

# John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P31, St. Andrew, Florida Summary of Proposed Changes

**Type of Unit:** System Unit

**Location of Unit:** Bay County, Florida

**Congressional District:** 2

**Draft Map Date:** May 16, 2016

**Number of Maps:** Unit P31 is depicted on three maps.

**Base Map Imagery Source and Date:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2013

**Establishment of Unit:** The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (Pub. L. 97-348 enacted on October 18, 1982) originally established Unit P31.

**Historical Changes to Unit:** The Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (Pub. L. 101-591 enacted on November 16, 1990) expanded Unit P31 to add associated aquatic habitat and additional undeveloped areas to the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS).

Pub. L. 103-461 (enacted on November 2, 1994) modified adjacent Unit P31P. The northernmost portion of Unit P31 is depicted on the same map panel as Unit P31P, but was not modified at that time.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) modified the boundary of Unit P31 (via notice published in the *Federal Register* (81 FR 13407) on March 14, 2016) to account for natural changes that occurred along the shoreline of Hog Island Sound, Shell Island, St. Andrew Bay, St. Andrew Sound, and Wild Goose Lagoon. These modifications were made in accordance with Section 3 of Pub. L. 101-591, which allows for modifications to the CBRS boundaries to reflect changes that have occurred as a result of natural forces.

**Proposed Changes to Unit:** The comprehensively revised draft maps dated May 16, 2016, modify the landward boundary of Unit P31 to remove from the CBRS approximately five acres on the mainland, including two structures associated with Tyndall Air Force Base. The Service's assessment indicates these structures were on-the-ground in 1982 and the areas were inadvertently included within Unit P31 due to the limitations of the original base map, which was a 1956 U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangle.

The landward boundary of the unit is also modified to add to the CBRS several areas along the length of the unit that meet the CBRA criteria for an undeveloped coastal barrier (16 U.S.C. 3503(g)(1)).

Additionally, the draft map modifies the coincident boundaries between Units P31 and Unit P31P to better follow the boundaries of St. Andrews State Park. There is one parcel that is currently part of the State Park that remains within System Unit P31 on the draft map because it was not acquired for conservation and/or recreation purposes until after it was included within Unit P31, and therefore does not qualify for reclassification to an OPA.

Florida State Aquatic Preserves, Outstanding Florida Waters, and other areas of open water that are not associated with conservation or recreation areas are generally classified within the CBRS as System Units because they do not meet the CBRA definition of an OPA. Most open water within adjacent OPA Unit P31P, including areas in Grand Lagoon and St. Andrew Bay are proposed for reclassification to System Unit P31. However, the channel between St. Andrew Bay and the Gulf of Mexico is proposed for inclusion within Unit P31P as there are State Park lands

on either side of the channel and it is impractical from a mapping perspective to delineate it as a System Unit. Additionally, the undeveloped portion of a sand spit located in Grand Lagoon that is known as Alligator Point is also reclassified from OPA Unit P31P to System Unit P31.

**Acreeage, Shoreline, and Structures:**

	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Fastland Acres*</i>	<i>Associated Aquatic Habitat Acres**</i>	<i>Shoreline (miles)</i>	<i>Structures***</i>
Existing Unit	13,773	1,668	12,105	20.4	
Added to the CBRS	1,582	131	1,451		0
Removed from the CBRS	5	5	0		2
Reclassified Area	652	(42)	694		
Proposed Unit	16,002	1,752	14,250	20.4	
Net Change	2,229	84	2,145	0.0	(2)

\*Land above mean high tide.

\*\*Associated aquatic habitat includes wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and open water landward of the coastal barrier, but does not include open water seaward of the shoreline. This information is derived from an interpretation of 2013 aerial imagery in consultation with National Wetlands Inventory data and other data sources as necessary.

\*\*\*Approximate structure count derived from 2013 aerial imagery. Structures without walls and a roof (e.g., picnic shelters) and structures with fewer than 200 square feet are not included in this structure count because they do not meet the definition of a "structure" in 16 U.S.C. 3503(g)(2).

