

# Chesapeake Marshlands

## National Wildlife Refuge Complex

### Represented by Members of Congress

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (MD)  
Senator Christopher Van Hollen Jr. (MD)  
Rep. Andrew P. Harris (MD-1st)  
Senator Timothy Kaine (VA)  
Senator Mark Warner (VA)  
Rep. Robert Wittman (VA-1st)

### Profile

#### Established:

Blackwater	1933
Eastern Neck	1962
Martin	1954
Susquehanna	1939

#### Current acres:

Blackwater	28,894
Eastern Neck	2,286
Martin	4,569
Susquehanna	3

#### FY 2016 budget:

FTEs	18
*Salaries/ops.	\$1,821,485
Fees	\$65,517

2016 volunteer hours 10,950

2016 visitation 207,000

\*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

### Complex Facts

- The Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, located on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, comprises Blackwater, Eastern Neck, Martin and Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuges (NWR).
- The lands of the Complex extend approximately 125 miles along the Chesapeake Bay, from Garrett Island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River south to Watts Island in Virginia.
- All the refuges in the Complex were established primarily for the protection and management of habitat for migratory birds. The refuges also manage habitat for threatened and endangered plants and animals and native species.

### Management Activities

- Protecting land through acquisitions and easements
- Managing and restoring wetland and upland habitats
- Managing freshwater impoundments and crops to provide food for migratory waterfowl
- Enhancing habitat and reducing wildfire risk through the use of prescribed fire
- Controlling exotic invasive species and protecting endangered species
- Conducting scientific research to improve management decisions

### Visitor Services

- Blackwater NWR and Eastern Neck NWR feature staffed visitor facilities with interpretive displays and trails for hiking, paddling, photography, and wildlife observation.
- Seasonal hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl are offered at Blackwater NWR and for deer and turkey at Eastern Neck NWR.
- Information and an interpretive display about Martin NWR can be found at the Smith Island Cultural Center in Ewell, MD.

### Contact

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chesapeakemarshrefugecomplex



Protecting shoreline at Martin NWR

USFWS

### Highlights

- As part of the Hurricane Sandy Resiliency Project, the Complex completed “living shoreline” construction on Martin and Eastern Neck NWRs in 2016. The project at Martin NWR protects over 1,200 acres of tidal marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation and clam beds, benefitting both wildlife and the human inhabitants of Smith Island. The Eastern Neck NWR project stabilizes 4,000 feet of highly vulnerable shoreline at Hail Cove and directly protects more than 400 acres of high quality tidal marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation in the Chester River.
- Also utilizing Sandy Resiliency funds, cutting edge “thin layering” marsh restoration techniques are being deployed at Blackwater NWR to revitalize tidal marsh habitat.
- Blackwater NWR partners with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State and National Parks to help preserve and convey the Tubman story.