



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

As you may know, I will be moving on to a new role as Superintendent at the New River Gorge in West Virginia at the end of May. The planning team and I have been working diligently since 2009 on preparing a new and updated general management plan (GMP) for the Seashore. Although my departure may delay the draft GMP's release by a few months, the planning work, including the GMP alternatives, will continue to advance without major changes in direction.

The planning team started its work in 2009. At that time, we met with you and asked for your thoughts and ideas for the plan. Next, we developed a foundation statement and worked on research and data collection. In the summer of 2011, we published a newsletter that presented 4 preliminary alternatives for the future management of the Seashore. The input that we received during the 2009 and 2011 comment periods was extremely thoughtful. We value the input provided so far and hope that you stay involved as the process moves ahead.

Based on public input and other management considerations, the planning team is currently in the final stages of drafting the GMP and beginning the internal review process which includes reviews and revisions first by park staff, then

regional office staff, followed by Washington staff, and finally the office of the Director. While we are behind the schedule that we initially set for releasing a draft GMP, we are working hard to ensure that the plan is comprehensive and addresses a range of complex issues at the Seashore. We plan to have the internal reviews completed by early this summer and to release the draft GMP for public comment in the late summer of 2013.

Sincerely,

Trish Kicklighter

Superintendent

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your continued involvement in shaping the management of Assateague Island National Seashore. You can expect updates to our website at www.nps.gov/asis this summer about how to stay involved in the planning project and participate in reviewing the draft GMP.