



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Public Review of Environmental Assessment for Dredging of Sailors Haven Channel; Comments Due by December 10

Patchogue, NY— The National Park Service (NPS) announced today that the Environmental Assessment (EA) that coincides with Fire Island National Seashore's plans to dredge the entrance channel area into the park's Sailors Haven Marina will be available for public review. The project entails the removal of approximately 1,500 – 2,000 cubic yards of sand from an area approximately 120 feet wide and 250 feet long to a depth of six feet at mean low water. Using the clamshell dredging method, material will be temporarily deposited in the picnic areas on either side of the marina. According to Fire Island National Seashore's park superintendent, Mike Reynolds, a 30- day period of public review period is open through December 10, 2007. Dredging must be completed by the end of January 2008.

Several alternatives were considered. Alternative B is the National Park Service's preferred alternative. This is also the environmentally preferred alternative, which proposes to remove small quantities of sand (1,000 to 3,000 cubic yards per event) from the navigational channel over the next ten years as needed. Dredged material will be deposited alternately on the east and west sides of the marina until the sand can be used for a bayside shoreline restoration project. All material removed from the channel will be retained on the bay side of Fire Island. Sailors Haven channel was last dredged in 2002, with more material removed from the entrance to the marina in 2004. This project was approved for 2005, although funding was not available at that time. The cost of the project this winter is expected to be less than \$80,000.

No public meetings have been scheduled. As part of the National Park Service's procedures to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the NPS has various ways in which the public can review the Environmental Assessment. Printed copies of the document are available for public review at park headquarters in Patchogue, and at the West Islip Library, Sayville Library, Patchogue- Medford Library, South Country Library in Bellport, and the Mastics- Moriches- Shirley Community Library.

(more)

You can review and share your comments easily through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web site: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

The document is also available to download on Fire Island National Seashore's website at: www.nps.gov/fiis/parkmgmt/upload/EA_SailorsHavenDredging_11-2007.pdf (700 KB file)

By December 10, 2007, comments on the project should be addressed to Superintendent Reynolds at Fire Island National Seashore Headquarters, 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. You may also post comments electronically at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Search through [Plans/Documents Open for Comment](#) for Fire Island National Seashore projects. *(Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.)*

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis.

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