



CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1	Public Involvement and Agency Coordination.....	5-1
5.2	Section 106 Consultation.....	5-6
5.3	Section 7 Consultation.....	5-7
5.4	Consultation with State Natural Resource Management Agencies	5-8
5.5	Coastal Zone Management Act/Federal Consistency	5-8
5.6	Tribal Coordination	5-9
5.7	Draft GMP/EIS Document Review	5-9
5.8	List of Preparers.....	5-10
5.9	List of Draft GMP/EIS Recipients.....	5-12

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5. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

Since beginning the GMP planning process in the summer of 2009, the NPS has reached out to the public on an ongoing basis for input regarding seashore management issues, the range of management alternatives, and the types of impacts to be addressed in the seashore's GMP. This process – referred to as scoping – has occurred internally with NPS planning teams and externally with federal, state, and local governments, other interested parties, and the general public.

A public involvement plan guided the scoping process, outlining a program of continuous and dynamic public engagement on many levels during development of the GMP. In support of the public involvement process, the seashore developed a preliminary list of stakeholders and a mailing list of potentially interested individuals and organizations.

NPS published a notice of intent in the Federal Register at the beginning of the scoping process (July 2009) inviting public comment and participation in the planning process. Ensuing scoping activities during development of the plan included the following:

- **News Releases and Media Coverage.** The first GMP/EIS news release occurred in September 2009 announcing a series of open house workshops and availability of the first GMP newsletter.

The seashore issued a second news release to its standard media contacts on August 2, 2011, announcing the preliminary management alternative concepts public workshops and availability of the second GMP newsletter. This release also described the planning process and invited the public to review and comment on the preliminary alternatives. The news release generated a number of news articles which appeared in both traditional and electronic news media during the following days and weeks.

On September 13, 2011, a third press release announced that the public comment period on the preliminary alternatives had been extended an additional two weeks.

- **Seashore Web Site.** Prior to issuing both scoping and preliminary alternatives news releases, the seashore posted information on its web site describing the planning process, the upcoming public workshops, and how to obtain and comment on the newsletters. Links provided the public an opportunity to visit the GMP pages on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web site where additional information and documents were available.

Table 5.1 Summary of Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

Planning Phase	Date	Consultation or Public Involvement Activity
Initial Project Scoping	December 18-19, 2007	Joint Planning Meeting, NPS and FWS
	spring/summer 2009	Worcester County Commission
	spring/summer 2009	Ocean City Town Council
	spring/summer 2009	Berlin Town Council
	spring/summer 2009	Chincoteague Town Council
	spring/summer 2009	staff for Maryland Senator Mikulski
	spring/summer 2009	staff for Maryland Senator Cardin
	spring/summer 2009	staff for Maryland Congressman Kratovil
	spring/summer 2009	Maryland State Senator Stolfus
	spring/summer 2009	Maryland State Delegate Conway
	spring/summer 2009	Maryland State Delegate Mathias
	spring/summer 2009	staff for Virginia Congressman Nye
	spring/summer 2009	civic leaders, key stakeholders, constituents
	July 2009	public notice of intent (NOI) in the <i>Federal Register</i>
	July 11, 2009	outdoor public scoping in Maryland (Old Ferry Landing and North Beach Parking Lot)
	July 11, 2009	outdoor public scoping in Virginia (Toms Cove Visitor Center and Toms Cove Parking Lot)
	August 15, 2009	outdoor public scoping in Maryland (OSV Entrance Road and North Beach Parking Lot)
	August 15, 2009	outdoor public scoping in Virginia (Toms Cove Visitor Center and Toms Cove Parking Lot)
	August 20 2009 – December 30, 2009	public comment period on Newsletter 1 – GMP/EIS Scoping
	September 21, 2009	public workshop – scoping (Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury, MD)
	September 22, 2009	public workshop – scoping (Paul Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center, Berlin, MD)
	September 23, 2009	public workshop – scoping (Chincoteague Community Center, Chincoteague, VA)
Agency Scoping Letters	June 21, 2010	Federal Consistency Coordinator, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment
	June 21, 2010	Office of Preservation Services, Division of Historical and Cultural Programs, Department of Housing and Community Development
	June 21, 2010	Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NOAA Fisheries Service
	June 21, 2010	Field Supervisor, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	June 21, 2010	Field Supervisor, Virginia Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	June 21, 2010	Virginia Council on Indians, Office of the Governor
	June 21, 2010	Program Manager, Office of Environmental Impact Review, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
	June 21, 2010	Associate Director, Natural Heritage Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service
	June 21, 2010	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage

Table 5.1 (cont.) Summary of Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

Planning Phase	Date	Consultation or Public Involvement Activity
	June 21, 2010	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Environmental Services Section
	June 21, 2010	Senior Policy Analyst, Division of Resources Services and Review, Virginia Department of Natural Resources
	August 25, 2010	CNWR CCP scoping workshop
	September 21, 2010	CNWR CCP scoping workshop
	November 2010	briefing for NPS Northeast Region directorate
	December 6, 2010	Assateague State Park and MD Department of Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service
Preliminary Alternatives	February 4, 2011	Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Maryland Fisheries Service
	March 8, 2011	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
	May 4, 2011	seashore briefing, site visit, and meeting with representatives from NPS Wilderness Program
	March 2011	briefing for NPS Washington Office
	May 2011	seashore visit and briefing for NPS Washington Office
	July 2011	written briefings and copies of the preliminary alternatives newsletter to the congressional delegations and state and local legislators for both Maryland and Virginia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Congressman Andy Harris (MD) – oral briefing – Congressman Scott Rigell (VA) – oral briefing – staff to Senator Mikulski (MD) – oral briefing – staff to Senator Cardin (MD) – oral briefing – staff to Senator Webb (VA) – oral briefing – staff to Senator Warner (VA) – oral briefing – Chincoteague Town Council – oral briefing – Accomack County Board of Supervisors – oral briefing
	July 20, 2011 – October 1, 2011	public comment period on Newsletter 2 – Preliminary Alternatives
	August 16, 2011	public workshop – Preliminary Alternatives (Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury, MD)
	August 17, 2011	public workshop – Preliminary Alternatives (Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, VA)
	August 18, 2011	public workshop – Preliminary Alternatives (Ocean Pines Library, Ocean Pines, MD)
	August 22, 2011	CNWR CCP public meeting
	December 14, 2011	Assateague State Park and Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service
Final Alternatives	April 4, 2012	briefing for staff members of the Maryland delegation (Cardin, Mikulski, and Harris)
	November, 2012	briefing for the NPS Washington Office
	February, 2013	briefing for the DOI, FWS and NPS Directorate regarding the CNWR CCP and the GMP/EIS
	November, 2014	briefing for the NPS Washington Office

- **NPS PEPC Web Site.** NPS updated the NPS PEPC web site periodically during the planning process, posting newsletters, public open house workshops announcements, updates on the status of planning, scoping comments, and background documents.
- **Distribution of GMP/EIS Newsletters.** The first newsletter was issued in summer 2009 and described the seashore’s planning process. It was distributed to more than 2,500 individuals, agencies, and organizations via the seashore’s mailing list and hand distribution at ranger stations and open house workshops. An email message was sent to additional individuals announcing the newsletter’s availability and providing a link to the PEPC site. The newsletter invited the public to provide ideas and comments for the planning process, and posed a series of scoping questions.

The first GMP/EIS newsletter was open for public comment from August 20, 2009 to December 30, 2009. The public provided comments in various forms, including comment cards (139), emails (44), letters (4), PEPC comments (18), comments written on park maps (32), and comments recorded at outdoor events (44).

In 2011 copies of the second GMP/EIS newsletter that outlined the preliminary alternative concepts were distributed to more than 500 individuals, agencies, and organizations on the seashore’s mailing list. An email message was sent to additional individuals announcing the newsletter’s availability and providing a link to the PEPC site. At and following the public meetings, approximately 950 copies of the newsletter were distributed to the general public at the seashore’s two visitor centers and ranger station.

The public comment period for the preliminary alternative concepts extended from July 20, 2011 to October 1, 2011. The public provided comments via comment cards (10), the PEPC website (155), emails (159), and letters (19).

- **Preliminary Management Alternatives Postcard.** The NPS sent more than 500 postcards to the seashore’s mailing list in November 2010. The postcard served as an update from the planning team regarding the development of preliminary management alternatives.
- **GMP/EIS Public Workshops.** In 2009 NPS hosted a series of scoping open house workshops and outdoor information stations as follows:
 - July 11, 2009 – Old Ferry Landing, the North Beach Parking Lot, Toms Cove Visitor Center, and the Toms Cove Parking Lot
 - August 15, 2009 in Maryland – OSV Entrance Road, the North Beach Parking Lot, Toms Cove Visitor Center, and the Toms Cove Parking Lot

Initial scoping open house workshops occurred as follows:

- September 21, 2009 – Wor-Wic Community College
- September 22, 2009 – Paul Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center
- September 23, 2009 – Chincoteague Center Community Center

In 2011 the seashore hosted three public workshops presenting the preliminary management alternatives, as follows:

- August 16, 2011 – *Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury, Maryland*
- August 17, 2011 – Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, Virginia
- August 18th, 2011 – Ocean Pines Library, Ocean Pines, Maryland

The workshops provided general information about the planning process, summaries of major planning issues at the seashore, detailed information about the preliminary alternatives, and next steps. The public was invited to provide written comments and provided with information about the multiple ways to do so. The 2011 workshops were attended by approximately 112 individuals.

Seashore staff also participated in public workshops held in 2010 and 2011 by the FWS related to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge where related aspects of the seashore's GMP/EIS were discussed.

- **Briefings for Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials.** In 2009 during initial scoping, the seashore provided GMP/EIS briefings to staff to Senators Mikulski and Cardin (MD), staff to Congressmen Kratovil (MD) and Nye (VA), Maryland State Senator Stolfus, Maryland State Delegates Conway and Mathias, and members of the Worcester County Commission, Ocean City Town Council, Berlin Town Council, and Chincoteague Town Council.

In 2011, the seashore provided written briefings and copies of the preliminary alternatives newsletter to the congressional delegations and state and local legislators for both Maryland and Virginia. Oral briefings were provided to Congressman Andy Harris (MD), Congressman Scott Rigell (VA), and staff to Senators Mikulski (MD), Cardin (MD), Warner (VA), and Webb (VA). Members of the Chincoteague Town Council and Accomack County Board of Supervisors also received oral briefings.

In the spring of 2012, the seashore briefed staff members of the Maryland delegation (Cardin, Mikulski, and Harris) on the planning process, preliminary alternatives, and public comments received on the alternatives.

- **Meetings with State Agencies.** In 2009, the seashore met with staff of Assateague State Park to explain the planning process and identify

opportunities for participation. In 2010, representatives of the state park and the Maryland Park Service were briefed on the status of planning, and the results of climate change scenario planning and other potential issues of mutual concern.

In 2011, seashore staff met with representatives of the MD Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service and again with Assateague State Park and the Maryland Park Service to discuss the planning process and aspects of the preliminary alternatives with potential ramifications for those agencies. Similarly, staff met with representatives of the Virginia Marine Resource Commission to discuss the GMP/EIS's implications for commercial fisheries within the seashore.

- **Meetings with Civic Leaders and Constituent Groups.** In 2009, the seashore briefed a number of individuals and organizations with potential interest in the GMP/EIS to explain the planning process and encourage their participation in scoping activities.

Throughout the preliminary alternatives comment period in 2011, seashore staff again met or spoke with civic leaders, constituent groups, key stakeholders and other interested parties. These included, but were not limited to: Chincoteague Community Leaders, The Nature Conservancy, Assateague Island Alliance, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Assateague Mobile Sportfishermen's Association, Lower Shore Land Trust, Ocean Pines Anglers Club, commercial fishermen, and representatives of the seafood processing industry.

5.2 Section 106 Consultation

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, requires federal agencies to consider the effect of undertakings on properties listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* and to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and certified local governments in the project area regarding the potential for effects on cultural resources. The 2008 Programmatic Agreement among NPS, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers describes how the NPS will carry out its section 106 responsibilities with respect to managing units of the national park system; establishes a process for complying with Section 106 and provides a streamlined review process in specific circumstances.

The general nature of the management objectives and potential actions in the GMP necessitates that the analysis of impacts to cultural resources and related Section 106 consultation be general and programmatic. In the future, section 106 consultation will occur as part of planning that "tiers" from the approved GMP/EIS during development

of program management plans and during design and construction of specific projects of the types identified in the approved GMP/EIS, if and when project funding becomes available. The general types of projects that could require consultation in the future include:

- construction of new facilities
- construction/installation of new utility systems and other infrastructure
- construction of new roads, parking lots, and trails
- restoration or rehabilitation of historic structures
- ground disturbing activities in areas without a history of previous site disturbance
- changes in management of cultural resources
- surveys or studies to identify presently unknown cultural resources
- all other actions with potential to affect cultural resources

On June 21, 2010, the NPS sent letters to the Maryland Office of Preservation Services Natural Heritage Program and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for consultation purposes. Maryland Historical Trust responded on July 7, 2010 (see appendix C) expressing willingness to further consult with the NPS during the GMP/EIS planning process regarding cultural resource management at the seashore and section 106 compliance. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources verbally expressed their willingness to consult further with the NPS during the GMP/EIS planning process.

Consultation with the Maryland and Virginia SHPOs will occur during review of the Draft GMP/EIS. Each SHPO will receive a copy of the plan. Following review of the Draft GMP/EIS, additional conversations with the SHPOs will occur to address their comments. Following approval of the GMP/EIS, the NPS will consult with the SHPOs in accordance with the requirements of NHPA section 106.

5.3 Section 7 Consultation

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.) requires all federal agencies to consult with the FWS to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat. NPS management policies also require cooperation with appropriate state conservation agencies to protect state-listed and candidate species of special concern.

On June 21, 2010, the NPS sent letters to the FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office and the Virginia Field Office of the FWS for consultation purposes. The FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office responded on July 30, 2010 (see appendix C), identifying federally listed

threatened and endangered species known to occur in the planning area and advising that potential impacts to those species and their habitats be analyzed as part of the GMP impact assessment process. The FWS also recommended avoidance of wetland impacts and protection of other rare species, such as the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and state species of concern. The FWS Virginia Field Office noted the minimal land area in Virginia managed by the NPS and concurred with the recommendations made by the FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office. Following approval of the GMP/EIS, the NPS will consult with the FWS in accordance with the requirements of section 7 of the Threatened and Endangered Species Act of 1973.

5.4 Consultation with State Natural Resource Management Agencies

On June 21, 2010, the NPS sent letters to the Maryland Natural Heritage Program, the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for consultation purposes.

The Maryland Natural Heritage Program responded via email on August 30, 2010 providing a list of state rare, threatened, and endangered species found within the seashore and on the adjacent mainland (see appendix C). Maryland also provided GIS data detailing the location of ecologically significant areas, colonial waterbird colonies, rare and endangered species, and potential habitat of forest interior dwelling species.

The Virginia Division of Natural Heritage responded on August 6, 2010, providing a list of state rare, threatened, and endangered species found within the seashore and on the adjacent mainland, and noting the legal requirements related to natural heritage resources (see appendix C). On July 29, 2010, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries provided a list of federal and state listed animals and species of special conservation concern known to occur in the general vicinity of Assateague Island (see appendix C).

5.5 Coastal Zone Management Act/Federal Consistency

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 encourages appropriate development and protection of the nation's coastal and shoreline resources. The act assigns responsibility for managing coastal areas to the states. To assume this role, each state has adopted a coastal zone management program (CZMP) plan that describes the state's coastal resources and how these resources are managed. Activities and development affecting coastal resources, which involve the federal government, are evaluated through a process called "federal consistency". This allows the public, local governments, tribes, and state agencies an opportunity to review federal actions likely to affect coastal resource or uses. Three categories of activities trigger a federal consistency review: activities undertaken by a federal agency, activities that require federal approval, or activities that use federal funding.

NPS notified the Maryland and Virginia CZMPs at the beginning of the GMP planning process as part of project scoping, requesting information on resource constraints or concerns that might be a possible planning issue within the project area. The Maryland CZMP did not respond. The Virginia CZMP (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) responded on July 7, 2010, outlining requirements for further coordination during plan review and providing a summary of general types of program concerns for actions proposed within the coastal zone (see appendix C).

Further consultation with each office will occur during public review of Draft GMP/EIS. Each CZMP office will receive copies of the Draft GMP/EIS and other materials to support a consistency determination. Additional consultation will occur to address any comments or concerns. As needed, the Draft GMP/EIS will be amended to ensure federal consistency.

5.6 Tribal Coordination

Indian tribes having possible cultural associations with the seashore include the Accohannock, Pocomoke, Nanticoke, and Assateague peoples. NPS sent a coordination letter to the Virginia Council of Indians on June 21, 2010. In response the council liaison requested continued involvement in the GMP process.

5.7 Draft GMP/EIS Document Review

The Draft GMP/EIS for the seashore will be open for public and agency review for 60 days following publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability in the *Federal Register*. During the review period, the public will have opportunities to provide comments on the management alternatives, including the preferred alternative. The NPS PEPC web site and news releases will provide information on how the public can provide comments on the Draft GMP/EIS and on public meetings to be held during the review period.

The NPS will review and evaluate all public and agency comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS. A final GMP/EIS will respond to and/or incorporate all substantive comments. The final GMP/EIS will be available to the public for a 30-day no-action period, after which a record of decision may be prepared to document selection of an alternative as the approved GMP/EIS for the seashore.

As noted previously, the Draft GMP/EIS presents an overview of potential actions and impacts related to the management concepts for the seashore. Once a GMP/EIS is approved, implementation of actions in the approved GMP/EIS will be subject to site-specific planning and compliance in accordance with all applicable requirements.

5.8 List of Preparers

Assateague Island National Seashore

Angie Alvino, Administrative Officer
Richard Barrett, Chief, Maintenance (former)
Scott Bentley, Superintendent (former)
Karen Burns, Human Relations Specialist
Dana Condron, Protection Ranger
Rachelle Daigneault, Chief, Interpretation and Education (former)
Deborah Darden, Superintendent
Elizabeth Davis, Park Ranger, Interpretation
Michael Dixon, Visitor Services Manager (former)
Ish Ennis, Chief, Maintenance (former)
Michael Fager, Superintendent's Assistant (former)
Todd Garrett, Protection Ranger (former)
Pat Greer, Administrative Office (former)
Randy Hartz, Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor
Bill Hulslander, Chief, Natural Resources
Bill Ingraham, Maryland Maintenance Foreman (former)
Regina Jones-Brake, Management Assistant (former)
Patricia Kicklighter, Superintendent (former)
Gretchen Knapp, Park Ranger, Interpretation
Jack Kumer, Wildlife Manager
Debbie Morlock, Concessions Management Specialist
Ted Morlock, Chief Ranger (former)
Dave Rapp, Protection Ranger (former)
Courtney Schupp, Coastal Geologist (former)
Chris Seymour, Park Ranger, Interpretation (former)
Brian Sturgis, Estuarine Ecologist
Mark Sturm, Terrestrial Ecologist (former)
Jeanne Taylor, Administrative Support Assistant
Helen Violli, Ecologist (former)
Walter West, Chief Ranger
Neil Winn, GIS Specialist
Carl Zimmerman, Chief, Resource Management (former)

Northeast Regional Office, National Park Service

Mark Alexander, Program Manager, Line Item Construction Program
Michael Caldwell, Regional Director
Christine Gobrial, Community Planner (former)
Ellen Carlson, Community Planner/Legislative Liaison
Claire Comer, Interpretive Specialist, Shenandoah National Park
Allen Cooper, Chief, Senior Planner

Shaun Eyring, Chief, Resource Planning and Compliance
Maryanne Gerbauckas, Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship (former)
Elizabeth Igleheart, National Register Coordinator (former)
John F. Karish, Chief, Science (former)
Jacki Katzmire, Regional Environmental Coordinator
Megan Lang, Community Planner
Helen Mahan, Community Planner
Jonathan Meade, Deputy Regional Director
Terrence Moore, Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies (former)
John Piltzecker, Assoc Regional Director, Construction and Facility Management (former)
Michael Quijano-West, Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies
Patti Rafferty, Coastal Ecologist
Dennis Reidenbach, Regional Director (former)
Charles T. Roman, Research Coordinator North Atlantic Coast
Cheryl Sams, Historical Landscape Architect
Brian Strack, Associate Regional Director, Planning, Facilities, and Conservation Assistance
Gay Vietzke, Deputy Regional Director

U.S. Department of the Interior, Solicitor's Office

Robin Lepore, Senior Attorney (former)

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Kim Halpin, Assistant Refuge Manager (former)
Lou Hinds, Refuge Manager (former)
Kevin Sloan, Refuge Manager

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC

Elizabeth Clarke, Principal and Project Manager
Kelly Ream, AICP, Landscape Designer, Planner, and Graphic Designer

Total Quality NEPA

Heidi West, PhD (Natural Resources – Affected Environment)

Cucinotta & Associates

Sara Cucinotta (Newsletter 1 – Graphic Design)

5.9 List of Draft GMP/EIS Recipients

The Draft GMP/EIS has been made available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website to over 600 individuals and organizations on the seashore’s mailing list. Copies of and links to the Draft GMP/EIS have been distributed to the following officials, government agencies, and non-government organizations and institutions:

- **Congressional and State Delegations**

Maryland

U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
 U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
 Representative Andy Harris
 Maryland State Delegate (38A) Charles J. Otto
 Maryland State Delegate (38C) Mary Beth Carozza

Virginia

U.S. Senator Timothy Kaine
 U.S. Senator Mark Warner
 Representative Scott E. Rigell
 Virginia State Senator Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.
 Virginia State Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.

- **Federal Agencies**

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 US Environmental Protection Agency
 US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Fisheries Service
 US Department of Defense
 Department of the Army, US Army Corps of Engineers
 Baltimore District
 Norfolk District
 US Coast Guard
 US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
 US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Ecological Services Field Offices
 Chesapeake Bay Office
 Virginia Field Office
 National Wildlife Refuges
 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
 Regional Offices
 Northeast Regional Office
 Washington Office

- **State Agencies**

- State of Maryland

- Department of Business and Economic Development, Office of Tourism Development
 - Department of the Environment
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Transportation, Maryland State Highway Administration
 - Maryland Historic Trust
 - Maryland Park Service, Assateague State Park

- Commonwealth of Virginia

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Department of Environmental Quality
 - Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 - Department of Historic Resources
 - Department of Transportation
 - Virginia Marine Resources Commission

- **Local Agencies**

- Accomack County, Virginia

- Board of Supervisors
 - Department of Planning
 - Department of Parks and Recreation

- Worcester County, Maryland

- County Commission
 - Department of Economic Development
 - Department of Environmental Programs
 - Department of Tourism
 - Department of Recreation and Parks

- Town of Berlin, Maryland

- Town of Ocean City, Maryland

- Town of Snow Hill, Maryland

- Town of Chincoteague, Virginia

- **Tribes and American Indian Organizations**

- Maryland Commission of Indian Affairs

- Virginia Council on Indians

- **Partner Organizations**

- Assateague Coastal Trust

- Assateague Island Alliance

- Assateague Mobile Sportfishermen's Association

- Audubon Society of Maryland-DC

- Berlin Maryland Chamber of Commerce

- Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce

- Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company

Eastern National
Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Eastern Shore Tourism Commission
Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island
Maryland Coastal Bays Program
National Parks Conservation Association
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce
Ocean Pines Homeowners Association
Salisbury University
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Maryland Horn Point Environmental Laboratory