



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.8144 *Voice* • 252.441.0338 *Fax*

info@outerbankschamber.com

Resolution # 13-01-10

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR THE DREDGING OF OREGON INLET

WHEREAS, the Outer Banks Chamber is a non-profit business membership organization representing 1,000 business owners and managers on North Carolina's Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet is a vital waterway that provides access to harbors of safety for commercial and recreational vessels on the North Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber has previously supported the need for a solution to the issues affecting access and dredging of Oregon Inlet; and

WHEREAS, navigational access through Oregon Inlet is threatened by treacherous shoaling conditions that has resulted in a dangerous situation that threatens the lives and property of commercial and recreational vessels and jeopardizes the economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, Many large vessels can no longer gain access to Wanchese Harbor because of the deplorable conditions at Oregon Inlet which have caused some marine related businesses to cease operations and forced commercial fishermen to land their catches at out of state markets, which increases their operating costs and deprives the State of North Carolina of valuable landing quotas in excess of \$1.9 million; and

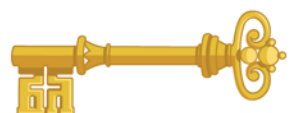
WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet is crucial to the economy of Dare, Hyde, and Currituck Counties and the surrounding region with an annual documented economic impact of over \$682 million and generates over \$88 million in federal, state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, without navigational access through Oregon Inlet key Dare County, Hyde County, Currituck County and surrounding area industries will continue to suffer irreparable harm including commercial fishing operations, seafood processing houses, boat builders, recreational fishing and charter boat operators, marine repair facilities, and other local businesses that vitally depend on Oregon Inlet; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the adverse economic impact caused by Oregon Inlet shoaling, public safety is at risk due to shoaling that has prevented United States Coast Guard vessels stationed at Oregon Inlet from being able to use the channel to render emergency assistance to ships in distress off the coast of North Carolina.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce strongly renews its request that State and Federal agencies immediately begin the work necessary to clear the channel at Oregon Inlet and to appropriate ongoing funding to maintain safe and reliable access as a matter of economic necessity and public safety.

This 10th day of January 2013

Ali Breaux, Chairman of the Board
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Karen S. Brown,
President & CEO
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

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