

FACT PAPER

Project Name: Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (O&M) Georgia, South Carolina

Project Purpose: Operation and Maintenance (O&N) of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway for safe and efficient passage of barge traffic

Project Description: The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway is a continuous sheltered waterway used by commercial and private shallow draft vessels. The waterway extends from New Jersey to Florida. The Savannah District's authorized maintenance project is the 161-mile stretch between Port Royal Sound, South Carolina and Cumberland Sound at the Georgia - Florida border. The AIWW is authorized to 12 feet deep with widths of 90 feet through land cuts and 150 feet in open water areas. The local sponsors are the Georgia Department of Transportation for the State of Georgia and the South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources for the State of South Carolina. Dredging is scheduled on a biennial cycle to make maximum use of limited funds. The channel is deficient in many locations for the majority of the period between dredging events. Typical dredging sites are Rockdedundy River, South River, Little Mud River, Buttermilk Sound, Jekyll Creek, Umbrella Cut, Dover Cut, Hells Gate, and Floyds Creek.

Project Sponsor: The Georgia Department of Transportation

Appropriation: 96X3123 O&M General

Status: The annual shoaling rate is approximately 1.5 million cubic yards with the average annual maintenance dredging volume being roughly 1 million cubic yards. The materials are mostly pumped into open marshes sites along the waterway.

Additional Information: Our major challenges are:

- (1) Adequate annual funding of the AIWW to properly maintain the project.

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- (2) Jekyll Creek cannot be dredged until an environmental solution to the problem of the dredged sediments flowing into the minor tidal creek during dredging.

- (3) Confined disposal areas are not required for the AIWW in Georgia; however, the State of Georgia has been encouraging the Corps of Engineers confine disposal in certain areas where silt is present. We are working with the state on this problem. Construction and maintenance of the containment areas will increase our costs to maintain the waterway.

Project Manager: Roger E. Lafond, Jr.