



## You Are Invited to Participate

The National Park Service (NPS) is inviting your input on the Sediment Management Framework and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for Cape Hatteras National Seashore (the Seashore). Your feedback is important to our planning process.

Publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on September 18, 2020, began a 45-day public comment period. As part of the public review process, the NPS will host three virtual meetings via webinar. You are invited to attend these webinars to learn more about the project scope, issues, alternatives, and potential impacts. The webinars will also include a question and answer period so that NPS staff can answer questions from attendees. To view the Draft EIS and for additional project information on the EIS process, the virtual public meetings, and how to provide comments please visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAHASediment>.



### Virtual Public Meeting Dates

To register for a virtual meeting (webinar), please follow directions at the below links:

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#### **VIRTUAL MEETING 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2662999979913844235>

**Webinar ID: 860-854-891**

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#### **VIRTUAL MEETING 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5949638147432091405>

**Webinar ID: 850-891-843**

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#### **VIRTUAL MEETING 3 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020**

**7:00 – 8:00 PM ET**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3045951083777996813>

**Webinar ID: 692-546-131**

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.





# Why Prepare a Sediment Management Framework?

Consisting of more than 30,000 acres distributed along approximately 67 miles of ocean-facing shoreline, the Seashore is part of a dynamic barrier island system. Nine villages, including Nags Head, Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Hatteras, and Ocracoke, are located adjacent to or within the Seashore. The Seashore and villages are accessible by North Carolina Highway 12 (NC 12); private boat; aircraft; and the Hatteras-Ocracoke, Swan Quarter, and Cedar Island ferries.



At the Seashore, human activities and structures have contributed to the alteration of natural shoreline processes. Shorelines processes have been altered by dredging of navigation channels, hardened structures such as groins, dune building, overwash scraping (the process of removing/scraping overwash sand deposition off the road or other built features), and sea-level rise.

## Purpose of and Need for the Framework

The purpose of taking action is to develop a framework for issuing special use permits for sediment management at the Seashore to mitigate impacts of altered shoreline processes, consistent with applicable NPS management policies. This framework includes the method, locations, and frequency for sediment management actions that may be permitted over the next 20 years.

By developing a framework, the Seashore can comprehensively consider the cumulative impacts of multiple sediment management actions over many years. The Seashore has received requests and anticipates future requests for sediment management activities to protect critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, electrical transmission facilities, and other public transportation facilities; to repair island damages, including breaches that affect transportation; and to restore habitat through the placement of dredged materials along eroded sections of barrier islands. The Seashore needs a sediment management framework to assist in addressing these requests in a timely manner, while avoiding and minimizing impacts that may be associated with such actions.



# Issues

An issue describes the relationship between actions and environmental resources (natural, cultural, and socioeconomic). Issues addressed in the Draft EIS include:

- **Littoral Processes and Barrier Island Morphology:** Sediment management activities would impact littoral processes and barrier island morphology through the manipulation of large quantities of sediment to mitigate erosion processes as well as relative sea-level rise.
- **Benthic Organisms and Essential Fish Habitat:** Sediment management activities would potentially impact benthic invertebrate communities, essential fish habitat, and habitat areas of particular concern through burying during sand placement or sedimentation or increasing water column turbidity.
- **Sea Turtles:** Sediment management activities could change sand and beach characteristics, potentially impacting sea turtle nesting. Dredging may entrap sea turtles or result in increased vessel strikes.
- **Listed Shorebird Species:** Sand placement from sediment management activities could disturb foraging, resting, and nesting listed shorebird species, as well as nesting habitat. In addition, sand placement would also impact benthic invertebrate communities, which could impact foraging resources for many listed shorebird species.
- **Structures and Infrastructure:** Sediment management activities may help reduce ongoing adverse effects on Seashore resources, values, and infrastructure, as well as private property and NC 12. This could affect public health and safety, visitor use, and socioeconomics.

## Summary of Alternatives

	<b>Alternative A - No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative B - Preferred Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>
Sediment Management Activities	Not permitted	Beach nourishment, dune restoration, and filling island breaches may be permitted.	Same as alternative B.
Extent of Activities	Not Applicable	Approx. 54 miles of the Seashore. Approx. 13 miles would be set aside for reference monitoring.	Full length of the Seashore (approx. 67 miles). No monitoring area set-aside.
Frequency of Beach Nourishment	Not Applicable	Up to 6 miles of beach annually. Additional 6 miles could be permitted due to severe storm events.	Up to 6 miles of beach every 5 years.
Sediment Characteristics	Not Applicable	Close match to the native beach.	Same as alternative B.
Sediment Volume	Not Applicable	Maximum of 7.92 million cubic yards is expected annually for beach nourishment projects. If additional nourishment is permitted due to a severe storm, an additional 7.92 million cubic yards may be considered.	Maximum of 7.92 million cubic yards every 5 years.
Borrow Areas	Not Applicable	Likely to be dredged offshore.	Same as alternative B.

# Cooperating Agencies

The Draft EIS was prepared in cooperation with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wilmington District Regulatory and Planning Divisions, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Ferry and Highway Divisions, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), Dare County, and Hyde County.

## The EIS Process

- 1 Spring 2020:** Public Scoping
- 2 Summer 2020:** NPS develops a Draft EIS
- 3 Fall 2020:** Draft EIS released to the public for a 45-day review and public comment period, including public meetings **(We are here)**
- 4 Winter 2020:** NPS develops a Final EIS
- 5 Winter 2021:** Final EIS released for public review
- 6 Spring 2021:** NPS Record of Decision signed by the Regional Director

## 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**

All written comments must be postmarked and all electronic comments must be submitted no later than 45 days from the date the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. The deadline for submitting comments is **November 2, 2020.**

*Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or any other way than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

