

Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project

Summary of Final Recommended Changes for Rhode Island

In 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) initiated the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project to comprehensively modernize the maps for the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources (CBRS) units in the nine states most affected by Hurricane Sandy: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (Long Island), Rhode Island, and Virginia. This fact sheet summarizes the final recommended changes to the CBRS units in Rhode Island resulting from this project. The revised maps produced through this project will only become effective once they are adopted by Congress through legislation. For additional information on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/project/hurricane-sandy-remapping-project>.

Number of Units in Project

Total Recommended Rhode Island Units: 32

System Units: 16

Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs): 16

The Service has prepared comprehensively revised final recommended maps for 31 of the 35 existing CBRS units in Rhode Island.

The map for the remaining four Rhode Island units (RI-04P, RI-05P, RI-06, and RI-07) was comprehensively reviewed and revised by the Service and adopted by Congress in 2014. One existing unit in Rhode Island has no recommended changes. The Service identified four recommended new units in Rhode Island. Three of the four recommended new units in Rhode Island are comprised either partially or entirely of areas that are currently contained within the CBRS, but are recommended for reclassification from System Unit to OPA. One of the four recommended new units in Rhode Island is comprised entirely of area that is not currently contained within the CBRS. Sixteen percent of the acreage in the four recommended new Rhode Island units is not currently within the CBRS. Three of the existing 31 units are recommended for reclassification from System Unit to OPA, and therefore their current unit numbers are retired, resulting in 32 total recommended units (not including the 4 that were remapped and adopted by Congress in 2014).

Public Review and Comments

The Service held a 120-day public review and comment period on the proposed boundaries in Rhode Island from December 18, 2018, through April 17, 2019 (83 FR 64861). The Service received nine comments

affecting eight units in Rhode Island. For a summary of the comments received and the Service's responses, see [chapter 3](#) and [appendix C](#) of the 2022 *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project*.

Changes between Proposed and Final Recommended Boundaries

The aerial imagery initially used to prepare the proposed boundaries for the Rhode Island units in this project was dated 2016. When preparing the final recommended boundaries, the Service reviewed the proposed boundaries against the updated imagery and made necessary adjustments to better follow the intended features visible on the updated imagery. The imagery used for the final recommended maps is dated 2018. The Service also made changes to two units in response to comments received during the public comment period, including the creation of one new recommended unit that was not initially proposed. The changes made between the proposed and final recommended boundaries for each Rhode Island unit are summarized in [appendix E](#) of the 2022 *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project*.

Final Recommended Acreage and Structure Changes

The final recommended maps for the Rhode Island units would remove 98 acres from the CBRS (88 acres of fastland and 10 acres of associated aquatic habitat) and add 1,544 acres to the CBRS (382 acres of fastland and 1,162 acres of associated aquatic habitat). The final recommended maps for the Rhode Island units

would remove 76 acres of privately owned lands not held for conservation/recreation from the CBRS and add 172 acres of privately owned lands to the CBRS.

The final recommended boundaries would remove 146 structures (mostly private residential) from the CBRS and add six structures (mostly park-related) to the CBRS.

Information about the recommended changes for each of the individual Rhode Island units (including acreage and structure changes) is available in [appendix E](#) of the 2022 *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project* and at: <https://www.fws.gov/project/hurricane-sandy-remapping-project>.

Final Recommended Acreage and Structure Changes for Rhode Island

| | Fastland Acres ¹ | | Associated Aquatic Habitat Acres ² | | Total Acres | | Total Structures ³ | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|---|-------|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|------|
| | System Unit | OPAs | System Unit | OPAs | System Unit | OPAs | System Unit | OPAs |
| <i>Added to the CBRS</i> | 186 | 196 | 710 | 452 | 896 | 648 | 0 | 6 |
| | Total: 382 | | Total: 1,162 | | Total: 1,544 | | Total: 6 | |
| <i>Removed from the CBRS</i> | 67 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 72 | 26 | 132 | 14 |
| | Total: 88 | | Total: 10 | | Total: 98 | | Total: 146 | |
| <i>Net Reclassified⁴</i> | (787) | 787 | (4,137) | 4,137 | (4,924) | 4,924 | | |
| <i>Transferred Area⁵</i> | 116 | 0 | 1,317 | 0 | 1,433 | 0 | | |
| | Total: 116 | | Total: 1,317 | | Total: 1,433 | | | |
| <i>Net Change</i> | Total: 410 | | Total: 2,469 | | Total: 2,879 | | Total: (140) | |

¹ Land above mean high tide.

² 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 National Wetlands Inventory data.

³ 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)).

⁴ Reclassified area are areas currently within the CBRS that are recommended for reclassification from System Unit to OPA or vice versa.

⁵ The net change includes 116 acres of fastland and 1,317 acres of associated aquatic habitat that were transferred from System Unit CT-00 to System Unit D08. This transfer between two units of the same type does not change the CBRA restrictions on Federal expenditures and financial assistance in these areas.

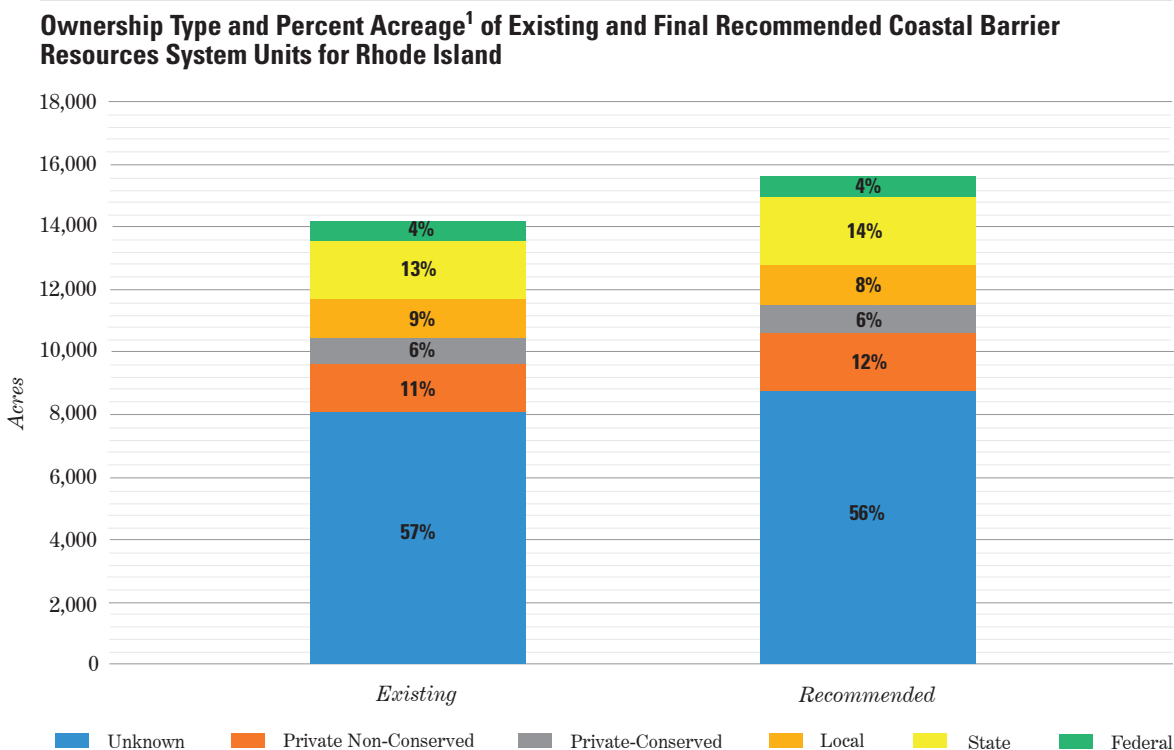
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Final Recommended Changes by Land Ownership

The ownership type of the existing and final recommended CBRS units in Rhode Island is depicted in the graph below. In conducting this project, the Service relied heavily on

publicly available state and local GIS data, which did not contain ownership information for certain areas (mostly large swaths of wetlands and open water) that are within the project area; and therefore such areas are categorized as “unknown.” “Private conserved” indicates areas that

are owned by private individuals or organizations (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, etc.) and held specifically for conservation and/or recreation purposes, including privately owned areas that are subject to conservation easements.



¹Ownership data was acquired from local, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations between 2014 and 2017

Rhode Island Units in Project

| <i>County</i> | <i>Congressional District</i> | <i>Unit Number</i> | <i>Unit Name</i> | <i>Unit Status</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Newport (RI), Bristol (MA) | MA-9, RI-1 | D01 | Little Compton Ponds | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | D01P | Tunipus Pond | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | D02 | Fogland Marsh | Existing Unit |
| Washington, Kent, Newport, Bristol | RI-1, RI-2 | D02B | Prudence Island Complex | Existing Unit |
| Kent, Newport, Bristol | RI-1, RI-2 | D02BP | Prudence Island Complex | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D02C | West Narragansett Bay Complex | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | D02P | Fogland Marsh | New Unit - Entirely Reclassified |
| Washington | RI-2 | D03 | Card Ponds | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D03P | Card Ponds | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D04 | Green Hill Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D05 | East Beach | Existing Unit Reclassified to Unit D05P and Unit Number Retired |
| Washington | RI-2 | D05P | East Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D06 | Quonochontaug Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D06P | Quonochontaug Beach | New Unit - Mostly Reclassified |
| Washington | RI-2 | D07 | Maschaug Ponds | Existing Unit |
| Washington (RI), New London (CT) | CT-2, RI-2 | D08 | Napatree | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D08P | Napatree | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D09 | Block Island | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | D09P | Block Island | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-01 | Brown Point | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-02 | Sapowet Point | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-02A | McCorrie Point | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-02P | Sapowet Point | New Unit - Mostly Reclassified |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-03P | Sandy Point | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-08 | Fox Hill Marsh | Existing Unit |
| Newport | RI-1 | RI-08P | Fox Hill Marsh | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-09 | Bonnet Shores Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-10 | Narragansett Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-10P | Narragansett Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-11 | Seaweed Beach | Existing Unit Reclassified to Unit RI-11P and Unit Number Retired |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-11P | Seaweed Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-12 | East Matunuck Beach | Existing Unit Reclassified to Unit RI-12P and Unit Number Retired |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-12P | East Matunuck Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-13P | Misquamicut Beach | Existing Unit |
| Washington | RI-2 | RI-14P | Point Judith | New Unit |

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-358-2171
cbra@fws.gov
<https://www.fws.gov/cbra>**

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