



# Assateague Island Restoration, MD

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of August 17, 2016

**AUTHORIZATION:** Section 534 of WRDA 1996,  
P.L. 104-303

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Ecosystem Restoration

**PROJECT PHASE:** Construction

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators **Mikulski** and  
**Cardin (MD)** and Representative **Harris (MD-1)**

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** National Park Service  
(NPS)



**BACKGROUND:** Assateague Island is a barrier island located in Worcester County, MD just south of the Ocean City inlet.

The Ocean City inlet was formed in 1933 during a severe storm. In 1934, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed jetties to protect the newly-formed waterway in an effort to provide for navigation between the coastal bays and the ocean. The jetties have disrupted the natural sediment transport between Ocean City and Assateague Island, resulting in adverse physical and biological impacts to the island. The island has been eroding at an accelerated rate and is extremely vulnerable to breaching, which could drastically change the physical dynamics of the area by causing additional inlets to form, creating navigation hazards, and increasing storm damages on the island and in mainland communities. From a biological perspective, the island supports several threatened and endangered species, and the disruption in natural sediment transport has resulted in a decrease in habitat diversity on the island.

Construction of the short-term phase of the project was completed in December 2002 and included the hydraulic placement of approximately 1.4 M cubic meters of sand dredged from Great Gull Bank between 2.5 and 12 kilometers south of the Ocean City inlet's south jetty. The short-term phase included five years of project monitoring, beginning at the start of construction and ending in 2008. The cost for the short-term phase of the project was \$12,338,000. The jetties and inlet will continue to disrupt sediment transport, so a long-term phase of the project was implemented. The long-term phase allows for the "mobile bypassing" of sand that would have naturally reached the island had the jetties never been constructed. Mobile bypassing involves the use of a shallow-draft hopper dredge to remove sand that has been redirected to a number of locations in the vicinity of the inlet and placing this sand within the surf zone along the northern end of Assateague Island.

Sand is typically taken from the inlet's ebb and flood shoal, as well as the navigation channels in the immediate vicinity of the inlet. This dredging typically takes place during the spring and fall of each year, using a split-hull dredge owned and operated by the Wilmington District. The fully-funded cost of

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the long-term phase of the project is \$45,324,000. The fully-funded total project cost, including both the short-term and long-term phases, is \$57,662,000.

**STATUS:** Semi-annual sand bypassing started in April 2004 and routinely occurs in the spring and fall of each year.

**BUDGET (\$):**

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Total Estimated Cost</u>          | \$57,662,000 |
| Corps of Engineers – Federal Cost    | \$35,000,000 |
| National Park Service – Federal Cost | \$22,662,000 |

Federal Funds Data

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Allocations thru FY 2014              | \$21,539,000 |
| Allocation for FY 2015                | \$ 900,000   |
| President Budget FY 2016 <sup>1</sup> | \$ 600,000   |
| Allocation for FY 2016 <sup>2</sup>   | \$ 100,000   |
| Balance to Complete                   | \$11,961,000 |

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a Program Budget Press Book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.apxs>.

<sup>2</sup> The allocation amount for this project per the approved work plan was a reduced budget amount due to the need to keep this project in cost share balance.

**SCHEDULE:**

FY 2015 Completed Work: With the funding received semi-annual sand-bypassing and monitoring activities consistent with the long-term phase of the project were completed.

FY 2016 Scheduled Work: Previous year carry in funds in the amount of \$1,057,065 and FY 2016 allocations be used to complete semi-annual sand-bypassing, monitoring activities, and a construction cost estimate update.

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding the long-term phase of the project will continue through fiscal year 2024.

**For more information** regarding the Assateague Island Restoration Project, MD, please contact Justin Callahan, CENAB-PP-C, (410) 962-6693, e-mail [justin.callahan@usace.army.mil](mailto:justin.callahan@usace.army.mil).

