



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Cape Cod National Seashore
99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667
508-771-2144
508.349.9052 Fax

May 26, 2011

Public Scoping Shorebird Management Planning Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effects (EA)

Background

Cape Cod National Seashore's (CCNS) beaches and inter-tidal zone provide significant nesting and staging habitat for the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). Both are federally-listed under the 1973 Endangered Species Act. In addition, the Seashore protects other state and federally-listed species of special and/or conservation concern including the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and the American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*).

CCNS most recent shorebird management Standard Operating Plan (SOP) for threatened or endangered shorebird species was prepared in 1994. This SOP has guided the national seashore's recent efforts in protecting and managing shorebirds. However, conditions have changed over the years and the plan must provide sufficient details and direction for dealing with the present complexities and challenges of managing nesting and staging shorebirds or visitor use in habitats used by these birds.

The national seashore is in the process of preparing a comprehensive shorebird management plan with an associated EA. In developing the EA, park staff will review and summarize past shorebird management practices, current knowledge, and beach management activities pertaining to the protection of shorebirds within the Seashore in order to develop a management strategy for the future.

Purpose of Plan

The purpose is to protect threatened and endangered shorebirds at Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) while accommodating recreational use.

Need for Action

CCNS supports a systematic approach to park management whereby recreational use and development are balanced with the need to ensure long term preservation of natural resources, processes and values. The park has a commitment to protect rare, threatened, and endangered species. Protection of these species is complex given the park's annual visitation, which exceeds four million people, coupled with land use changes occurring on Cape Cod.

The national seashore's Shorebird Management Plan must provide sufficient detailed direction to address current complexities in managing nesting and staging shorebirds and visitor use.

Action is needed at this time to address emerging issues related to predation on threatened and endangered shorebirds; the narrowing of some national seashore beaches due to erosional processes; and new recreational uses in shorebird habitat. A sustainable plan is needed that provides clear direction and consistency; conforms to applicable law and NPS policies; and is economically feasible.

Objectives:

The plan/Environmental Assessment must meet the following objectives:

- Support U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery goals for piping plover productivity;
- Protect ground nesting and staging shorebirds;
- Balance shorebird protection with recreational use;
- Provide clear direction for day-to-day operations;
- Be sustainable over time;
- Be adaptable to changing conditions over time;
- Have measurable performance indicators.

Your Participation

Because of your interest in Cape Cod National Seashore, we are requesting your comments on developing a Cape Cod National Seashore Comprehensive Shorebird Management Plan/EA. Scoping is the first step to involve the public in the management strategy for the shorebird program. The National Park Service (NPS) uses your comments to ensure that we are considering all issues while developing a range of alternatives for the management of shorebirds.

The purpose of the public scoping meeting is to provide information on the planning process and opportunity to comment on the development of the plan. Next year, the EA will be released to the public after alternatives for shorebird management have been developed and analyzed. At that time, CCNS will seek your comments again.

Anticipated Timeline

Through July 29, 2011	Public Scoping
Winter of 2011/2012	Public Review and Comments on the EA
Spring 2012	Decision/Final Plan Issued

How to Comment

- Attend the public scoping meeting:
Thursday, May 26, 2011
5:30 to 7:00 PM
Salt Pond Visitor Center
Eastham, MA

The meeting will begin with a short presentation. After the presentation, NPS staff will be on hand to record your input. Attendees may also submit comments on written forms available at the meeting.

- Submit comments electronically at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CACO>
Project Title: Shorebird Management Planning
- Submit comments by mail to:
Superintendent
Cape Cod National Seashore
99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Please submit comments by July 29, 2011

If you would like to be on our mailing list for future notification, please be sure to include your full name and address with the comment so we may add you to our mailing list for information on future items in this process.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.