

Monomoy

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-10th)

Contact

Michael Brady, Refuge Manager
Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Wikis Way, Morris Island
Chatham, MA 02633
Phone: 508/945 0594
Fax: 508/945 9559
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: fw5rw_mnwr@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/monomoy>

Purpose

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge was established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.

Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation
- Surf fishing
- Wildlife photography
- Natural resource educational and interpretive programs

Management Activities

- Conduct extensive monitoring and protection activities for nesting shorebirds
- Manage vegetation to enhance nesting habitat for roseate and common terns



Common terns

USFWS

Highlights

Approximately 94 percent of the refuge is designated as a wilderness area, and is predominantly barrier beach islands of sand dunes, freshwater ponds, and salt and freshwater marshes.

The refuge is used by piping plovers and roseate terns, both federally listed species.

The federally endangered northeastern beach tiger beetle was reintroduced on the refuge in 2000.

Monomoy has been designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Regional Site.

Issues

The Avian Diversity Project, which began in 1996 with the removal of gulls, has resulted in an increase of common tern nests from 231 in 1995 to about 10,000 in 2005.

Animal rights activists continue to oppose the refuge's use of lethal predator control.

Commercial shellfishing occurs on the refuge in apparent violation of the Wilderness Act.

Ferry service to the islands operated under special use permits is controversial due to the limit on the number of ferry operators allowed and because ferry customers generate considerable traffic at refuge headquarters.

Scoping for the draft comprehensive conservation plan began in December 2004. There is concern about management changes that might occur when the plan is complete.

South Beach, which is attached to the mainland, is accreting towards South Monomoy Island and could connect in 2006. Jurisdictional issues about ownership and management need to be addressed.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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