

Coast Guard scheduled to temporarily discontinue 12 Bogue Inlet navigational aids in NC.

WILMINGTON, N.C. - The Coast Guard is scheduled to temporarily discontinue twelve navigational aids in Bogue Inlet near Emerald Isle and Swansboro beginning May 15, due to extensive shoaling that is causing navigational safety issues.

Under the current condition of the inlet, the aids to navigation can no longer be configured to safely mark a passable channel. Mariners transiting through Bogue Inlet do so at their own risk.

Heavy shoaling in the vicinity of Bogue Inlet has progressed over the past few months making the waterway inaccessible to vessels with a draft greater than three feet. The aids to navigation listed below currently do not accurately mark the waterway as they once did. The markers are misleading to mariners, which can be more dangerous than having no aids to navigation.

The aids to navigation scheduled to be changed are:

- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 6A (LLNR 29525)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 7 (LLNR 29530)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 8 (LLNR 29535)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 10 (LLNR 29540)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 11 (LLNR 29550)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 12 (LLNR 29555)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 13 (LLNR 29557)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 14 (LLNR 29559)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 15 (LLNR 29560)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy Lighted Buoy 16 (LLNR 29563)
- * Bogue Inlet Buoy 17 (LLNR 29565)
- * Swansboro Coast Guard Channel Junction Buoy CG (LLNR 29605)

The Army Corps of Engineers plans to return to the Inlet to conduct additional dredging in June. The Coast Guard will re-establish the aids to navigation after the dredging has been completed.

The Coast Guard is responsible for providing navigational systems, information and services that enable safe navigation. The Coast Guard continues to work with federal, state and local partner agencies regarding the viability of marking waterways; however, waterways must be reasonably stable and of sufficient depth for the Coast Guard to safely service an area.

Consult Local Notice to Mariners 5th Coast Guard District for the latest positions and status of aids to navigation at:

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmDistrict®ion=5>

To report any aids to navigation discrepancies, shoaling, or hazards to navigation, please contact the Sector North Carolina Command Center at 910-343-3882. The U.S. Coast Guard will continue to monitor the conditions of the waterway and update mariners as necessary.