

News Release

Edwin B. Forsythe

National Wildlife Refuge

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Brick Township Coves to Reopen to Boating Memorial Day Weekend

Brick, NJ – Boaters take note: two Barnegat Bay coves in Brick Township will be reopened to boating Memorial Day Weekend, but special regulations will apply.

The coves, known locally as “F-Cove” and “T-Cove,” were closed to the public by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in 2012 due to concerns about public safety and disturbance to wildlife. The coves are part of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

The Service and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have agreed to open the two coves on a pilot basis.

“While we are providing for outdoor recreation, it is of paramount importance to protect natural resources and visitors,” said Forsythe Refuge Manager Virginia Rettig. “By reopening the coves, the Service and NJDEP are giving boaters the opportunity to enjoy the coves if the public is willing to comply with new necessary regulations.”

In both coves, loud music and littering will not be allowed, and boaters will be required to keep the channel clear for boat passage. Both coves are designated “no wake” zones. At F-Cove, which is north of the Mantoloking bridge in Brick, the land surrounding the cove is closed to all public entry. At T-Cove, located south of the Mantoloking bridge, the public may access the land only at certain locations marked by signs. No anchoring on land or tying up to trees or signs will be permitted.

“With the summer season about to start, we are pleased to announce that we are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Brick Township, and the New Jersey State Police to provide recreational opportunities on the water while protecting the important natural resources of the wildlife refuge,” said DEP Commissioner Bob Martin. “We want people to have fun, but we also insist that they follow important rules that protect themselves and the environmental integrity of the area.”

The Service closed the coves in 2012 because large concentrations of boats were impeding access in and out of the coves and were creating problems including litter, human waste, and loud noise. The sites will be patrolled by the Service, Brick Township Police, and the New Jersey Marine Police, but it is important that citizens report any illegal activity. The sites will be closed again if the public does not adhere to the regulations.

“The coves have long been a destination for boaters and families to enjoy most of whom do so responsibly. Its closure was unfortunate and sent a strong message that the protection of our natural resources is paramount,” said

Brick Township Mayor Stephen Acropolis. "I thank the Fish and Wildlife Service and the DEP for working with us to open F Cove again for people to enjoy."

For further information about Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, call the refuge at 609-652-1665, or visit www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe/ . Find the Refuge on Facebook at ForsytheNWR.

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