



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Public Scoping Meeting for Proposed Storm Surge Protection Projects on Fire Island Scheduled for March 18, 2008

Patchogue, NY—Environmental Assessments (EAs) that coincide with a number of plans for proposed work within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore will be made available for public review in 2008. The first of these EAs are expected to be for two separate projects that address storm surge protection on Fire Island. A public scoping meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 18, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.**, at the Town of **Brookhaven Town Hall at One Independence Hill in Farmingville, New York 11738**, to review proposed storm surge protection project plans before the two EAs are completed. As part of the National Park Service's procedures to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), every environmental assessment is made available for public review and comment.

Several Fire Island communities (which lie within the boundaries of the National Park Service unit) are consolidating their resources to create a plan for short- term beach nourishment from offshore sand sources and for beach scraping projects that would occur over the next few years. An environmental assessment is required before any permits can be issued and funding can be procured for projects of this nature.

Smith Point County Park is also proposing a beach nourishment project for 2008, as part of its revised master plan. This project involves the dredging of Moriches Inlet, with the placement of spoil material on eroded beach/dune areas in Smith Point County Park and Cupsogue County Park.

Project presentation will be made by the consultants preparing the plans and impact analyses. The consultants for the community project are Coastal Planning & Engineering of Boca Raton, Florida and Land Use Ecological Services, Inc., of Riverhead, New York. For the county park projects, the consultant is Greenman- Petersen, Inc. Engineering and Construction Services.

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The release of a new publication by New York State Sea Grant should provide good background material for a better understanding of coastal processes. *Long Island's Dynamic South Shore*, a 28- page primer on barrier islands and dynamic coastal processes, is available online at www.nyseagrant.org. (See "What's New?") Hard copies of the publication will also be available at the public scoping meeting on March 18, 2008. Links to additional studies can be found on Fire Island National Seashore's web site in its Nature & Science section.

A comprehensive coastal erosion and habitat restoration plan to reduce storm risk is being prepared by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is expected to be completed within a few years. This plan, referred to as the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Plan (FIMP), is expected to provide a long- term approach for addressing issues related shoreline and bayside management on the south shore of Long Island. The FIMP Plan will include a full environmental impact study. In the meantime, short- term projects—such as those to be discussed in this public scoping meeting—can only be considered on an individual basis. Permits to conduct beach renourishment projects must be obtained from several appropriate agencies: federal, state and local. Before permits can be issued, an environmental assessment must be completed and be made available for public review and comment. The National Park Service requires an EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) before it will issue a special use permit for any activity within park boundaries that may affect but have less than significant impacts to the natural or cultural resources of the park. The EAs for these two projects are expected to be available for public comment by early May 2008.

You can review previous environmental assessments for Fire Island National Seashore at www.nps.gov/fiis/parkmgmt/management- documents.htm.

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

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