

Sudbury Town Hall
April 7, 2005; 7 – 9 p.m.
Public Meeting Issues/Comments/Questions

Management of South Beach if it connects

Will public uses be affected? How? Closures?

Jurisdictional questions on south beach –who controls/owns what?

Connection of North Monomoy and the mainland – what will happen? Access?

Coyote control (5 people spoke against shooting of coyotes)

Refuge's role in maintaining ecological balance

Alternatives to shooting

Live capture and transfer

Lethal predator control

Other species involved? Great horned owl; gulls, black crowned night heron etc.

What other options are available?

Shooting on a refuge is in conflict with the purpose and mission

Should exhaust all ideas before shooting coyotes

Humane Society has offered to work with the FWS on alternatives

Shellfishing

American tradition and want to see the activity continue

Shellfishing is of vital economic importance to the Town of Chatham

Shellfishing is beneficial to migratory birds in that the hand raking uncovers or stimulates the sand flats providing enhanced food sources

Believes that there is more flexibility in the Wilderness Act to accommodate or that will allow shellfishing

Recreational fishing access to Morris Island and South Beach is an issue and concern for the fly fishermen and they want to see access maintained; also want continued access by the ferry and fishing guides;

Fish and Wildlife Service/Public Right-of-way on Morris Island

What does the public have a right to use/access?

No sign

Should put up a new sign

Trail overgrown

Ferry operations

Continued access via ferry

Prevent small special interest groups from impacting the ferry operations

Other commercial activities within the wilderness area on refuge

How do they compare with shellfishing? What is being allowed and why?

Potential Commercialization

Concern over future development and over-commercialization

Keep the area open and pristine.

Monomoy Island is internationally recognized fishing area; groups from the UK regularly visit for fishing purposes

Monitoring of the clam flats to track clam population densities and distribution

Level of gull predation on terns?

Need for more education of the public regarding refuge purpose, rules and regulations etc.

Causeway access

Potential local resident objections to cars left on the causeway

Town problem but refuge will help look into options

Need to increase the signage and means of informing people/public of closed areas

Protect sensitive areas by roping off and adding signs

NOMANS Island – Rep from Mass. DEP, Mr. Campbell, inquired about schedule for an ordnance survey of the island and was concerned that no date(s) was set yet; how will trespass be treated or enforced; would like to see Navy's scheduled tightened and also have an evaluation built in; what about any outreach effort to warn/inform the public?

Question was asked by the same gentleman, Mr. Campbell, about the possibility of FWS partnering with the Town of Chilmark, Coast Guard, and/or tribal council to enforce "no access" to the island?