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Press Release

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Senator Kean Applauds Decision to Dredge Shark Rive Inlet

Shoaling Problem Causing Safety Issue for Boaters

Senator Sean Kean praised the decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the Shark River Inlet to address the shoaling problem which is putting boaters at risk. On May 15th, Kean spoke with Army Corps' Chief of Operations Tim Creamer who indicated that the corps will begin dredging before the end of May.

"I am very pleased to hear that the Army Corps is addressing the shoaling issue," said Kean. "With the summer season approaching it is necessary that the appropriate measures are taken to ensure the safety of boaters and fisherman."

The 10 day project will begin on May 25th to alleviate the rising sediment that has accumulated on the bottom of the river preventing boaters from easily passing through the inlet. The waterway between Belmar and Avon was previously dredged in December and has since accumulated 8 feet of sediment, which on average takes about two years to form.

Kean stressed the importance of implementing a long term dredging plan to keep the shoaling under control and to prevent future accidents from occurring.

"Dredging of this inlet will be required several times a year if a suitable plan is not devised to slow this overall process," said Kean. "These conditions pose safety threats to the boaters who use this inlet and it is important that they are being properly addressed."

If left unaddressed, the shoaling can be a hazard to ships. Less than two years ago, the shallow waters caused a boat passing through the inlet to crash into adjoining jetties resulting in damage to the ship and minor injuries to passengers.

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