

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release

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Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Amendment to the S-Curves Beach Nourishment Compatibility Determination Available for Public Review

Refuge Manager Mike Bryant announced today that the DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION for the S-Curves Beach Nourishment Interim Protection for N. C. HIGHWAY 12 project is available for public review and comment until April 10, 2014. The work proposed will be conducted on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the amendment expands the beach disposal window from the date the permit is finalized until April 15, 2015. This may include dredging and beach disposal during summer months. Comments are being sought on the benefits and impacts from issuing an amended Permit to allow beach nourishment under the amended conditions as a one-time solution for interim protection of NC 12 while the Phase IIb Bridge is planned and constructed.

Federal wildlife refuges are required by law to determine the compatibility of any proposed non-wildlife dependent use with the mission of the national wildlife refuge system and the purpose for which a particular refuge was established. "The mission of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is to protect migratory birds and other native wildlife and their breeding grounds and habitat for the benefit of the American people, stated Bryant. He added, "We want the community to be informed about the work being proposed and to have an opportunity to weigh in on the pros and cons of that work."

If you wish to review the Draft Compatibility Determination, copies are available at the Refuge administrative office at 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, N.C., at the Pea Island Visitor Center, and at <http://www.fws.gov/peaisland>. Written comments may be sent to: Refuge Manager, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, N. C. 27954 or emailed to dennis_stewart@fws.gov.

All comments must be submitted no later than close of business (4:00 PM) on April 10, 2014. If you need additional information, please contact Refuge Biologist Dennis Stewart at (252) 473-1132 X231.