

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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

Type of Unit: System Unit

County: Beaufort

Congressional District: 1

Existing Maps:

The existing CBRS maps depicting this unit are:

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

Notice of Availability:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) opened a public comment period on the proposed changes to Unit M12 via Federal Register notice. The Federal Register notice and the proposed boundary (accessible through the CBRS Projects Mapper) are available on the Service's website at www.fws.gov/cbra.

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: <https://www.fws.gov/cbra/Historical-Changes-to-CBRA.html>

Proposed Changes:

The proposed changes to Unit M12 are described below.

Proposed Removals:

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

Proposed 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.

Unit M12 Summary of Proposed Changes (continued)

- 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.

Unit M12 Summary of Proposed Changes (continued)

Acreage, Shoreline, and Structure Information:

The table below includes the acreage, shoreline, and structure changes associated with the proposed boundary of Unit M12.

	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Fastland Acres*</i>	<i>Associated Aquatic Habitat Acres**</i>	<i>Shoreline Miles</i>	<i>Structures***</i>
Existing Unit	22,751	1,426	21,325	9.9	
Added to the CBRS	4,596	26	4,570	0.0	0
Removed from the CBRS	2	2	0	0.0	1
Reclassified Area****	0	0	0	0.0	0
Proposed Unit	27,345	1,450	25,895	9.9	
Net Change	4,594	24	4,570	0.0	(1)

*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 National Wetlands Inventory data.

***Approximate structure count derived from base map imagery. Gas and liquid storage tanks, structures without walls and a roof (e.g., picnic shelters), structures with fewer than 200 square feet, structures that are not affixed to a permanent site (e.g., recreational vehicles), and structures that are not located principally above ground are not included in this structure count because they do not meet the statutory definition of a "structure" (16 U.S.C. 3503(g)(2)).

****Reclassification means to change either all or a portion of a System Unit to an Otherwise Protected Area, or vice-versa.

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