AND

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the United States Coast Guard Aids to Navigational Team has established new residency in Wanchese, North Carolina to assist in monitoring and locating navigational aids on a daily and weekly schedule as conditions require these actions; AND

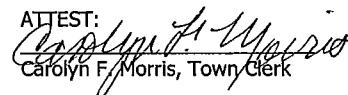
WHEREAS, the only United States Coast Guard response team located within 70 miles of either direction is situated at Oregon Inlet and, they, too, depend on this navigable channel in and across the bar and channels at Oregon Inlet to respond to emergency needs of boaters and fishermen; AND

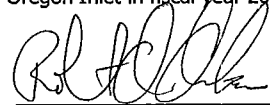
WHEREAS, it requires a balance of all three of these maintenance options to maintain safe passage through Oregon Inlet as has been confirmed and attested to.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nags Head, North Carolina Board of Commissioners calls on the federal government and Congress to keep its promise and follow through with its commitment to make Oregon Inlet safer by establishing a continual resolution for annual funding of dredging costs for Oregon Inlet that will include a minimum amount of \$12 million annually.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nags Head Board of Commissioners supports increased federal funding to at least \$12 - \$14 million for the dredging of Oregon Inlet in fiscal year 2011.

This the 4th day of May 2011.

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk


Robert O. Oakes, Jr., Mayor

