

News Bulletin

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Contact: Margie Brenner, 413/992-8132, margie_brenner@fws.gov

Hail Cove project will protect marshes, provide buffer against future storms

Rock Hall, M.D. – People living near Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge will benefit from a [living shoreline project](#) to protect marshes at Hail Cove. The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) last month awarded a \$1.3 million contract for the project to reduce erosion and wave action to protect 400 acres of tidal marshes in the Chester River. Coastal marshes are natural buffers for communities against hurricanes and other severe storms.

[Ayuda Companies](#) of Broomfield, Colorado, will complete the work during the next two years under the contract.

The funding for the project is a portion of the \$102 million in federal emergency funding allocated to the Service following Hurricane Sandy to complete projects to restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline, create open connections to rivers and streams for fish passage, and reduce the risk of flooding from future storms.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is a 2,285 acre island providing habitat for thousands of wintering waterfowl including the tundra swan. Surrounded by the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay, more than 240 bird species visit the refuge along with small mammals and many other wildlife species.

To read more about the coastal restoration project, [click here](#). To view photos of the refuge, [click here](#). To learn more about other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hurricane Sandy recovery and resilience projects, [visit the Hurricane Sandy Recovery website](#).

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the northeast region, visit www.fws.gov/northeast. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwsnortheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwsnortheast, watch our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/usfws and download photos from our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsnortheast.

