



Beach Access News

Town of Chincoteague
Assateague Beach Access Committee

May 2015

Final CCP to be released in June

The US Fish & Wildlife Service will publish the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan in June for a 30 day public review.

The final CCP/EIS will be released for a 30-day review period for individuals and organizations that commented on the draft document to have the opportunity to review the USFWS comment responses.

This period also allows federal and state agencies with jurisdiction or expertise to review the plan. Only new substantive information may be evaluated and incorporated at this point prior to completing the approval process.

At the close of the 30-day review, USFWS Regional Director Wendi Weber will determine if the final CCP/EIS is adequate to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. She will then select an alternative to implement as the final CCP and then approve a Record of Decision (ROD). With release of the signed ROD, work may begin to implement the proposed management actions.

Welcome to our new
Refuge Manager
Kevin Sloan



Photo: USFWS

*He can be reached at
Kevin_Sloan@fws.gov or
at 757-336-6122*

Town of Chincoteague requests USFWS to make changes in the CCP

Representatives from USFWS, Town of Chincoteague met on January 14th to review the Town's primary substantive comments and gain further clarification prior to developing responses in the final CCP/EIS. These topics may be highlighted during the final 30-day review period:

- **Exceptional Visitor Experience**
- **Public Safety/Resiliency Plan**
- **Management Area for Beach Recreation**
- **Wilderness Designation**
- **Dune and Coastal Management**
- **Environmental Impact Statement**

Successful management practices were discussed and also recognized in a letter from Mayor Tarr to National Park Service Superintendent Debbie Darden regarding the low sand berm that was placed in front of the four Beach parking lots. This provided protection through the winter from high tides and erosion from storm wave action.

Beach Access News

Assateague celebrates 50 years

Assateague Island National Seashore was established by an Act of Congress on September 21, 1965 for the purpose of protecting and developing Assateague Island in the States of Maryland and Virginia for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment.

Thanks to State Senator Lewis and Delegate Bloxom for co-sponsoring a bill in the 2015 General Assembly session commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Seashore.



US Army Corps of Engineers publishes the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study



The NACCS was published in January 2015 with the goal to promote Coastal Resilient Communities with sustainable and robust coastal landscape systems, considering future sea level rise and climate change scenarios, to reduce risk to vulnerable population, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The NACCS is available at: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy>.

The Town of Chincoteague recently requested assistance from the USACE so that their expertise can inform the long range management plans being prepared by the USFWS and NPS on Assateague Island and recommendations of the Study can be applied to the Chincoteague Island environs.

What can happen next after a final CCP is approved? Prime Hook NWR in Delaware is a good example. *(Delaware Public Media's Tom Byrne interviews Prime Hook restoration project manager Bart Wilson.)*

More than five years after the dunes near Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge were first breached by waters from the Delaware Bay, a massive effort to restore the preserve and hold back rising seas from a vulnerable area of the southern Delaware coast is about to begin. The federally funded \$38 million project, now awaiting its final permits, is expected to swing into action in July.

The goal, as described in a detailed Environmental Assessment published by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) in February, is to recreate conditions in which wildlife, especially migratory birds, can thrive, in keeping with the original aims of the 10,000-acre refuge when it opened in 1963.

While the project is focused on restoring wildlife habitat, it will also benefit nearby local communities which have suffered years of flooding because of the breached dunes.

To read the entire story, follow this link: <http://delawarepublic.org/post/prime-hook-plan-restore-marsh-nearing-start>



Objective 5.3 Community Resilience – “Identify partners, which may include the town of Chincoteague, Accomack and Northampton counties, Commonwealth of Virginia, NPS, NASA, FEMA, USACE, etc. who may wish to work together to develop plans and strategies toward community resilience in the face of climate change impacts. Participate in a study, which would be led by others, to determine potential impacts/vulnerabilities of the coastal communities and identify protective methods for hazard mitigation.”
Draft CCP – Chapter 2 / Page 2-62