

Inlet dredging project gets an extra \$4M

While the big money from \$9.8 billion in appropriations flowed toward area beaches, additional funds for dredging in Murrells Inlet were also included in the work plan for the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Charleston District received \$6.1 million last year from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to dredge the federal channel. The Corps agreed to include Oaks Creek in the project, with the state contributing \$350,000.

"It is completely silted in. It's a safety issue," state Rep. Lee Hewitt said.

The design work for the project is nearly com-

plete, said Jeff Livasy, chief of civil works for the Charleston District.

"We thought we were going to have to limit the dredging" due to rising costs, he said.

Instead, another \$4 million for Murrells Inlet was included in the budget for navigation projects. That was because sand dredged from the channel will be placed on the beach at Garden City.

"It was a chance to fund a small-use navigation project with a beneficial use," Livasy said.

The channel was last dredged in 2017. The new project is expected to start in 2024 or 2025.

— **CHARLES SWENSON**