



January 9, 2010

Delay in Release of the DEIS

Release of the long awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been delayed again for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area

The DEIS is an important milestone in the sequence of events that the National Park Service must follow in adopting a long term management plan for the nation's first national seashore. In an earlier interview, Superintendent Mike Murray said he expected the DEIS to be released, "*Late December or early January.*"

Now Superintendent Murray tells the Island Free Press that the "***exact release date of the DEIS is still undetermined.***" He added, "***Based on what I am hearing about the status, I would characterize it as 'soon' (as within the next month or so).***"

According to Murray, reviewers at the National Park Service and Department of the Interior are "fine tuning a few final small sections of the draft." Afterward an editor will format the document for publication in the Federal Register. Murray said he has been told the DOI approval process will take "***at least several weeks.***"

Read more about this latest delay in the Island Free Press "Editor's Blog" by Irene Nolan, available through a link on this website at "**Comments.**"

Regardless of when the DEIS is finally released, one fact remains the same. We will only have a relatively short 60 day period for public comments. During this time, it is vital that people from throughout the entire United States speak out in favor of preserving beach access.

Here is how you can help –

- Sign-up at "**Act Now**" on www.PreserveBeachAccess.org to automatically receive newsletter updates and notification when the DEIS is released.
- Encourage others to visit the website and sign-up. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area is a national treasure that belongs to all American taxpayers. We need people everywhere to help us by getting involved in the public process and making their voices heard in support of open and accessible beaches.