



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FINAL COASTAL BARRIERS REPORT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

A final report recommending additions to the Coastal Barriers Resources System on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts has been sent formally to Congress, the Department of the Interior announced today.

As part of the announcement, the Department emphasized that the recommendations, called for in Section 10 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982, are advisory only and no changes will occur in the existing 452,839-acre system unless Congress takes action.

The report recommends Congress add 1,243,678 acres to the existing system. Wetlands of various types make up the majority of the newly recommended acreage and many of these are wetlands associated with existing units of the system.

When passed, the 1982 Act established a system of 186 undeveloped coastal barrier units along 667 miles of Atlantic and Gulf Coast shoreline. The main purpose of the Act is to discourage development of the coastal barrier units by prohibiting most new Federal financial assistance within those areas. This affects Federal activities such as Federal flood insurance, road and channel construction, and utility subsidies. State, local, and private forms of financial assistance were not affected by the Act.

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