



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 5, 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging project begins in Shark River Inlet

Stimulus-funded work aims to make inlet safer and save money in the future

NEW YORK – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, has begun maintenance dredging in the Shark River Inlet in New Jersey to help remove sand build up and make the federal channel safer for passage. The funding for the \$970,000 project comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the “stimulus bill.”

The dredging work currently being done is part of a plan to help alleviate the shoaling problem that the inlet has recently been experiencing, which has been an issue of concern for New Jersey Congressman, Frank Pallone.

"Because of the Shark River Inlet's ongoing shoaling issues, dredging the inlet will make it safer for boaters to navigate," Pallone said. "It's a good use of funds from the Recovery Act funds to be used to protect boaters and to place much needed-sand on the beaches of Avon by the Sea."

The District has contracted Perrello Inc., of Lake Hopatcong, N.J., to complete the work. In addition to the removal of the recurring sand build ups, or shoals, at the entrance of the inlet, the District will be digging “deposition basins” along the sides of the channel that should reduce how often future maintenance dredging is needed in the inlet. The District is working closely

with the Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center, based in Vicksburg, Miss., to develop a long-term solution to the inlet's shoaling issues, which have been increasing recently.

Each cycle of maintenance dredging at the inlet removes approximately 20,000 to 50,000 cubic yards of sand. During this cycle, the sand will be removed via a pipeline dredge and will in turn be used to replenish the beach of Avon-by-the-Sea, N.J., where it will ultimately help combat erosion, provide added coastal storm damage reduction and aid the tourism industry.