

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES FISHERMAN ISLAND IN CHESAPEAKE BAY AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced today that 1,000-acre Fisherman Island in Chesapeake Bay has been acquired from the Navy Department to become a national wildlife refuge.

The refuge system, operated by Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, consists of more than 340 areas involving more than 30 million acres located in 48 of the 50 States.

Fisherman Island, 5 miles off shore from Northampton County, Va., is bisected by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, where a turnoff provides for parking.

The island's flat, bushy terrain attracts shore birds, gulls, terns and ospreys. The Fish and Wildlife Service plans to provide interpretive signs and a hiking trail for refuge visitors.

Interior has administered the island for wildlife purposes since 1969. The Navy now is relinquishing all but 25 acres of the island.

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