

of terns, including common, roseate, and least tern nest at points along the outer beach.

A small herd of from 25 to 30 white-tailed deer ranges over the island. There are a few red foxes. Muskrats inhabit the fresh water ponds and marshes. Occasionally an otter or mink is seen. Small mammals present include mice, shrews, and moles.

Commercial and sport fishing and shellfishing always have been significant factors in the economy and life of the local people. In the late 1800's a small fishing village existed on Monomoy Island at the "Powder Hole." Over the years Monomoy was abandoned by year-round residents, and by 1944 when the Federal Government acquired the island as a national wildlife refuge, only summer camps were left. Fishing, clamming, and scalloping continue to provide a livelihood for mainland residents, and salt water sport fishing is also an important economic factor. Fish taken in season, in the island's surf as well as from boat offshore, include striped bass, bluefish, bonita, mackerel, haddock, flounder, and cod.

The wilderness proposal for Monomoy should be viewed in its regional context, for it is a superb example of the logic of a regional spectrum of environmental types and recreational and aesthetic opportunities. From Cape Cod to Assateague Island in Maryland, there are no other islands remaining in such a near natural condition as coastal wilderness. The Cape Cod National Seashore, created in 1961, and Monomoy as wilderness, complement each other. The seashore itself contains only one similar but smaller island—Great Island, which may be subject to wilderness review at a later date. Monomoy is a part of the seashore's scenic environs, and as protected wilderness it will contribute to the environmental diversity and character of the whole region. The recreational purposes of the seashore are complemented by the wilderness recreation purpose of Monomoy; the environmental quality of the cape is enhanced by the wildness of Monomoy.

As protected wilderness, Monomoy will continue to be managed as a wild environment, as it has been so well managed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife since 1944. The Bureau envisions no changes in management as a result of wilderness designation. The laws and departmental regulations governing the national wildlife refuges will continue to apply. Recreational use will continue, public uses, including hunting, are permissible under present law, and designation as wilderness will not change this. Visitors may land their boats any place on the island. Hiking, birdwatching, nature study, shell collecting, picnicking, and photography during daylight hours are permitted, and persons licensed by the town of Chatham are permitted to shellfish. In response to requests by sportsmen, the Bureau more than a year ago amended its public warning fires on the beach. This recreational use will continue with the wilderness designation.

This rare opportunity to preserve Monomoy Island as wilderness should not be lost. The threat is not only from immediate inappropriate use, but from slow compromise of the island's wilderness integrity.

Monomoy Island lies in the heart of one of the most popular vacation spots in the entire Northeast. Salt water beaches are the primary attraction, enhanced by a combination of rolling sand dunes, brush knolls, and extensive views of the coast and sea beyond. Wilderness area status for Monomoy Island will aid in preserving forever by