



Diane C. Murphy
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October 8, 2014

Ms. Libby Herland, Project Leader,
Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex
73 Weir Hill Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
northeastplanning@fws.gov

Re: Monomoy Refuge Draft CCP/EIS

Dear Ms. Herland,

I would like to formally respond to the US Fish and Wildlife request for public comment regarding the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS). The MNWR lies solely within the borders of the Town of Chatham and its surrounding lands and waters are utilized by virtually all Cape Cod communities – providing vital fishing grounds for local traditional fishermen/fisherwomen as well as important recreational opportunities for generations of Cape Cod residents and visitors alike.

As the Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist for Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Woods Hole Sea Grant I specialize in shellfish management and culture and have worked with the region's shellfishing and aquaculture industry for the past fifteen years. The hard-working individuals in these professions face increasing obstacles and the changes suggested in the draft CCP/EIS would have significant adverse effects not only on these men and women, but also the Town of Chatham and its citizens. No doubt, the effects would be felt throughout all Cape Cod communities.

Through the years I've worked closely with each of Cape Cod's municipal shellfish departments and in my experience, the Town of Chatham, through its Shellfish Advisory Committee, its shellfish constable and the board of selectmen, do an admirable job in stewarding the shellfish resources and habitat in the waters and lands under water within their jurisdiction. They do so under the powers granted to them by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Chatham's management has always included Monomoy, both before and since creation of the Monomoy Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness. Importantly, many years' worth of experience has guided the Town's successful management efforts. There are concerns USFWS lacks the experience and personnel to effectively manage Monomoy as well as Chatham has.

We urge that USFWS and the Town of Chatham reach an agreement which recognizes the continuation of the Town of Chatham's control of these resources, under guidelines that are mutually agreed upon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane C. Murphy".

Diane C. Murphy
Fisheries & Aquaculture Specialist