

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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News Release

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Update on Deep Bay Fire on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

The Deep Bay Fire started some time before 11:00am on Friday, June 6 in the pocosin and marsh habitats north of US Highway 64 on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. On Friday afternoon, joint efforts by the NC Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service completed lines around the fire using specialized equipment (Marshmasters) designed to function in very wet conditions. At 6:30pm on Friday, the fire was called "100% contained" by Incident Commander Bert Plante.

Over the week-end, firefighters monitored the fire and reinforced containment lines. Saturday and Sunday were a bit drier. Some of the interior portions of the fire burned more actively, and there was some visible smoke. Today, there has been no smoke or flames observed on the Deep Bay Fire.

The north and east containment lines for the fire are the shoreline of South Lake. Marshmasters were used on Friday to build about a mile of line, completing containment on the south and west sides of the fire.

Today, two Marshmasters with crews continue to provide mop-up and monitoring for the fire. This afternoon, current Incident Commander Cory Waters will take a boat into South Lake to check the fire status from that vantage point.

Incident Commander Waters said, "Today, the wind is from the south, and it's expected to be from the south for the next few days. That should keep any fire or smoke that might occur heading toward the water and away from highways and homes. We'll continue to watch this fire, but we don't anticipate much more out of it."

Any future updates will be posted at www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/deepbayfire.html and on the USFWS in North Carolina Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/USFWS.NC>.