

Hi Everyone:

The Town was notified on October 28, 2019 that the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) had issued the Town's permit for the dredging of the finger canals, feeder channel, portion of South Jinks Creek, and the bay area. As with all CAMA permits from DCM there are several conditions, many of which are based on their regulations and correlate to concerns and comments made by the general public. Please click [here](#) to view the permit documents received by the Town.

It is our understanding that while the Town was being notified of this permit, members of the public that made comments to DCM directly were also being notified of the permit. The letter distributed by DCM to the public commenters includes the same conditions as noted on the information received by the Town. The Town did not receive a copy of this letter but has since acquired a copy of it, please click [here](#) to view the letter.

Some questions have arisen from the permit which I will attempt to address at this time.

1. What does the #2 condition of excavation is not to exceed -2 feet below mean low water mean, especially since the Town applied for greater depth?

This condition is what the Town and the Consultant have been talking about when we mention applying for a variance. We know that we either dredge to deeper water or we have to be no deeper than the adjoining waters, in this case -2 feet below mean low water. The Town will apply for a variance to the Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) to allow for a deeper dredge without having to go to deeper water, which would entail dredging North Jinks Creek (an action we are trying to avoid). The CRC may issue a variance and amend the conditions of our permit to allow us to dredge deeper without disturbing adjoining areas. This process will take several months leading into early 2020 to Spring 2020 before we have a final decision from the CRC.

2. What are the pros and cons of dredging South Jinks Creek to -2 feet below mean low water mean?

The project effectiveness and longevity will decrease. The initial construction cost would also decrease, but the Town could expect to be dredging a lot more frequently to maintain navigation. So over time the project costs may increase due to repetitive mobilizations.

3. What is the cost to dredge?

No actual cost is completely known until the Town bids out the project. The permit and its conditions were needed in order to go out for bid once the Town Council directs. However, there have been projections in the material on the website.

4. If the Town does not receive the variance from the CRC, how will the dredge costs be affected?

If the Town does not receive the variance, then as mentioned in the Question 2, the initial construction costs would decrease.

5. How often will it be necessary to maintenance dredge this area?

This is unknown and will depends on how quickly this fills in and how much money is generated from the as yet implemented tax district for the affected areas the Town has been authorized to establish once dredging has occurred.

Thanks,

Hiram J. Marziano, II
Town Administrator