



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore 120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

631 289-4810 phone
631 289-4898 fax

Fire Island National Seashore News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Mike Bilecki, Chief of Resources Management

Phone number: 631- 687- 4760

Date: July 30, 2008

Release code: 08- 12

Public Review of Environmental Assessments for Storm Surge Protection Projects on Fire Island; Comments Due by September 2

Patchogue, New York— While awaiting the completion of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' large-scale plan for storm damage reduction on the south shore of Long Island from Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point (FIMP), several Fire Island communities and Smith Point County Park have created plans for short- term beach nourishment from offshore sand sources and from sand in Moriches Inlet, and for small- scale beach scraping projects. Both the communities and the county park lie within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore, so approval for the projects must be granted by the National Park Service. NPS Management Policies dictate that park resources must not be adversely impacted by the proposed projects. Before the Seashore can issue special use permits for these projects, public review and participation is also required. Public scoping for these projects was conducted in January, February and March of 2008. The Environmental Assessments (EAs) that coincide with these projects are now available for a 30- day period of public review, which will close on September 1.

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 these environmental assessments. 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. 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/>.

Also as part of public review and comment there will be a public presentation to discuss these projects and the EAs. The presentation is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2008 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Town of Brookhaven Town Hall auditorium, on the second floor at One Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738.

(See <http://www.brookhaven.org/Directions/tabid/231/Default.aspx> for directions.)

(more)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

At the meeting on August 18 the public will have an opportunity to view the project design, impact analyses, and make comments on the projects.

By September 2, 2008, comments on the project should be addressed to Acting Superintendent Sean McGuinness at Fire Island National Seashore Headquarters, 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. You may also post comments electronically through September 2, 2008 at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Search through [Plans/Documents Open for Comment](#) for Fire Island National Seashore projects.

You can see the comments from the public scoping meetings and get more information about each project at the NPS PEPC site. The web address for the “Beach Nourishment and Maintenance Dredging at Smith Point County Park and Cupsogue County Park” project is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=227&projectId=22546>

The web address for the “Fire Island Community Short- Term Storm Protection” project is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=227&projectId=20689>

(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.)

The documents are also available to download on Fire Island National Seashore’s website at: www.nps.gov/fiis/parkmgmt/upload/DRAFT_EA_CommunityBeachNourishment_30July2008.pdf (5,334 KB file) and http://www.nps.gov/fiis/parkmgmt/upload/DRAFT_EA_SmithPointCountyParkBeachNourishment_30July2008.pdf (2,651 KB file) with links to their appendices.

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

#