

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit L09, Masonboro Island, North Carolina

Type of Unit: System unit

Location of Unit: Southeast of Wilmington, in New Hanover County

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 modified the landward boundary of Unit L09 to add associated aquatic habitat.

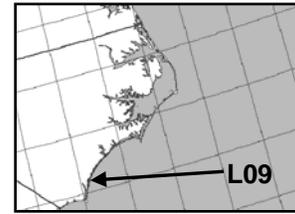
2/24/1997: The northern boundary of Unit L09 was modified in accordance with Section 4(c) of P.L. 101-591, which states that System unit boundaries are to be reviewed every five years and modified to reflect changes caused by natural forces. This unit was adjusted to include the entire undeveloped portion of the spit on the north side of Masonboro Inlet, which had migrated outside of the unit, and to include the spit's associated aquatic habitat.

Existing Boundary Description: The northern boundary of Unit L09 cuts across the spit on the north side of Masonboro Inlet roughly at the break-in-development and generally follows the center of Shinn Creek. The landward boundary generally follows the

wetland/fastland interface along the Intracoastal Waterway. The southern boundary cuts across the Intracoastal Waterway and the tidal flats behind Carolina Beach, and then cuts across the Carolina Beach barrier island roughly at the break-in-development.

Proposed Changes to Boundary: The northern boundary of Unit L09 is adjusted to follow more precisely the break-in-development at the tip of the spit to the north of Masonboro Inlet, and to include the entire Shinn Creek channel. The landward boundary is adjusted to follow more precisely the wetland/fastland interface. The southern boundary is adjusted to follow the wetland/fastland interface and include the entire associated aquatic habitat. The boundary is also aligned with digital property parcel data to include an undeveloped portion of the barrier island and follow more precisely the 1982 break-in-development.

Additional Comments: A spit of land, surrounded by wetlands and located north of the Whiskey Creek confluence with the Intracoastal Waterway, is shown as wetlands on the current John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System map, which is based on a U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle dated 1970. However, it appears that when this area was first added to Unit L09 in



1990, the wetlands had been filled in and three homes were already constructed on the spit. Volume 11 of the Department of the Interior's 1988 Report to Congress: Coastal Barrier Resources System, Recommendations for Additions to or Deletions from the Coastal Barrier Resources System recommended that all the wetlands between Masonboro Island and the Intracoastal Waterway be added to Unit L09. Therefore, the proposed boundary removes the spit from Unit L09 because the area was incorrectly identified as wetlands in 1990.

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	6,587.7	526.3	6,061.4	9.9	
Added to the CBRS	213.4	0.0	213.4		0
Removed from the CBRS	50.5	35.6	14.9		17
Reclassified Area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Proposed Unit	6,750.6	490.7	6,259.9	10.0	
Net Change	162.9	(35.6)	198.5	0.1	(17)

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 2003 New Hanover County property parcel information