



Sediment Management Framework and Environmental Impact Statement



Seashore beach at Ramp 25, just south of Salvo

Draft EIS - Virtual Public Meetings
September/October 2020



NPS Staff

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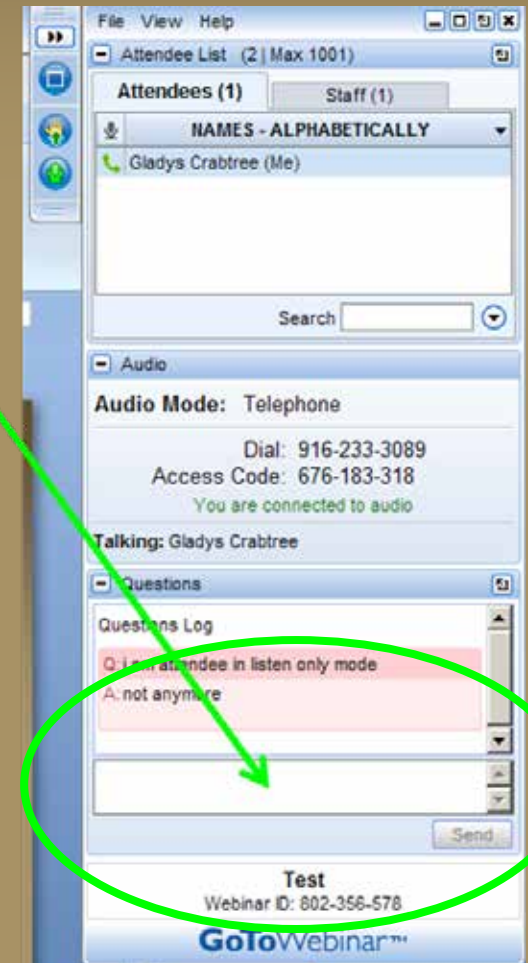
Welcome!

- Introductions
- Webinar Logistics
- Presentation
 - Project Background
 - Impact Topics and Alternatives
 - Cooperating Agencies
 - Project Schedule
 - How to Provide Public Comments
- Question and Answer Session



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.





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'

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

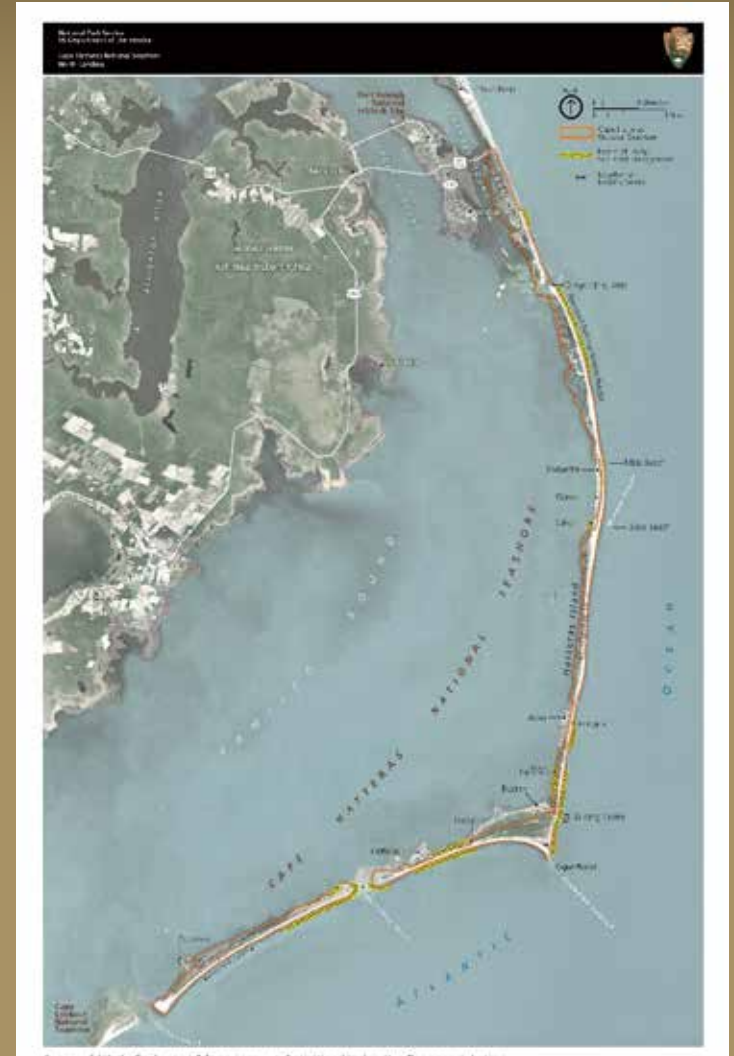
Sediment Management Framework and Environmental Impact Statement

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Background

-
- A map of North Carolina with a textured, wavy pattern representing water or sand. A small area on the eastern coast is highlighted in a darker shade, indicating the location of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. The background is a light tan color.
- 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



Background

- Natural accretion and erosion processes
- Erosion rates – 10 ft/year
- 5.08 +/- 1.16 mm/yr sea level rise
- 5 to 10 inches projected



Aerial depiction of historical erosion rates



Background

- Dune building and revegetation, 1930s - 1960s
- Since 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.



Project Purpose

To develop a framework for issuing special use permits for sediment management at the Seashore to mitigate impacts of human-altered shoreline processes. This framework will include the method, locations, and frequency for sediment management actions that may be permitted over the next 20 years.



Seashore beach washing up near dunes



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)



Issues and Impact Topics



- Littoral Processes and Barrier Island Morphology
- Benthic Organisms and Essential Fish Habitat
- Sea Turtles
- Listed Shorebird Species
- Structures and Infrastructure
 - Includes resident and visitor access, public safety, and economics



Alternatives in the Draft EIS

The NPS has developed three alternatives in consultation with cooperating agencies

- Alternative A - No Action
- Alternative B – **NPS Preferred Alternative**
- Alternative C



Alternative A: No-Action

- The NPS would not permit sediment management activities at the Seashore over the next two decades.
- Would preclude Seashore partners, such as 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.



Clearing of NC 12 of sediment north of Rodanthe



Alternative C

- Continue current management - ad hoc permitting
- Sediment management may occur on up to 6 mi every 5 yrs.
- No reference area monitoring component



Road damage on Ocracoke Island 2019



Alternative B: Preferred Alternative

Permit other agencies to conduct, with conditions:

- Beach nourishment, dune rebuilding, habitat restoration, and emergency breach fill
- Up to 6 miles annually (additional 6 miles permitted during emergencies)
- 13 miles of the Seashore areas are excluded to reduce impacts and serve as long-term monitoring sites for continual improvement.



Seashore waves crash over dunes onto beach residences



Alternative B Conditions:

- Grain size and beach slope
- Frequency to allow re-establishment of benthic communities
- Mitigation measures to avoid wildlife impacts
- Applicant must obtain all required State, Federal and Local approvals
- Regulatory agencies conditions incorporated in NPS SUP
- Every 2 years review results of monitoring, new scientific information, new regulatory requirements, and new transportation management solutions.



2017 Beach Nourishment
on Hatteras Island



Alternative B: Reference Area Criteria

- Not adjacent to a highway or village
- Low erosion rates or significant beach width
- Requested by cooperating agencies



South Beach on Hatteras Island



Comparison of Alternatives

	Alt. A	Alt. B - Preferred	Alt. C
Activities	Not permitted	Beach nourishment, dune restoration, and filling breaches permitted.	Same as alt B
Extent	N/A	+/- 54 miles of the Seashore (13 mi. set aside for reference monitoring)	All 67 Seashore miles. No monitoring areas.
Frequency	N/A	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.
Characteristics	N/A	Close match to the native beach.	Same as alt B.
Volume	N/A	Maximum of 7.92 million CY annually for nourishment projects. Additional 7.92 million CY may be permitted after severe storm events.	Maximum of 7.92 million CY every 5 years.
Borrow Areas	N/A	Likely to be dredged offshore.	Same as alt B.



Cooperating Agencies

This EIS is being prepared in cooperation with

- 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



Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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Schedule

Steps in this EIS Process

Spring 2020	Public Scoping
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 (We are here)
Winter 2020	NPS Develops Final EIS
Winter 2021	Final EIS released
Spring 2021	Record of Decision signed by the Regional Director

Upcoming webinars – September 30 at 11:00 AM ET, October 1 at 7:00 PM ET



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
November 2, 2020



Thank You!

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



Seashore beach