

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Update

Greetings from Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge!

We continue to work on the draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. The CCP is a 15-year strategic plan that will guide management for all refuge programs. This project began in 2005 when we held public scoping meetings to gather public input and identify key issues and concerns.

At that time, we also began working on four other CCPs, for Nomans Land Island, Nantucket, Mashpee, and Massasoit National Wildlife Refuges. We have now completed plans for Nomans Land Island and Nantucket National Wildlife Refuges. Working on these other CCPs delayed us in completing the draft plan for Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge.

Our Timeline

We intend to complete our draft plan for the refuge this summer. When it is released, we will provide opportunities for public review and comment for 60 days. Information about public meeting dates, times, and locations will be distributed at that time. We will address all comments that we receive in the final plan, which we intend to complete in early 2014. We will not change our management activities on the refuge until we have a final, approved plan.



Lighthouse at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Kate Iaquinio/USFWS

What will be in the Draft CCP?

We have been developing and evaluating three management alternatives that encompass all aspects of refuge management, including wildlife and habitat conservation, public use, partnerships, wilderness management, land protection, infrastructure, and staffing. We have also gathered information about uses on and near the refuge so that we can properly analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of each of the proposed management alternatives.

One of the alternatives reflects current management of the refuge and will be the baseline for comparing the other two alternatives.

Next Steps

Thank you for your patience as we complete work on the draft CCP and EIS. We look forward to presenting the draft plan and discussing it with the community and other stakeholders.

Once the draft plan is complete, it will be available on our refuge Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/monomoy/> and in the Chatham Public Library for review. We will also have a limited of hard-copies and CD-ROM versions of the draft CCP available upon request.

Latest News from the Refuge

- We continue to evaluate the impacts of the February storm that created a breach at South Beach, just off the refuge, potentially changing the tidal dynamics of the refuge and affecting shorebird habitat.
- Spring has begun on the refuge with the return of piping plovers and American oystercatchers. Soon we expect to common terns and the federally endangered roseate terns.
- We continue collaborating with the University of Massachusetts to test new bird banding technology called nano-tagging to help us better document the movements of several species during the breeding



Common tern with chicks

USFWS



American Oystercatcher

USFWS

period, including common terns and American oystercatchers. These lightweight transmitters are less cumbersome to the birds and allow researchers to monitor and track smaller-sized birds.

- We continue our work with the town of Chatham and other local partners to implement the \$400,000 grant we received in 2012 from the Federal Transit Administration's Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program. The grant aims to purchase shuttle vehicles and provide service to refuge facilities from off-refuge satellite parking lots and through downtown Chatham.



Zachary Cava/USFWS

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About Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1944 to provide habitat for migratory birds.

The refuge is 7,604 acres with varied habitats of oceans, salt and freshwater marshes, dunes, and freshwater ponds of which 3,244 acres are designated wilderness area.

The refuge provides important resting, nesting, and feeding habitat for migratory birds, including the federally protected piping plover and roseate tern.

More than ten species of seabirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds nest on the islands.

The refuge also supports the second largest nesting colony of common terns on the Atlantic seaboard with over 8,000 nesting pairs.

Contact Information

For additional information on Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, please visit the refuge Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/monomoy/>. You may also reach refuge staff by telephone at: (508) 945-0594.

For more information on the CCP, please contact staff at the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex:

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