

Nantucket

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)

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Purpose

Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge was established for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

Public Use Notes

- Surf fishing
- Wildlife observation and photography

Management Activities

- Provide piping plover and tern nesting habitat
- Provide feeding, resting and nesting habitat for shorebirds and other migratory birds



Harbor seal

USFWS

Highlights

The refuge's barrier beach provides habitat for the federally listed piping plover and state-listed least tern.

Gray and harbor seals use the refuge in the winter months.

The refuge is a popular destination for surf fishermen.

The refuge is part of the larger Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge which includes lands held by the Service, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). The lands are managed cooperatively by TTOR through a memorandum of understanding.

The Great Point Coast Guard lighthouse is located within the refuge boundary and maintained by TTOR.

Issues

TTOR charges a fee for vehicles traveling over sand within the Coskata-Coatue Refuge. Fees collected exceed \$300,000 annually.

The refuge's popularity as a fishing destination has resulted in numerous oversand visits. At times during the summer, the refuge is used mainly as a parking lot.

The impact of sunbathing and swimming on wildlife is unknown.

Nonwildlife-dependent public uses will be examined in 2006 and could be curtailed.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
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