



RESOLUTION
REQUESTING THAT THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AMEND THE
EXISTING FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION TO ADD THE HATTERAS BAR TO THE
HATTERAS AND ROLLINSON FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the waterway between Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island, known as Hatteras Inlet and also known as Rollinson Channel, is a unique area in that it provides the only way for local watermen to get direct access to the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Hatteras Inlet waterway not only provides a direct channel to the Atlantic Ocean for commercial and recreational fishing vessels, it is the means of access for the United States Coast Guard Station Hatteras and is the only direct route for the station to use when responding to lifesaving ocean rescue missions; and

WHEREAS, Hatteras Inlet is subject to constantly shifting shoals and sandbars posing a clear and present danger for safe navigation between Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands and through the channel to the Atlantic Ocean that is known as the Hatteras Inlet Gorge; and

WHEREAS, the dangerous shoaling at Hatteras Inlet not only threatens the lives and property of commercial and recreational vessels it also jeopardizes the economy of the region by causing irreparable harm to charter boat operators, commercial fishing operations, seafood processing houses, marine repair facilities, and other local businesses on both Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands that depend on the Hatteras Inlet waterway; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the number of storms has changed the dynamic inlet by exposing the what use to be the direct route due to the erosion of Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island going from a .25-mile-wide inlet in 1993 to a 2.3-mile-wide inlet in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the current Federal Authorization used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in the 1940's with boundaries that are no longer relevant given the changes to the inlet over time which has resulted in an authorization that is restricted to only a small portion of the Connecting Channel just off the south end of Hatteras Island and does NOT include the entire Ferry Route to Ocracoke Island or the Hatteras Inlet Gorge to and including the Atlantic Ocean Bar; and

WHEREAS, the Hatteras Inlet is the only Federal Authorization in North Carolina that does not have the Bar included as part of the inlet complex in the Federal Authorization but has marked and maintained aids to navigation by the United States Coast Guard; and


WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissioners has been diligently seeking funding for proactive dredging to secure reliable and cost effective navigational access to enable

our working watermen to get to the Atlantic Ocean and for our visitors to safely travel between Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands, both of which are vital to public safety and to sustain the economy of the region; and

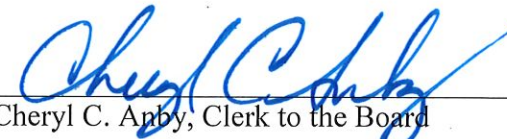
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dare County Board of Commissioners supports the request through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 Section 7001 to add the Hatteras Inlet Bar as a part of the Rollinson and Hatteras Federal Authorization.

Adopted this the 17th day of May, 2021





Robert Woodard, Sr., Chairman

Attest: 

Cheryl C. Anby, Clerk to the Board