



*Monarch butterfly*

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Chesapeake Island Refuges

*Eastern Neck, Martin and Susquehanna  
National Wildlife Refuges*

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD)  
 Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)  
 Rep. Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD-1st)  
 Senator John Warner (R-VA)  
 Senator George F. Allen (R-VA)  
 Rep. JoAnn S. Davis (R-VA-1st)

### Contact

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Administered out of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The Chesapeake Island refuges are located on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, and comprise a 80-mile archipelago in mid-Chesapeake Bay.

### Purpose

The Chesapeake Island National Wildlife Refuges were established to provide sanctuary and for other management purposes for migratory birds. They represent a unique ecosystem component of the Chesapeake Bay, providing relatively isolated and predator-free critical nesting and wintering habitat. A host of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, terrapins and endangered species rely on the island chain.

### Public Use Notes

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge:

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (fully accessible boardwalk with observation tower and bay view/butterfly trail)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit needed)

Martin National Wildlife Refuge:

- Seasonal Visitor Contact Station in the town of Ewell

### Management Activities

- Restoring wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation beds using clean dredged material
- Working to recover populations of threatened and endangered species such as bald eagle, Delmarva fox squirrel and tiger beetle
- Protecting and managing habitat for migratory birds
- Preserving natural diversity and plant and animal abundance
- Providing nesting habitats and structures for a variety of wildlife species
- Controlling exotic invasive species
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and refuge regulations

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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<http://www.fws.gov>

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### Highlights

Refuge lands are home to the second largest heron rookery in Maryland and the largest rookery in Virginia.

Bald eagles and large concentrations of ospreys nest and feed throughout the refuge's islands.

These refuges protect 16 percent of the remaining SAV in Chesapeake Bay.

Martin NWR supports the largest colony of brown pelicans in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay.

Refuge islands are important breeding areas for American black duck, colonial nesting shore and wading birds, and diamondback terrapins, and support large numbers of spring and fall

migrating songbirds, raptors and monarch butterflies.

Eastern Neck NWR is a major staging area for migrating tundra swans.

### Issues

Coastal erosion and shoreline/wetland loss

Submerged aquatic vegetation decline

Black duck nest decline

Invasive species (mute swan, certain gull species, red fox, mile-a-minute weed and *Phragmites*)

