

Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Summary of Comments Received During EIS Public Scoping Process May 2009

1.1 BACKGROUND

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for its proposed Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program (SRIPP) at Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) have both been invited to participate as Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of the EIS and during all regulatory consultations. NASA will serve as the Lead Agency. The EIS is being developed to fulfill all three Federal agencies' obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508). The purpose of this document is to provide a brief overview of the comments that were received during the public scoping process for the EIS.

1.2 SCOPING PROCESS

NASA published a Notice of Intent to prepare the SRIPP EIS and conduct scoping in the March 24, 2009 edition of the Federal Register (FR). A public scoping meeting was held at the WFF Visitor's Center on April 21, 2009 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The description of the proposed action and alternatives was sent to 71 targeted agencies and stakeholders. The public, agencies, and NASA employees were also invited to comment on the SRIPP EIS website at http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/shoreline_eis.html.

1.3 SUMMARY OF COMMENTORS

Agencies

Assateague Island National Seashore
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
US Fish and Wildlife Service – Virginia Field Office
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
Environmental Protection Agency
US Navy (at WFF)

Stakeholders

The Nature Conservancy
Maryland Coastal Bays Program
Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experience
Assateague Coastal Trust
Long Term Ecological Research Center (Univ. of VA Dept of Env. Sciences)
Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper

Individuals

Lawrence Whitlock
Mike Handforth
Grayson Chesser
Jim Rapp
Calvert Seybolt
Jack Kennedy
Denard Spady
Ruth Boettcher
Robert Myers

1.4 COMMENT TOPICS AND NUMBER OF COMMENTS BY TOPIC

The comments were categorized into the topics shown in the table below. A total of 146 comments were received. Multiple recommendations, discussions, or thoughts on the same theme from the same commenter were considered as one comment under that topic.

Comment Topic	No. of Comments
Groin impacts on downdrift islands	26
Relocation of at-risk infrastructure/sea level rise	19
Miscellaneous recommendation or comment	12
Alternatives	12
Funding	10
More explanation in EIS	10
Impacts on benthos and birds at borrow sites	9
Evaluate baseline conditions	8
Monitoring of affects	7
Impacts on shoreline north of WFF	6
Threshold criteria for project success and evaluation	6
Commercial and recreational fishing	4
Positive comment	4
Regional sediment budget modeling	4
Blackfish Bank shoal	3
Compensation for stakeholder losses	3
Recommended mitigation measures	2
Seawall	1
Total	146

1.5 OTHER SUMMARY DOCUMENTS

An Adobe® PDF document has been created that contains all comment letters, emails, and comment cards received through May 21, 2009.

A spreadsheet has been created that includes all of the comments separated by category, commenter, and comment number.