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## Beach Replenishment Update Aug. 1st

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### Croatan Beach Sand Renourishment Update – August 1, 2025

Yes, there is another delay, and it is significant – probably mid-November at the earliest.

As most of you know, a sea turtle laid eggs on Croatan Beach at the subline. The Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team relocated the eggs to the nearby dune per their standard protocol.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the overall project authority, reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), that a 500-ft buffer is in place around the turtle nest. This is in accordance with Federal regulations. The buffer prohibits Manson (the contractor) from using the subline (the sand feeder line from the dredge) that in its current location until the turtle hatching occurs (around September 16, 2025).

USACE is requesting approval from USFW to allow Manson to move the subline. This would allow Manson to work portions of the beach. However, large construction equipment is needed to move the line which requires USFW waiver approval. Accordingly, moving the subline may also be out of the question.

Additionally, between September 1st and November 14th, there is a restriction on dredging operations in the Chesapeake Bay due to turtle migration. Without the dredge, Manson will probably not be able to perform the Croatan Beach nourishment until November 15<sup>th</sup> or later.

We are awaiting a USACE announcement regarding the decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Until further notice, the nourishment project is on hold due to the turtle's nest.

The good news is that the beach will be open except for the area near the turtle nest.

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