

# John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit AL-05P, Alligator Lake, Alabama Summary of Final Recommended Changes

**Type of Unit:** Otherwise Protected Area (OPA)

**Location of Unit:** On the eastern end of Dauphin Island, south of Mobile, in Mobile County, Alabama

**Congressional District:** 1

**Date of Final Recommended Map:** April 10, 2015

**Number of Maps:** Unit AL-05P is depicted on one map.

**Base Map Imagery Source and Date:** U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2013

**Establishment of Unit:** The Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (Pub. L. 101-591 enacted on November 16, 1990) originally established Unit AL-05P.

**Historical Changes to Unit:** There have been no changes to the boundaries of Unit AL-05P since its designation in 1990. Adjacent System Unit Q01A was modified via notice published in the Federal Register on February 24, 1997 (62 FR 8258). Unit AL-05P is depicted on the same map as Unit Q01A, but was not modified at that time.

**Public Comments:** The Service held a 60-day public comment period from September 12 through November 14, 2011, on the draft map dated September 22, 2009. For a summary of the comments received and the Service's responses, see the document entitled *Summary of Public Comments Received on Draft Map for John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Units Q01P, Q01A/Q01AP, and AL-05P and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Responses and Recommendations*, which is available on the Service's website at: [www.fws.gov/cbra](http://www.fws.gov/cbra).

**Changes between Proposed and Final Recommended Boundaries:** The 2008 base map imagery that was used for the draft map dated September 22, 2009, has been replaced with 2013 imagery. The update of the underlying base map resulted in minor changes between the proposed boundaries of Unit AL-05P depicted on the draft map dated September 22, 2009, and the final recommended boundaries of the unit depicted on the map dated April 10, 2015. The Unit AL-05P boundary is modified slightly to clarify that certain structures are not within the CBRS.

A parcel owned by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (comprising approximately 14 acres) was originally proposed for inclusion within Unit AL-05P on the draft map dated September 22, 2009 (about 1 acre of the parcel is currently within Unit AL-05P and the remainder of the parcel is currently not within the CBRS). This parcel was used by the USCG as a recreational facility until it was substantially damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. All but one of the structures on this parcel were demolished in 2008. Based on communication with the USCG and GSA in 2014, it is the Service's understanding that the USCG no longer uses this parcel for recreation. At the time the USCG was determining whether it should be reported to the General Services Administration for divestiture. Because this parcel is no longer held for recreational purposes, it no longer meets the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) criteria for an OPA, which is defined as an area "established under Federal, State, or local law, or held by a qualified organization, primarily for wildlife refuge, sanctuary, recreational, or natural resource conservation purposes" (Section 12 of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act; Pub. L. 101-591). While this property no longer meets the criteria

for an OPA, it does meet the criteria for a System Unit. The classification of the parcel is therefore changed from OPA Unit AL-05P to System Unit AL-05 on the final recommended map to reflect this change in status.

**Final Recommended Changes to Unit:** The final recommended map dated April 10, 2015, modifies the western boundary of Unit AL-05P to better follow the western boundary of the Audubon Bird Sanctuary and remove from the CBRS 21 private properties (containing 12 residential structures and 9 undeveloped parcels) along Audubon Street and Audubon Place. The Service's assessment indicates that these private properties (comprising about eight acres) are appropriate for removal because they are not held for conservation or recreation, are not inholdings of the underlying conservation/recreation areas, and did not qualify on their own as an undeveloped coastal barrier at the time of inclusion within the CBRS.

The boundary of the unit is also modified to add to the CBRS areas that meet the CBRA criteria for an OPA, including: the portions of the Audubon Bird Sanctuary which are not already within the unit; the Dauphin Island Campground; and Magnolia Park; all of which are owned by the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board and held for conservation or recreational purposes.

The Service's final recommended map dated April 10, 2015, depicts changes to the CBRS that will only become effective if the revised map is adopted through legislation enacted by Congress.

**Acreeage, Shoreline, and Structures:**

	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Upland Acres*</i>	<i>Associated Aquatic Habitat Acres**</i>	<i>Shoreline (miles)</i>	<i>Structures***</i>
Existing Unit	127	107	20	0.7	
Added to the CBRS	33	33	0		4
Removed from the CBRS	(9)	(9)	0		(12)
Reclassified Area	(1)	(1)	0	(0.1)	
Final Recommended Unit	150	130	20	0.5	
Net Change	23	23	0	(0.2)	(8)

\* Land above mean high tide.

\*\* Associated aquatic habitat includes wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and open water landward of the coastal barrier, but does not include open water seaward of the shoreline. This information is derived from an interpretation of 2013 aerial imagery in consultation with National Wetlands Inventory data and other data sources as necessary.

\*\*\* Structure count derived from 2013 aerial imagery. The structures that are proposed for addition to the CBRS are park-related structures owned by the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board. There are several other park facilities (e.g. a pavilion) that are within the proposed boundaries of Unit AL-05P that are not included in this structure count because they do not meet the definition of a "structure" in 16 U.S.C. 3503(g)(2).

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:ES  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-358-2171  
[www.fws.gov/cbra](http://www.fws.gov/cbra)**

**August 2015**

