

APPENDIX A: Glossary

Accretion: An accumulation of sediments along a shoreline.

Associated aquatic habitat: Aquatic habitat associated with coastal barriers, including the adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and nearshore waters.

Barrier islands: Coastal barriers completely detached from the mainland. Barrier spits may become barrier islands if their connection to the mainland is severed by creation of a permanent inlet. The barrier island represents a broadened barrier beach, commonly sufficiently above high tide to have dunes, vegetated zones, and wetland areas.

Barrier spits: Coastal barriers that extend into open water and are attached to the mainland at only one end. They can develop into bay barriers if they grow completely across a bay or other aquatic habitat. Alternatively, bay barriers can become spits if an inlet is created.

Bathymetry: The underwater equivalent to topography.

Bay barriers: Coastal barriers that connect two headlands and enclose a pond, marsh, or other aquatic habitat. The terms bay mount bar or bay bar are considered to be synonymous.

Break-in-development: Where development ends, either immediately adjacent to the last structure in a cluster of structures or at the property parcel boundary of the last structure.

CBRA prohibition date: The date on which all prohibitions on Federal expenditures and financial assistance (e.g., beach nourishment, dredging, and disaster assistance) within the CBRS, excluding Federal flood insurance, first took effect. The CBRA prohibition date is the date upon which the area was first included within a System Unit of the CBRS, either the date of the law for areas added through Congressionally-adopted maps or the date of the *Federal Register* notice for areas added through the Service's administrative authorities.

Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (CBIA) (Pub. L. 101-591): This law, enacted in 1990, reauthorized the CBRA through fiscal year 1993, made modifications to existing units, added a new type of unit called Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs), and expanded the CBRS to include areas along the Great Lakes, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (Pub. L. 97-348): This law, enacted in 1982, designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts as part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. The three purposes of this law are to minimize the loss of human life, conserve natural resources associated with coastal barriers, and save taxpayers' dollars.

Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-514): This law, enacted in 2000, reauthorized the CBRA through fiscal year 2005, and directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to: (1) conduct a digital mapping pilot project by remapping 50-75 CBRS areas using digital technology and preparing an accompanying report to Congress; and (2) submit to Congress an economic assessment of the CBRS. It also codified the criteria for assessing the development status of a coastal barrier.

Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-226): This law, which was actually enacted in 2006, reauthorized the CBRA through fiscal year 2010, and directed the Secretary to (1) conduct a public review of the draft pilot project maps and submit the final recommended maps and accompanying report to Congress, and (2) modernize the remainder of the CBRS maps using digital technology.

Coastal Barrier Resources System (see *John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System*)

Comprehensive map modernization: One of two processes through which the Service modernizes maps of the CBRS. The comprehensive map modernization approach requires a thorough review process and generally follows these steps: (1) research by the Service into the intent of the original boundaries and the development status on-the-ground at the time the areas were originally included within the CBRS (the Service generally does not

recommend removal of areas from the CBRS unless there is compelling evidence that a mapping error was made); (2) preparation of draft revised maps by the Service; (3) public review of the draft maps; (4) preparation of final recommended maps by the Service that take into consideration information provided during the public comment period; and (5) Congressional enactment of legislation to make the revised maps effective.

Consistency consultation: The process required of a Federal agency under the CBRA (16 U.S.C. 3505(a)) prior to making Federal expenditures or financial assistance available within the CBRS; consultation is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

Digital conversion: One of two processes through which the Service modernizes maps of the CBRS. Through the digital conversion effort, the existing CBRS boundaries are: (1) transferred and fitted to updated base maps (i.e., a recent aerial image) to ensure that the boundaries correspond with the natural or development features they are clearly intended to follow on the official maps (such adjustments are generally within the width of the existing CBRS boundary); (2) modified to reflect any natural changes that have occurred since the maps were last updated (this is known as the “five-year review”) and to incorporate any voluntary additions and excess Federal property within the CBRS; and (3) in limited circumstances, modified to correct any administrative errors made in the past either in (a) the transcription of the boundaries from maps that were reviewed and approved by Congress to the official CBRS maps on file with the Service or (b) the previous inclusion of unqualifying (e.g., developed) areas to the CBRS through a five-year review map modification to account for natural changes. The revised maps prepared through the digital conversion process undergo stakeholder review by Federal, State, and local officials, and are made effective administratively by the Service through a notice of final map availability published in the *Federal Register*.

Fastland: The portion of a coastal barrier between the mean high tide line on the ocean side and the upper limit of tidal vegetation (or, if such vegetation is not present, the mean high tide line) at the rear of the coastal barrier.

Five-year review: The CBRA (16 U.S.C. 3503(c)) directs the Secretary to conduct, at least once every five years, a review of the CBRS maps and make minor and technical modifications to the CBRS boundaries as are necessary to reflect changes that have occurred in the size or location of any CBRS unit as a result of natural forces.

Flood insurance prohibition date: The date on or after which the issuance of Federal flood insurance coverage through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is prohibited for new construction or substantial improvements of existing structures located within the CBRS. Any structure built or substantially improved on or after the prohibition date is ineligible for Federal flood insurance. The flood insurance prohibition date for areas added to the CBRS by Congressionally-adopted maps is either the date of the law that first included the area within the CBRS or another date that was specified in the law. The flood insurance prohibition dates for areas added through the Service’s administrative authorities is the date of the *Federal Register* notice that announced the modifications to the CBRS map(s).

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): The official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. The FIRM is the basis for floodplain management, mitigation, and insurance activities of the NFIP.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A system designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

Geomorphic: Of or resembling the Earth or its shape or surface configuration.

Inholding: Developed or undeveloped private tracts of land that are not held for conservation or recreation purposes by their owners, and are contained within the exterior boundaries of the areas held primarily for wildlife refuge, sanctuary, recreation, or natural resource conservation purposes.

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS): A geographic system, established by the CBRA of 1982, that consists of the undeveloped coastal barriers and other areas located on the coasts of the U.S. that are identified and generally depicted on the maps on file with the Secretary entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System.” The CBRS was renamed the “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System” by Pub. L. 106-167 in 1999 to honor the late Senator Chafee.

Metadata: “Data about data.” It describes the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data. Metadata are used to organize and maintain investments in data, to provide information to data catalogs and clearinghouses, and to aid data transfers.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): A Federal program administered through FEMA which enables property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. This insurance was designed to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI): A Federal program administered through the Service which provides information to the public on the extent and status of the Nation's wetlands. NWI has developed a series of topical maps to show wetlands and deepwater habitats. These maps have been used extensively to make resource management decisions at the Federal, State and local government levels.

Orthorectification: The process of adjusting an aerial photograph to ensure the proper perspective of features in the image relative to their true position on the Earth's surface.

Otherwise Protected Area (OPA): An undeveloped coastal barrier within the boundaries of an area established under Federal, State, or local law, or held by a qualified organization, primarily for wildlife refuge, sanctuary, recreational, or natural resource conservation purposes that is included within the CBRS. The only Federal funding prohibition within OPAs is on Federal flood insurance.

Prograding: The seaward migration of a shoreline.

Property determination: A determination made by the Service of whether or not a specific property is located within the CBRS. The Service's determination is based upon the official CBRS map of the area and is used by the insurance agent and the NFIP to determine the Federal flood insurance eligibility for the property in question.

System Unit: Any undeveloped coastal barrier, or combination of closely-related undeveloped coastal barriers, included within the CBRS. Most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance, including Federal flood insurance, are prohibited within System Units.

Technical correction: A correction to a CBRS map to fix a legitimate mapping error. Such corrections are done on a case-by-case basis and the updated maps become effective through legislation enacted by Congress. When the Service makes a technical correction to a map we look at the entire affected CBRS unit(s) and prepare a new comprehensively modernized map for the area.

Tombolos: Coastal barriers that are sand or gravel beaches and connect one or more offshore islands to each other or to the mainland. Coastal barriers of this type occur principally in New York and New England. The terms connecting bar, tie bar, and tying bar are synonymous.

USGS topographic quadrangle: A four sided map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey that is bounded by parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude and displays elevation contours, physical features, and cultural features.