

# **JONES CALLS ON CORPS TO ALLOCATE DISASTER DOLLARS TO OREGON INLET**

## ***Jones Says Oregon Inlet Should Receive “Whatever Funding is Necessary to Completely Restore the Channel to Its Authorized Depth”***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3) asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allocate disaster dollars recently appropriated by Congress to Oregon Inlet. In a letter to the Corps’ Commanding General – Major General Bo Temple – Jones called on the Corps to “ensure that Oregon Inlet receives whatever funding is necessary to completely restore the channel to its authorized depth.” Oregon Inlet is eligible to receive funding through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (H.R. 3672), a bill which Congressman Jones voted for last month and which was signed into law on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. H.R. 3672 provides \$534 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “for necessary expenses to dredge navigation channels in response to, and repair damage to Corps projects resulting from, a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.”

In his letter to the Corps, Jones pointed out that many Corps-maintained channels in Eastern North Carolina, including Oregon Inlet, sustained significant damage in late August of 2011 as a result of Hurricane Irene. The damage was so severe that President Barack Obama declared every coastal county in Eastern North Carolina to be a disaster area under the Stafford Act. As a result of that disaster declaration, Oregon Inlet is eligible for the funding included in H.R. 3672.

Oregon Inlet is “critical to the coastal economy”, said Congressman Jones. “Fishermen and boaters depend on safe navigation through this channel. It is vital that the Corps use the money appropriated to it by Congress to address these needs.”