

News Release



**Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DREDGING AT SEATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The first phase of a multi-faceted saltmarsh resiliency project began at Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on Saturday, December 26, 2015. During the initial phase of this project, Suffolk County is removing wet dredge material from the bottom of Champlain's Creek and depositing this material on refuge marshes. A low ground pressure piece of equipment is present on the marsh to stage the newly dredge material. Phase 2 of this project will use the dredged sand to raise the elevation on the waterlogged areas of the marsh. Future stabilization efforts will also include restoring the tidal flow by placing new natural ditches and filling some grid ditches that are no longer functioning properly. The overall project will restore the marsh and its natural tidal flow and reduce shoreline erosion.

In October 2013, the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(Service\)](#) received funding to restore and enhance approximately 567 acres of salt marsh habitat impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The Seatuck resiliency project is a part of a larger restoration effort to restore marsh habitats at three units of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The project will help restore wetland habitat in currently degraded salt marshes, as well as help protect the nearby communities of Islip during future storms and rising sea-levels.

Seatuck NWR is located in Islip, NY on the south shore of Long Island and was acquired in 1968 as a donation from the Peters family. The refuge consists of 209 acres bordering the Great South Bay, and is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by Fire Island. Seatuck NWR hosts more than 200 species of birds, and serves as an oasis for wildlife in a heavily developed urban area. Uplands make up about half of Seatuck NWR, including grassland, shrubland and woodland habitats. Wetland habitats comprise the other half of the refuge, and saltmarshes are the most common wetlands on the property. For additional information, please view our website <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/seatuck> or contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office at 631-286-0485.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.