

Fisherman Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Edward L. Schrock (R-2nd)

Contact

Susan Rice, Refuge Manager
Eastern Shore of Virginia
National Wildlife Refuge
5003 Hallett Circle
Cape Charles, VA 23310-9725
Phone: 757/331 2760
Fax: 757/331 3424
TDD: 800/828 1140
E-mail: susan_rice@fws.gov
<http://easternshore.fws.gov>

Profile

Established:	1969
Current acres:	1,850
Proposed total acres:	1,850
Staff:	0
FY 2001 budget:	\$571,000*
2002 volunteer hours:	500
2002 visitation:	800

*Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge is managed as part of the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge.

Purpose

Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide habitat for migrating, breeding and wintering birds.

Public Use Notes

- The refuge is closed to the public; however, guided tours are offered between October and May.



Management Activities

- Manage refuge as a natural barrier island subject to forces of nature
- Study migratory species through bird banding and other bird and butterfly study programs
- Remove past military structures and associated items
- Patrol island to protect wildlife and their habitats

Highlights

The refuge provides nesting habitat for a variety of shorebirds, terns, brown pelicans, herons, egrets and ibis. The island harbors the largest number of nesting royal terns and brown pelicans in Virginia.

Fisherman Island functions as a critical staging area for large concentrations of waterfowl and other migratory birds including, blue-winged teal, mallards, American wigeon, mergansers, sea ducks and a large variety of neotropical migrants during fall migration.

The barrier islands in the area were designated as part of a United Nations Biosphere Reserve.

The waters within and surrounding the refuge support large populations of finfish and shellfish. Additionally, the unditched marshes of the refuge serve as a nursery for many commercially important fisheries species.

Issues

Access to the refuge is controlled due to sensitive breeding and nursery areas.

Avian and mammalian predation of terns and brown pelicans is a potential problem.

There is potential for oil spills from tankers and other contamination from boats.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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1 800/344 WILD
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