

July 2013-

Beginning in mid-July, the US Army Corps of Engineers will perform maintenance dredging of the Sawpit Creek, Nassau Sound, and Amelia River portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The project is 100% funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), and is expected to take approximately 120 days to complete. The dredging work is being performed to improve navigation in the AIWW, and as a significant secondary benefit of the navigation project, the Amelia Island Shore Stabilization (SAISS) project area at Amelia Island State Park will receive an estimated 578,000 cubic yards of clean sand from the dredging operation. This material will be placed along the Atlantic Ocean beaches immediately south of the SAISS Project breakwater, as shown in the attached aerial photo sketch. Our coastal engineering consultant, Olsen Associates, Inc. (OAI), reports that dredging and disposal project will provide the SAISS Project shoreline with free, clean sand worth an estimated \$4.3M (USACE contract value). The last beach disposal project of this type was completed in 2006.

The disposal location recommended by OAI is designed to mitigate significant beach erosion south of the project breakwater along the Amelia Island State Park portion of the project. The erosion has resulted in significant scarping and damage to the dune line. OAI has recommended that a portion of the disposal sand be pushed up to and against the scarped dune face to restore a portion of the dune and better protect the remaining vegetation. The target disposal area is roughly 2,000 feet long.

The USACE-selected Contractor is **Cottrell Contracting Corporation** of Chesapeake, Virginia. This company has been engaged in the dredging business since its founding in 1928. Over the years, its areas of operation have grown from the Virginia - Maryland areas in the 1930s and 1940s to the entire eastern seaboard today. The Dredge vessel will be the *Richmond*, a 16" cutterhead-suction/pipeline dredge. The dredge pipeline will be routed through Nassau Sound and will come ashore along the Sound shoreline of the Park, following the existing roadway along the old tree-line of the park up to the disposal area just south of the rock breakwater. It is anticipated that temporary closures of portions of the Park shoreline and roadway will be necessary during the construction period.