

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Sediment Management Framework and Environmental Impact Statement



Seashore beach at Ramp 25, just south of Salvo

Public Scoping Meetings
April 2020

1

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Welcome!

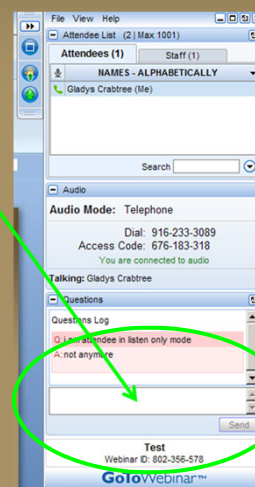
- Introductions
- Webinar Logistics
- Presentation
 - What is NEPA?
 - Project Background
 - Preliminary Impact Topics and Alternatives
 - Cooperating Agencies
 - How to Engage and Schedule
- Question and Answer Session

2



GoToWebinar Control Panel - QUESTIONS

- As an attendee, you will be in listen-only mode.
- Type your questions at any time during the webinar into the Chat/Questions Box in the Control Panel.
- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation, as time allows.



3



QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

Questions or comments submitted as part of this webinar **will not** be considered formal comments on the project.

To provide comments on the project, please visit:

<https://parkplanning.gov/CAHASediment>

Follow the link for this project and click 'Open for Comment'

4



What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is part of a planning and decision-making process
- NEPA requires federal agencies to:
 - Analyze the environmental impacts of federal actions
 - Engage the public in the decision-making process

5



NEPA Planning Process

- Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying issues related to the proposed action:
 - Internal Scoping
 - NPS staff identified the purpose of and need for action, the scope of the plan, and preliminary issues and alternatives
 - Public Scoping
 - The engagement of interested and affected public related to proposed action, alternatives, issues, and sources of data.

6

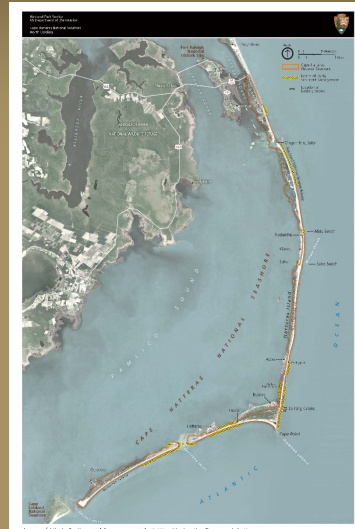
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Background

- The nation's first national seashore
- 67 miles of shoreline
- Nine Villages
- Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
- NC-12 and Ferries



Map of likely sediment management activities

7

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Background

- Natural accretion and erosion processes
- Erosion rates – 10 ft/year
- 4.69 mm sea level rise
- 5 to 10 inches projected



Aerial depiction of historical erosion rates

8

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Background

- Dune building and revegetation, 1930s through the 1960s
- Since the 1970s, occasional use of localized beach nourishment
- Some segments of beach are relatively stable
- In other places, eroded beaches result in ocean encroachment on the dunes and the ocean washing over onto NC 12 and within adjacent communities.

9

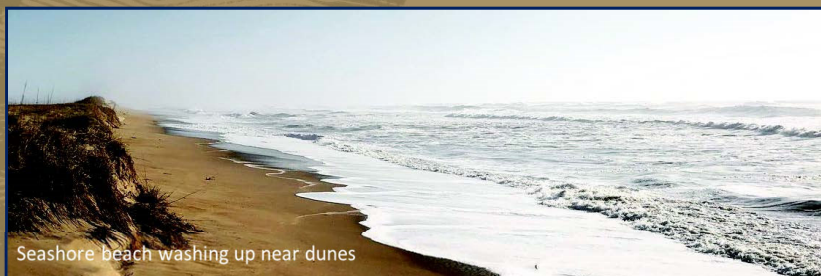
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a streamlined framework for permitting sediment management at the Seashore, including the method, locations, and frequency for sediment management actions that may be permitted over the next 20 years.



Seashore beach washing up near dunes

10

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Project Need

The framework is needed to:

- Provide timely response for localized beach nourishment requests as a result of increased storm events and projected sea level rise
- Consider opportunities to restore coastal habitats.



Hurricane Dorian Flooding (September 2019)

11

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Preliminary Impact Topics



Loggerhead sea turtle nest boil



A Piping Plover foraging in the surf

- Littoral Processes and Barrier Island Morphology
- Benthic Organisms and Essential Fish Habitat
- Sea Turtles
- Listed Shorebird Species
- Structures and Infrastructure

12



Preliminarily Impact Topics Dismissed

- Offshore Littoral Processes and Barrier Island Morphology
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Fish and Sturgeon
- Other Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
- Seabeach Amaranth
- Cultural Resources



A view of the Seashore showing the oceanfront and sound side

13



Preliminary Alternatives

The NPS has developed two preliminary alternatives relative to requests to issue special use permits to agencies including the North Carolina

Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Dare and Hyde counties, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

- Alternative A- No Action
- Alternative B- Proposed Action

14



Alternative A: No-Action

- The NPS would not permit sediment management activities at the Seashore over the next two decades.
- The no-action alternative would preclude Seashore partners, such as the NCDOT, from implementing sediment management to protect NC 12 outside of its existing easement, and Dare County to perform beach nourishment projects along the Seashore.

15



Alternative B: Proposed Action

The NPS could permit other agencies and municipalities to conduct, with conditions, sediment management in the form of:



Seashore waves crash over dunes onto beach residences

- Beach Nourishment
- Habitat Restoration
- Dune reconstruction and enhancement
- Emergency breach fill

16

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

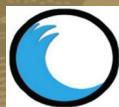
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Cooperating Agencies

This EIS is being prepared in cooperation with

- The US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Regulatory and Planning Divisions)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation (Ferry and Highway Divisions)
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Dare County
- Hyde County



17

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior




Schedule

Steps in this EIS Process	
Spring 2020	Public Scoping (We are here)
Summer 2020	NPS Develops Draft EIS
Fall 2020	Draft EIS released to the public for 45-day review and public comment period, including public meetings
Winter 2020	NPS Develops Final EIS
Winter 2021	Final EIS released for public review
Spring 2021	NPS Record of Decision signed by the Regional Director

18

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



How to Comment

1. Submit comments electronically at:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAHASediment> (preferred method)


2. Mail or hand-deliver written comments to Seashore headquarters:
 Cape Hatteras Sediment Management EIS
 Superintendent
 Cape Hatteras National Seashore
 1401 National Park Drive
 Manteo, NC 27954

Comments must be
submitted by May
10, 2020

19

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Sediment Management Framework and
Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



How To Provide Useful Feedback

- Comments should be clear, concise, and relevant to the issues and preliminary alternatives.
- Comments that contribute to developing alternatives that address the purpose and need for the action are also effective.
- Commenting is not a form of “voting” on an alternative.
- Project website has instructions for submitting comments:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAHASediment>

20



Thank You!

- We will now do our best to answer your questions on the framework and EIS process.
- Please submit your questions via the Questions/Chat Box.



Seashore beach