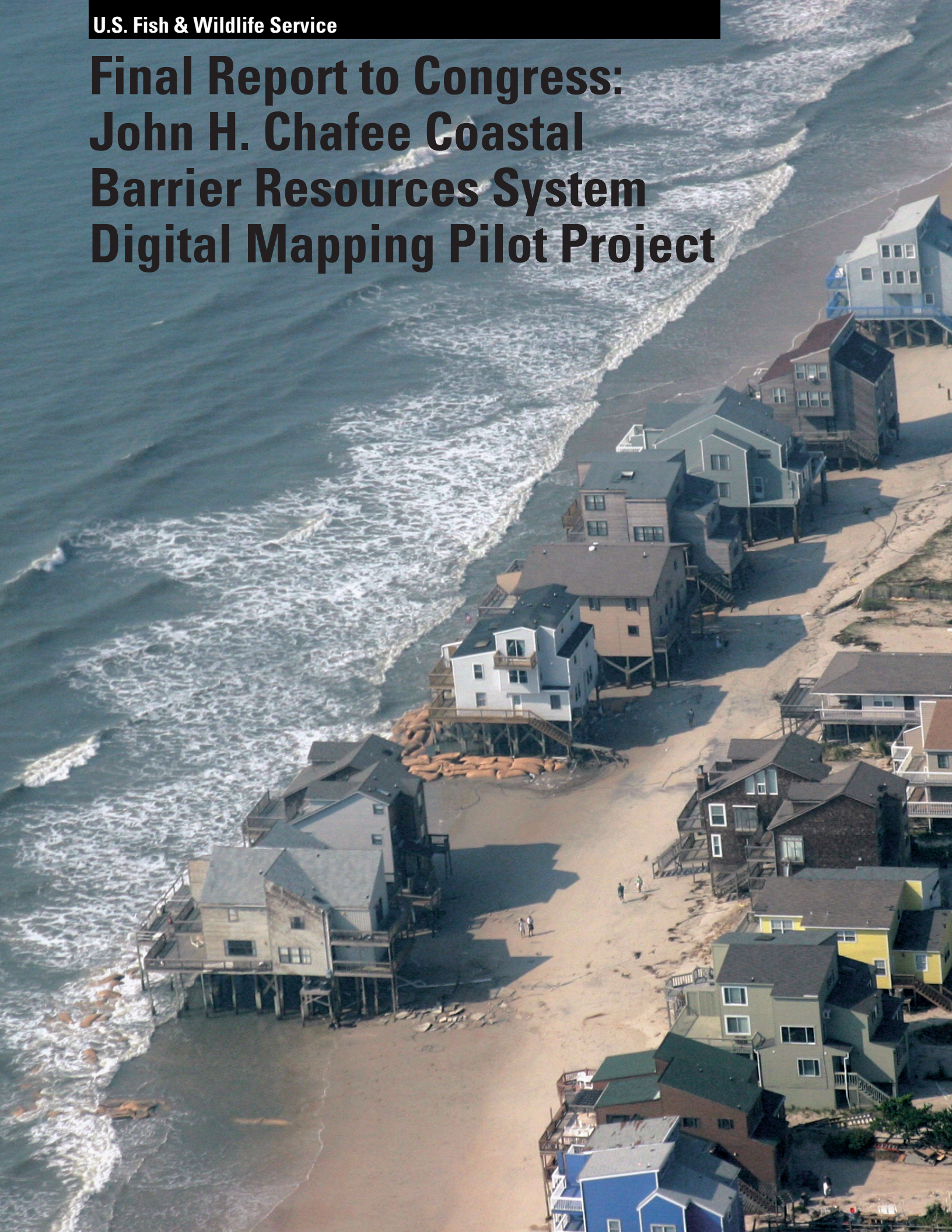


Final Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project



Cover photograph credit: Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University.

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Authority for the Digital Mapping Pilot Project and Purpose of this Report

In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) submitted its initial *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* (pilot project) to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Natural Resources, per a directive in Section 6 of the 2000 Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act (2000 CBRRA).¹ The 2008 pilot project report: (1) contained draft maps that proposed modifications to 70 units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) located in Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina and (2) described the methodology and results of the pilot project and the feasibility, data standards and needs, and costs of completing digital maps for the remainder of the CBRS.

The Service made the proposed pilot project maps and report available for public review and comment in 2009. Since the publication of the initial report, six units have been removed from the pilot project and one unit has been added, resulting in a total of 65 units in the pilot project at this time.²

This final report to Congress provides the final recommended maps for 65 units (comprising 274,363 acres and about eight percent of the total CBRS acreage), and has been prepared in accordance with Section 3 of the 2006 Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act (2006 CBRRA),³ which specifies that the Secretary of the Interior, after providing an opportunity for the submission and consideration of public comments, shall submit a report regarding the digital CBRS maps created under the pilot project to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Natural Resources. The 2006 CBRRA specifies that the report shall contain:

- (1) the final recommended digital maps created under the pilot project;
- (2) recommendations for the adoption of the digital maps by Congress;
- (3) a summary of the comments received from the Governors of the States, other government officials, and the public regarding the digital maps;
- (4) a summary and update of the protocols and findings of the initial pilot project report required under Section 6(d) of the 2000 CBRRA, which included:
 - a description of the cooperative agreements that would be necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire CBRS,
 - the extent to which the data necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire CBRS are available,
 - the need for additional data to complete digital mapping of the entire CBRS,
 - the extent to which the boundary lines on the digital maps differ from the boundary lines on the original maps, and
 - the amount of funding necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire CBRS; and
- (5) an analysis of any benefits that the public would receive by using digital mapping technology for all CBRS units.

The following table provides an introduction to the chapters of this report and notes which chapters and appendixes address the requirements listed above.

<i>Report Chapter</i>	<i>Description</i>
Chapter 1: Overview of the Coastal Barrier Resources System	This chapter includes an overview of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and CBRS map modernization.
Chapter 2: Benefits of Map Modernization and Successes to Date	This chapter includes an analysis of benefits that the public will receive by using digital mapping technology for all CBRS units, as required by Section 3(c)(5) of the 2006 CBRRRA.
Chapter 3: Pilot Project Public Review Process	This chapter includes a summary of the public review process, as required by Section 3(b)(2)(A) of the 2006 CBRRRA.
Chapter 4: Summary of Public Comments and Service Responses, Changes to Maps, and Updates to Mapping Protocols	This chapter includes a summary of the substantive overarching comments received during the public review period regarding the proposed maps and a summary and update of the protocols of the initial pilot project report, as required by Sections 3(c)(3) and 3(c)(4) of the 2006 CBRRRA, respectively.
Chapter 5: Summary and Update of Pilot Project Results	This chapter describes the results of the pilot project and the extent to which the boundary lines on the digital maps differ from the boundary lines on the original maps, as required by Section 3(c)(4) of the 2006 CBRRRA.
Chapter 6: Guiding Principles and Criteria for Coastal Barrier Resources System Modifications	This chapter includes a set of guiding principles and criteria to be applied to assessments of areas under consideration for removal from, addition to, and reclassification within the CBRS, and is based upon the lessons learned through the pilot project and other comprehensive remapping projects.
Chapter 7: Next Steps and Conclusions	This chapter includes a recommendation for the adoption of the final recommended maps by Congress, as required by Section 3(c)(2) of the 2006 CBRRRA. This chapter also describes the next steps to comprehensively modernize the remainder of the CBRS, including the cooperative agreements, digital data needs, data availability, and costs associated with completing digital mapping of the entire CBRS, as required by Section 3(c)(4) of the 2006 CBRRRA.
Literature Cited	This section contains a list of the sources cited throughout the report.
Appendix A: Glossary	This appendix includes a glossary of terms used throughout the report.
Appendix B: Summary of Historical Changes to the Coastal Barrier Resources System	This appendix includes a summary table of the historical changes that have been made to the CBRS.
Appendix C: Pilot Project Unit Summaries and Final Recommended Maps	This appendix includes unit summaries that update the findings of the initial pilot project report, as required by Section 3(c)(4) of the 2006 CBRRRA. This appendix also includes the final recommended maps created under the pilot project, as required by Section 3(c)(1) of the 2006 CBRRRA.
Appendix D: Pilot Project Acreage, Structure and Shoreline Changes	This appendix includes the acreage, shoreline, and structure changes associated with the final recommended maps included in Appendix C.
Appendix E: Responses to Unit-Specific Public Comments	This appendix includes a summary of the comments received for specific units during the public review period regarding the proposed maps, as required by Section 3(c)(3) of the 2006 CBRRRA.

¹ Pub. L. 106-514

² Units FL-64P, L07, L08, and L09 were removed from the pilot project because comprehensively revised maps for these areas have been adopted by Congress. The Service's proposed map for Unit FL-64P was made effective via Pub. L. 110-419 on October 15, 2008. The Service's final recommended maps for Units L07, L08, and L09 were made effective via Pub L. 113-253 on December 18, 2014. Units FL-19 and FL-78P have been removed from the pilot project because the areas within these two units have been incorporated into existing adjacent CBRS units (Units FL-19P and FL-78, respectively). Unit NC-01P has been added to the pilot project as a new OPA because it contains areas that are currently within a System Unit (Unit NC-01) but are appropriate for reclassification to an OPA.

³ Pub. L. 109-226

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

2000 CBRRA – 2000 Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act

2006 CBRRA – 2006 Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act

CBIA – Coastal Barrier Improvement Act

CBRA – Coastal Barrier Resources Act

CBRS/System – John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System

Department/DOI – Department of the Interior

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIM – Flood Insurance Manual

FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map

GAO – Government Accountability Office

GIS – Geographic Information System(s)

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NWI – National Wetlands Inventory

OPA – Otherwise Protected Area

Secretary – Secretary of the Interior

Service/USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SFHA – Special Flood Hazard Area

USGS – United States Geological Survey