

Media Bulletin

Southern New England - New York Bight Coastal Program, 50 Bend Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813
www.fws.gov/r5snep/snep1.htm

Long Beach West Project Will Not Harm Environment

Stratford, Conn. - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that a cottage demolition and habitat restoration project on Long Beach West in Stratford, Connecticut will not have adverse effects on the environment, according to Sharon Marino, project leader for the Service's Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program Office.

This conclusion was reached following the completion of an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act, required for all federal projects. After evaluating the environmental consequences of several possible approaches, the Service's preferred alternative is to remove the debris from cottages, docks and other infrastructure over land, rather than over water. This approach will create minimal environmental disturbance, and is the safest and most cost effective way to complete the project.

The Service has committed \$909,000 of federal economic stimulus funding to remove the abandoned deteriorating cottages – remnants of a former summer colony – and restore beach and dune habitat on 35 acres of municipal property on Long Beach West. The Town of Stratford in July voted to move ahead with the project, and the Service recently awarded a contract to Tighe & Bond of Middletown, Connecticut to conduct an initial assessment of hazardous materials that would need to be removed from the site prior to demolition. For more information on this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project, visit <http://recovery.doi.gov/> (click on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service logo).

Copies of the Final Environmental Assessment and the agency's finding are available for review through December 23, 2009 at the Stratford Library and can be accessed online at www.fws.gov/r5snep/snep1.htm.

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