

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit L07, Lea Island Complex, North Carolina

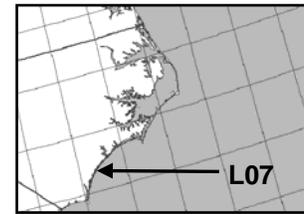
Type of Unit: System unit
Location of Unit: Northeast of Wilmington, in Pender and New Hanover Counties
Congressional District: 7
Establishment of Unit: Coastal Barrier Resources Act (P.L. 97-348) enacted on 10/18/1982
Historical Changes to Unit: 11/16/1990: P.L. 101-591 added associated aquatic habitat to Unit L07.

2/24/1997: The southern end of Unit L07 was modified in accordance with Section 4(c) of P.L. 101-591, which states that System unit boundaries are to be reviewed every five years and modified to reflect changes caused by natural forces. This unit was expanded to include the entire spit on the south side of Rich Inlet, which was no longer completely within the unit, and to include the spit's associated aquatic habitat.

Existing Boundary Description: The northern boundary of Unit L06 originally followed the center of New Topsail Inlet, but now the

boundary crosses the southern tip of the island north of New Topsail Inlet where the island has accreted into the inlet. From this point, the northern boundary follows a channel through Topsail Sound, crosses the Intracoastal Waterway, and roughly follows the wetland/fastland interface along Old Topsail Creek up to Old Point. The landward boundary roughly follows the wetland/fastland interface along the Intracoastal Waterway from Old Topsail Creek to Futch Creek. The southern boundary generally follows the center of Nixon Channel, which is also the boundary between Pender and New Hanover Counties, and crosses through the northern tip of Figure Eight Island.

Proposed Changes to Boundary: The northern boundary of Unit L07 is adjusted to follow a break in vegetation on the barrier island north of New Topsail Inlet, the eastern Banks Channel shoreline to include the entire channel, a channel through the marsh, and the wetland/fastland interface on the northern side of the Intracoastal Waterway to Old Topsail Creek. This adjustment adds associated aquatic habitat to Unit L07. The landward boundary is



adjusted to follow more precisely the wetland/fastland interface along the Intracoastal Waterway from Old Topsail Creek to Futch Creek. The southern boundary is adjusted to include the entire Nixon Channel in Unit L07 and to follow the break-in-development on the tip of Figure Eight Island.

Additional Comments: The proposed Unit L07 boundary includes portions of associated aquatic habitat located behind development. The proposed adjustments to the landward boundary add undeveloped fastland located on spoil islands to the unit.

Acreeage, Shoreline, and Structures:

	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Fastland Acres¹</i>	<i>Associated Aquatic Habitat Acres²</i>	<i>Shoreline (Miles)</i>	<i>Structures³</i>
Existing Unit	5,989.8	103.1	5,886.7	5.5	
Added to the CBRS	1,323.0	81.9	1,241.1		0
Removed from the CBRS	35.0	0.0	35.0		0
Reclassified Area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Proposed Unit	7,277.8	185.0	7,092.8	5.8	
Net Change	1,288.0	81.9	1,206.1	0.3	0

¹ Land above mean high tide

² Includes adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and nearshore waters

³ Structure count derived from 1998 aerial photography, and 2005 Pender County property parcel information