

COASTAL FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT FORM

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Name of Area: **Cedar Point Peninsula**  
Designated: **March 15, 1987**  
Date Revised: **May 15, 2002**  
County: **Suffolk**  
Town(s): **East Hampton**  
7½' Quadrangle(s): **Gardiners Island West, NY; Greenport, NY**

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**Assessment Criteria**

**Ecosystem Rarity (ER)--the uniqueness of the plant and animal community in the area and the physical, structural, and chemical features supporting this community.**

ER assessment: Undeveloped barrier beach peninsula is rare on Long Island outside of the south shore subregion. Calculation:  $\sqrt{(16 \times 9)} =$  12

**Species Vulnerability (SV)--the degree of vulnerability throughout its range in New York State of a species residing in the ecosystem or utilizing the ecosystem for its survival.**

SV assessment: Least tern (T), piping plover (E, T-Fed), osprey (SC), and horned lark (SC) nesting. Calculation:  $36 + (25/2) + (16/4) + (16/8) =$  54.5

**Human Use (HU)-- the conduct of significant, demonstrable commercial, recreational, or educational wildlife-related human uses, either consumptive or non-consumptive, in the area or directly dependent upon the area.**

HU assessment: Birdwatching opportunities are significant to Suffolk County residents and park visitors. Locally significant waterfowl hunting. 4

**Population Level (PL)--the concentration of a species in the area during its normal, recurring period of occurrence, regardless of the length of that period of occurrence.**

PL assessment: Nesting piping plover concentrations significant in Suffolk County. 4

**Replaceability (R)--ability to replace the area, either on or off site, with an equivalent replacement for the same fish and wildlife and uses of those same fish and wildlife, for the same users of those fish and wildlife.**

R assessment: Uncertain of ability to replace. 1.0

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**Habitat Index = [ER + SV + HU + PL] = 74.5**

**Significance = HI x R =**

NEW YORK STATE  
SIGNIFICANT COASTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT  
NARRATIVE

**CEDAR POINT PENINSULA**

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT:

Cedar Point Peninsula is located on the north shore of the south fork of Long Island, between Northwest Harbor and Three Mile Harbor, in the Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County (7.5' Quadrangle: Greenport, NY; and Gardiner's Island West, NY). The fish and wildlife habitat consists of a mile-long sand peninsula extending out to Cedar Point. Cedar Point peninsula is a natural barrier spit formation, with patchy vegetative cover, with gradually sloping sand and pebble beaches, and a few areas where dredged material has been deposited. This area is bordered by mature hardwood forest. There are eelgrass beds fringing the peninsula and running along the shore east to Three Mile Harbor. Cedar Point County Park receives much recreational use for camping and picnicking.

FISH AND WILDLIFE VALUES:

Cedar Point Peninsula is one of only several major undeveloped sand peninsulas on Long Island. Barrier beach habitats such as this are relatively rare outside of Long Island's south shore.

This area has served historically as an important nesting site for least tern (T) and piping plover (E, T-Fed). The annual average number of piping plover nesting pairs for the 1987-1996 period was three; these numbers increased from the mid-1980's through the mid-1990's, attaining a peak value of six pairs in 1996, with seven young fledged. Town of East Hampton plover monitoring documented an average of 6 nesting pairs annually between 1995 and 1999, producing an average of 3 fledges each year.

In the early 1980's, the least tern population at this site was one of the largest on the south fork of Long Island (85 nesting pairs), of county-level significance. Least tern have been largely absent from this site according to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation annual surveys and Town of East Hampton plover monitoring; least tern were documented only during two non-consecutive years during the 1986-1996 period. However, The Nature Conservancy cites annual activity by least terns at this site, with frequent fledgings. Additional data is required to assess the importance of this site for least tern nesting.

Osprey (SC) nest on a platform at Cedar Point Peninsula and on the lighthouse at the end of the peninsula. Horned lark (SC), diamondback terrapin, and horseshoe crabs also breed at Cedar Point Peninsula. This area provides important overwintering habitat for large concentration of

shorebirds, including sanderlings, ruddy turnstones, and black-bellied plovers; roseate terns (E) congregate during spring migrations. Concentrations of terns and other wildlife in this readily accessible location provide valuable birdwatching opportunities for local residents and other visitors to the park. This site supports waterfowl hunting of local significance.

#### IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Nesting shorebirds inhabiting Cedar Point Peninsula are highly vulnerable to disturbance by humans, especially during the nesting and fledging period (March 15 through August 15). Significant pedestrian traffic or recreational vehicle use of the beach could easily eliminate the use of this site as a breeding area and should be minimized during this period. Recreational activities (*e.g.*, boat and personal watercraft landing, off-road vehicle use, picnicking) in the vicinity of bird nesting areas should be minimized during this period. Predation of chicks and destruction of eggs or nests by unleashed pets (*e.g.*, dogs, cats) and natural predators may also occur, and predator control should be implemented where feasible. Fencing and/or continued annual posting of shorebird nesting areas should be provided to help protect these species. Dredged material disposal in this area would be detrimental, but such activities may be designed to maintain or improve the habitat. Control of vegetative succession, through beneficial use of dredged material or other means may improve the availability of nesting habitat in this area.

KNOWLEDGEABLE CONTACTS: Habitat Unit  
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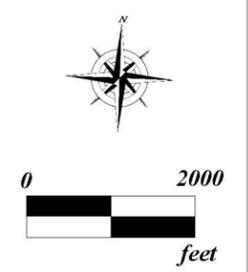
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**Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats**

- Alewife - Scoy Pond Wetlands
- Cedar Point / Hedges Bank Shallows
- Cedar Point Peninsula
- Three Mile Harbor
- Mashomack Preserve - Shelter Island (In part)
- Northwest Creek (In part)
- Sag Harbor Bay & Northwest Harbor (In part)

New York State  
Department of State



Division of  
Coastal Resources

