

I do not think it is in the public interest to include Monomoy Island in the Wilderness Program. Monomoy is under management to prevent ocean breakthroughs and will have to remain under beach management in future years. It can not be a true wilderness.

Monomoy is a nine mile long sandbar. It has sand roads and a lighthouse now owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Landings, by boat, are almost impossible on all but the point and land end. It could be one of the most important salt water fishing areas on the east coast if people were allowed to use it. As a wilderness it would be of no greater value than any sandbar in the Atlantic. The nine mile length of sand prevents fishing by foot.

The proposal would allow the Audubon Society to run a commercial taxi on the island for an unknown length of time. It would, in fact, be a public paid for sanctuary for that organization.

The hearing on this proposal was held during January at Chatham, Massachusetts. Chatham is far out on Cape Cod and well away from the population centers of Massachusetts. Few people, other than residents of that town, would (or could) travel to Chatham during the winter for any hearing. Yet reports indicate that the opinion at the meeting was almost evenly divided.

As a conservationist I am in favor of true wilderness areas, but Monomoy Island does not belong in that category. Its best use would be under the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources or included in the Cape Cod National Seashore. In any case, fishing from overland type vehicles should be allowed. This sandbar changes shape, size and distance from shore each year. It should be used by people rather than being eliminated. Our dense population requires more recreational land rather than less.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH W. WOOLNER.

WEST PHILADELPHIA SURF ANGLERS ASSOCIATION,
June 26, 1968.

Senator WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MAGNUSON: At a specially called meeting of the West Philadelphia Surf Anglers Association last evening it was voted unanimously to write you a vigorous protest against supporting Bill 3425 which prohibits boats in the area of the island of Monomoy. This bill in it's present form also will prohibit camping on the island.

West Philadelphia Surf Anglers Assoc. request that Bill 3425 be voted against unless amended to permit boating and camping in and about the Island of Monomoy.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. FREY, Secretary.

STRIPERS UNLIMITED,
So. Attleboro, Mass., June 20, 1968.

Senator WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MAGNUSON: Stripers Unlimited represents 2,000 sportfishermen with a desire to continue surf fishing along our coast. The state of Massachusetts offers some of the finest surf fishing in the county, but there are only a few extremely productive tide rips along the many miles of shoreline. Monomoy Island is probably one of the finest striper and bluefishing areas along this coast.

We feel that the unnecessarily harsh restrictions placed upon surf fishing by imposing an inland wilderness concept on a saltwater island reflects bad planning and mismanagement of federal land which belong to the entire nation. Our membership, therefore, strongly protests Bill 3425 which is currently being heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

RALPH LAROCHELLE, President.