

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Unit M12, St. Phillips Island, South Carolina Summary of Final Recommended Changes

**Type of Unit:** System Unit

**County:** Beaufort

**Congressional District:** 1

**Existing Maps:** The existing CBRS maps depicting this unit are:

- Map [45-022A](#) dated December 6, 2013
- Map [45-023A](#) dated December 6, 2013

**Final Recommended Maps:** The final recommended CBRS maps depicting this unit are:

- Draft map [45-021B](#) dated April 29, 2021
- Draft map [45-022B](#) dated April 29, 2021
- Draft map [45-023B](#) dated April 29, 2021

**Base Map Imagery Source and Date:** United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2019

**Establishment of Unit:** The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (Pub. L. 97-348), enacted on October 18, 1982 (47 FR 52388), originally established Unit M12.

**Historical Changes:** The CBRS maps for this unit have been modified by the following legislative and/or administrative actions:

- Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (Pub. L. 101-591) enacted on November 16, 1990 (56 FR 26304)
- *Federal Register* notice (79 FR 21787) published on April 17, 2014, in accordance with Section 3 of Pub. L. 101-591

For additional information on historical legislative and administrative actions that have affected the CBRS, see: [www.fws.gov/cbra/Historical-Changes-to-CBRA.html](http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Historical-Changes-to-CBRA.html).

**Public Comments:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) held a 60-day public comment period on the proposed boundaries for this area from January 4 through March 5, 2021. No comments specific to Unit M12 were received.

**Changes between Proposed and Final Recommended Boundaries:** There are no changes to Unit M12 between proposed and final recommended.

**Final Recommended Changes:** The final recommended changes to Unit M12 are described below.

*Recommended Removals:*

- One structure and adjacent fastland along John Scott Road near its terminus

## Unit M12 Summary of Recommended Changes (continued)

### *Recommended Additions:*

- Small areas of fastland and wetlands associated with the Beaufort River, Station Creek, and the Harbor River, located on St Helena Island along the landward boundary of the unit
- Wetlands and small areas of fastland between Old Island and St Helena Island, including Cherry Hill Knoll Island and portions of Horse Island, the Harbor River, and the Story River
- A minor area of wetlands that are privately owned and subject to a conservation easement (held by the Beaufort County Open Land Trust), located south of Fort Fremont along Station Creek

### *Other Modifications/Information:*

- Areas of fastland and associated aquatic habitat that are privately owned and subject to a conservation easement (held by the Beaufort County Open Land Trust) are currently within System Unit M12, located south of Fort Fremont along Station Creek. These areas are not proposed for reclassification to an Otherwise Protected Area (OPA) because the conservation easement was not in place when the areas were first included in 1990 within the CBRS.
- St. Phillips Island (owned by the State of South Carolina and subject to a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy) is currently within System Unit M12. This area is not proposed for reclassification to an OPA because the Island was privately owned and not held for conservation and/or recreation when it was first included in 1982 within the CBRS.
- Portions of Old Island Heritage Preserve/Wildlife Management Area (owned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) are currently within System Unit M12. This area is not proposed for reclassification to an OPA because it was not held for conservation and/or recreation when the area was first included in 1990 within the CBRS.
- Pritchards Island, part of which is owned by the University of South Carolina and is subject to a deed restriction to maintain the Island in a wilderness state, is currently within System Unit M12. This area is not proposed for reclassification to an OPA because the deed restriction was not in place when the area was first included in 1982 within the CBRS.
- A minor area of shoals known as Bay Point Shoal Seabird Sanctuary (managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) is currently located within System Unit M12. This area is not proposed for reclassification to an OPA.

For information about the Service's guiding principles and criteria for assessing CBRS boundary modifications, visit [www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Boundary-Modifications.html](http://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Boundary-Modifications.html).