



North Carolina Beach and Inlet Management Plan

Comprehensive Plan for Conservation and Management of North Carolina's Beaches and Inlets

**Joint Project Between the NCDENR
Division of Water Resources and
Division of Coastal Management**

Creation of the BIMP was a Recommendation of the General Assembly HB1840 and the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)

Short Term Goals:

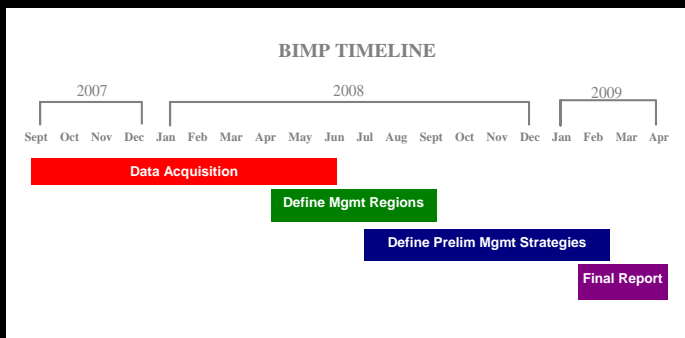
1. Provide a central clearinghouse for coastal datasets to facilitate research and streamline the preparation of environmental assessments and environmental impact statements
2. Identify data gaps to guide and/or prioritize future data collection and monitoring
3. Inform and engage the public during the development of the beach and inlet management strategies
4. Ensure that all beach and inlet management strategies are compliant with current state policies with an understanding that policies shall be periodically reviewed and/or updated as appropriate
5. Recommend priorities for state funding of beach and inlet management projects such as beach nourishment and navigational dredging as well as identify additional possible funding mechanisms for beach and inlet management strategy implementation

MAJOR PROJECT TASKS – FIRST 18 MONTHS

1. Identify and acquire coastal datasets relevant to beach and inlet management
2. Define beach and inlet management regions based on the natural coastal processes affecting each region
3. Develop preliminary beach and inlet management strategies for each region
4. Schedule and facilitate stakeholder meetings in each proposed management region
5. Prepare a final report

Long Term Goals:

1. The implementation of a consensus-based regional strategy for the state, federal and local governments to manage beaches and inlets over a large geographic area encompassing many projects
2. Build stronger partnerships among coastal stakeholders to improve data sharing and project cooperation
3. Encourage the natural functions of all beach and inlet ecosystems and their associated habitats
4. Recognize the value of sand as a resource - identifying and making the most effective use of the state's limited, beach-compatible sand resources
5. Achieve an effective balance between beach and inlet management projects (beach nourishment, storm protection and storm damage mitigation, maximization of navigational efficiency), socio-economic concerns (tourism, commerce, and recreation) and the environmental functions of North Carolina's beaches



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General Assembly HB 1840 Mandate

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop a multiyear beach management and restoration strategy and plan that does all of the following:

- (1) Utilizes the data and expertise available in the Divisions of Water Resources, Coastal Management, and Land Resources**
- (2) Identifies the erosion rate at each beach community and estimates the degree of vulnerability to storm and hurricane damage**
- (3) Uses the best available geological and geographical information to determine the need for and probable effectiveness of beach nourishment**
- (4) Provides for coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, and other State and federal agencies concerned with beach management issues**
- (5) Provides a status report on all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' beach protection projects in the planning, construction, or operational stages**
- (6) Makes maximum feasible use of suitable sand dredged from navigation channels for beach nourishment to avoid the loss of this resource and to reduce equipment mobilization costs**
- (7) Promotes inlet sand bypassing where needed to replicate the natural flow of sand interrupted by inlets**
- (8) Provides for geological and environmental assessments to locate suitable materials for beach nourishment**
- (9) Considers the regional context of beach communities to determine the most cost-effective approach to beach nourishment**
- (10) Provides for and requires adequate public beach access, including handicapped access**
- (11) Recommends priorities for State funding for beach nourishment projects, based on the amount of erosion occurring, the potential damage to property and to the economy, the benefits for recreation and tourism, the adequacy of public access, the availability of local government matching funds, the status of project planning, the adequacy of project engineering, the cost-effectiveness of the project, and the environmental impacts**
- (12) Includes recommendations on obtaining the maximum available federal financial assistance for beach nourishment**
- (13) Is subject to a public hearing to receive citizen input**

Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Mandate

“Prepare and implement a comprehensive beach and inlet management plan that addresses ecologically based guidelines, socio-economic concerns, and fish habitat”