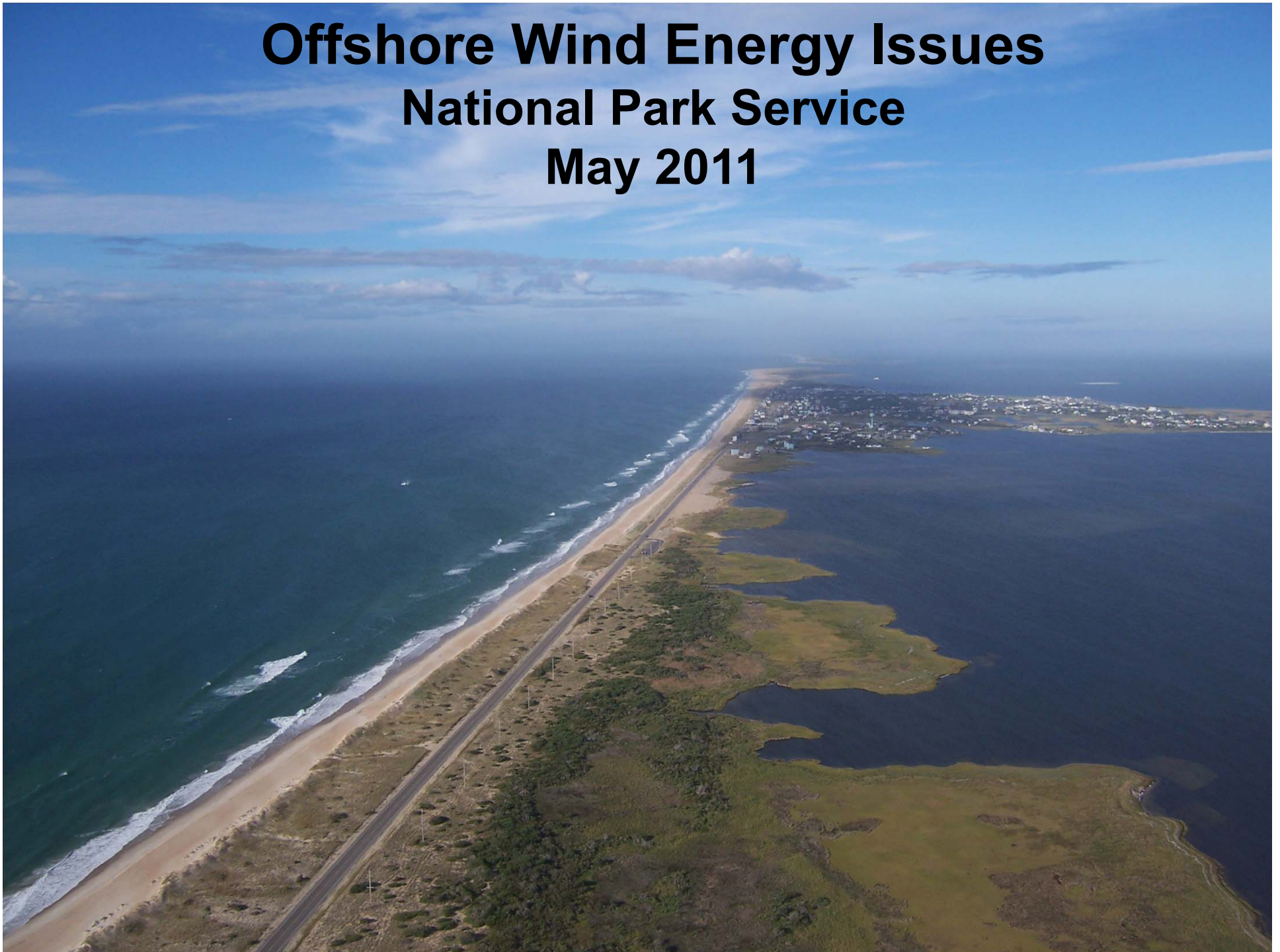


Offshore Wind Energy Issues

National Park Service

May 2011





Applicable NPS Authorities

- 1916 NPS Organic Act - 16 U.S.C. § 1 et seq.
“...the fundamental purpose of said parks... is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”
- 1970 NP System General Authorities Act, as amended 1978
Prohibits the NPS from allowing any activities that would cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the park units have been established.
- Together, these two laws impose on NPS a strict mandate to protect park resources and values from impairment.

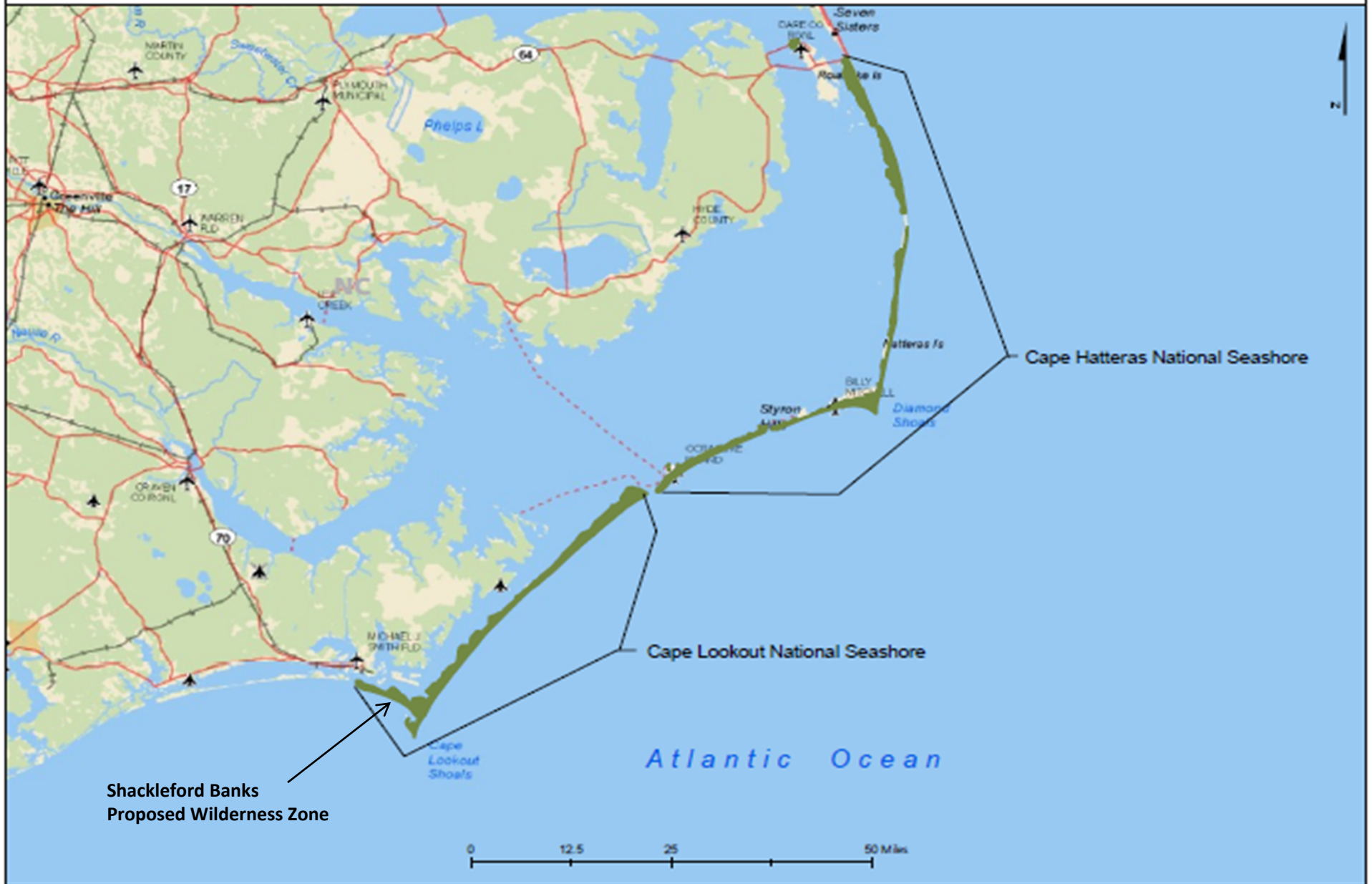


Applicable NPS Management Policies (2006)

- Protected resources include natural soundscapes, clear skies (both during the day and at night), and highly valued associated characteristics such as scenic views.
- “Natural condition” describes the condition of resources that would occur in the absence of human dominance over the landscape.
- Non-NPS activities that take place outside park boundaries can profoundly affect the NPS’s ability to protect natural resources inside the parks.
- NPS will seek the cooperation of others in minimizing the impacts originating outside parks by controlling noise and artificial lighting, and preserving scenic views.



Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores



Shackleford Banks
Proposed Wilderness Zone



Cape Hatteras (CAHA) & Cape Lookout (CALO)

- Known for the expansive, unobstructed ocean views.
- Collectively comprise a significant portion of North Carolina's ocean coastline and one of the longest stretches of largely undeveloped shoreline on the Atlantic coast.
- Contain nationally significant natural and cultural resources and values that play a vital role in the state's coastal environment, cultural heritage, & local economies.
- Due to the high quality of resources & visitor experiences offered, the two Seashores attracted over 2.8 million visitors and contributed an est. \$252 million and 2,413 jobs to the local economies in 2009.¹

¹ *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2009.* Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/SSD/NRR – 2011/281

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CAHA Enabling Legislation - 16 U.S.C § 459a (1937)

- Except for certain portions of the area, deemed to be especially adaptable for recreational uses, which shall be developed for such uses as needed, the area shall be permanently reserved as a primitive wilderness and no development or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in the area.





CAHA Purpose and Significance

- The first national seashore was established to preserve significant segments of unspoiled barrier islands and to provide resource-compatible recreational opportunities.
- Cape Hatteras Light, a National Historic Landmark, and other historic structures are protected under NHPA.
- Designated as a Globally Important Bird Area.



View From Top of Cape Hatteras Light



Ocracoke Island



CAHA Night Sky Assessment – November 2007



November 2007 view from boardwalk in Frisco, NC

The NPS Night Sky Team identified CAHA as one of only a few sites in the eastern U.S. with a nearly natural regimen of light and dark, where lighting patterns are governed primarily by celestial sources.

National Park Service



CALO Enabling Legislation - 16 U.S.C § 459g (1966)

- Established “to preserve for public use and enjoyment an area in the State of NC possessing outstanding natural and recreational values”
- The Secretary shall administer (CALO) for the general purposes of public outdoor recreation, including conservation of natural features contributing to public enjoyment.
- The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing, including shellfishing, on lands, marshlands, and waters under his jurisdiction within (CALO) in accordance with the laws of the State of NC and the U.S., to the extent applicable...





CALO Purpose and Significance

- The purpose of (CALO) is to conserve and preserve for public use and enjoyment the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values of a dynamic coastal barrier island environment for future generations.
- Designated as a unit of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve of the Man and the Biosphere Reserve Program.
- Contains two nationally significant historic districts rich in the maritime history of humankind's attempt to survive at the edge of the sea.
- Proposed Wilderness Zone on Shackleford Banks
- Contains critical habitat for threatened and endangered species and other unique wildlife including the legislatively protected wild horses of Shackleford Banks.



Key Resources at CALO



View Looking North from Cape Lookout Light



Pristine Shoreline View from South Core Banks



Habitat for Numerous Shorebird Species



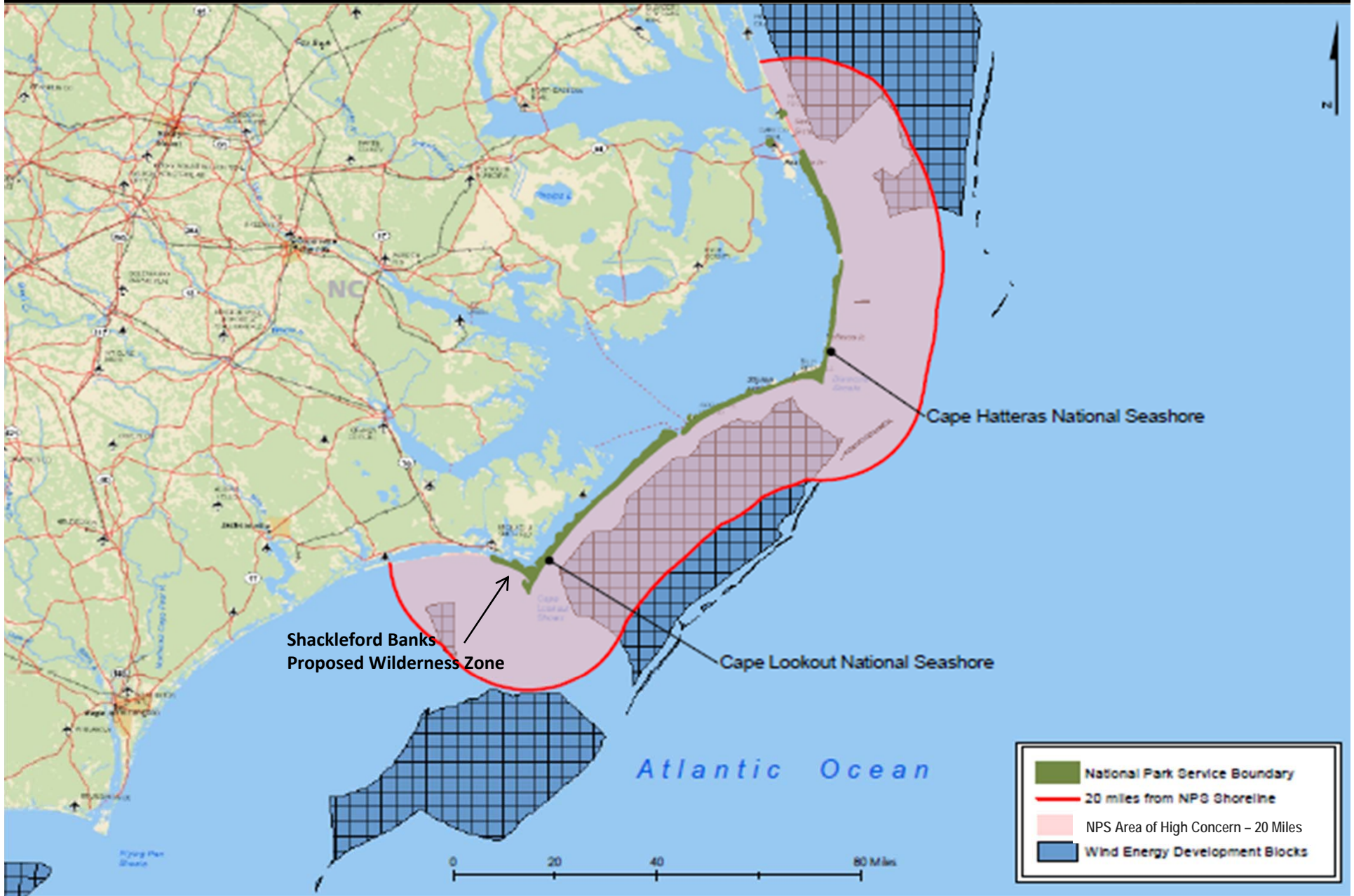
Portsmouth Village Historic District



NPS Issues and Concerns

- **Background**: The 2007 MMS programmatic EIS stated that a 400 ft high offshore wind turbine would be theoretically visible 26 miles from shore.
- Newer offshore turbines are now approx. 600 ft high.
- In 2008, NPS requested a 20 mile exclusion zone for Assateague Island National Seashore (MD/VA) when it commented on the MMS proposed rule/EA for alternative energy facilities on the OCS.
- **Viewshed**: The **Area of High Concern** for NPS in NC is the protection of the ocean viewshed **within 20 miles of shore** of the respective Seashore ocean boundaries (see map).

National Park Service Area of High Concern





NPS Issues and Concerns *(continued)*

- **Turbine color**: Limit color to that which is demonstrated to be the least obtrusive in an off-shore setting while not requiring daytime aviation or navigation warning lighting (e.g., conduct a study to determine preferred color)
- **Night Skies**: Limit turbine lighting to the minimum warning lights necessary to meet federal requirements for aviation and navigation safety (i.e., have no other illumination)
- **Transmission Lines**: Comply with the MMS Alternative Energy Final Programmatic EIS (Oct 2007), Chapter 5, page 5-98: “In general, transmission facilities would not be located on National Park properties”. NPS interprets “facilities” to include transmission lines*.

* Legislation would be required for NPS to issue right-of-way permit(s) for any new transmission lines that come ashore on Seashore property.

“Don’t it always seem to go, that you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til its gone”



View of Cape Point from South Beach

Questions?



Sunset over Pamlico Sound