

## WHO OWNS VIRGINIA'S BARRIER ISLANDS?

The islands are owned by public and private agencies. Call the numbers below before planning a trip to the Barrier Islands. Many islands are seasonally closed to protect beach nesting birds.

- The Nature Conservancy**  
Call (757) 442-3049
- Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries**  
Call (757) 442-2429
- Dept. of Conservation and Recreation**  
Call (757) 787-5576
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges**
  - Chincoteague – Call (757) 336-6122
  - Eastern Shore – Call (757) 331-2760
  - Fisherman Island – Call (757) 331-2760
  - Wallops Island (NASA)– Call (757) 336-6122
- Boating Access & Seaside Water Trail**
  - Public Access Sites
  - Seaside Heritage Program Canoe/Kayak Water Trail

For more information on access to the islands and the Virginia Coastal Program's Seaside Heritage initiative including the Canoe/Kayak Water Trail go to:

[www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/vshp/homepage.html](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/vshp/homepage.html)



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## BARRIER ISLAND BIRD NESTING HABITATS

### Ocean or Inlet Intertidal Zone

Area below the high tide line is safe for human traffic and passive recreational activities



### Berm

Nesting habitat for ground nesters such as terns, skimmers and shorebirds



### Dune

Nesting habitat for ground nesters such as shorebirds, gulls and an occasional least tern



### Back Dune

Nesting habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, herons and egrets



### Mudflat

Critical feeding area for shorebirds and their young

### Saltmarsh

Nesting habitat for marsh dependent species such as rails and several species of gulls, waterfowl, shorebirds, terns and some songbirds

### Washover

A large flat expanse of beach, created by major storm events, that forms an extension of the berm to the backside of the island. Washovers are important nesting areas for ground nesters such as shorebirds, terns, and black skimmers.

**PLEASE AVOID WALKING OVER OR THROUGH BIRD NESTING HABITATS DURING THE BREEDING SEASON.  
PLEASE REMAIN IN THE INTERTIDAL ZONE AND STAY ON WET SAND.**