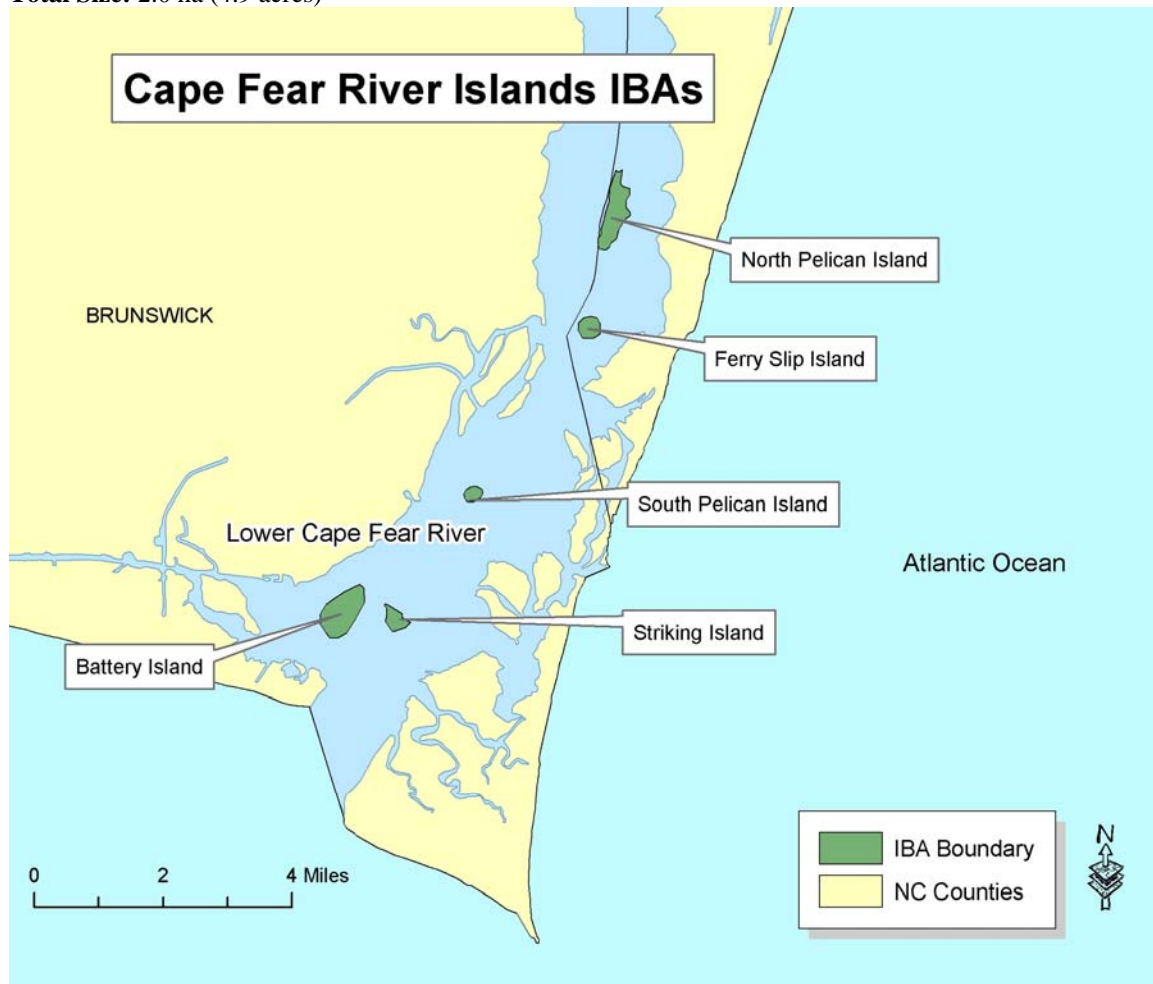


South Pelican Island

Location: Brunswick County

Total Size: 2.0 ha (4.9 acres)



Site Description: South Pelican Island is a dredged-sand island located in the lower Cape Fear River south of Wilmington. The island has been a haven for nesting pelicans, gulls and terns for more than two decades. The site is posted and patrolled, and is off-limits to all visitors.

Habitats: bare sand, sparse-moderate grasses/herbs, dense grass/herbs

Land Use: wildlife conservation

Primary Threats: disturbance to nesting birds

Protection Status: The site is protected and managed by the National Audubon Society and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Conservation Issues: The island is posted, patrolled and is entirely off-limits to visitors during the nesting season from 1 April to 1 September. Disturbance to nesting birds is a primary concern. The site needs periodic renourishment to maintain its size, shape and habitats. This has been accomplished by the US Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Audubon, and the North Carolina Colonial Waterbird Management Committee.

Birds: South Pelican Island, together with Ferry Slip Island, are the most important nesting sites for Royal and Sandwich terns in southeastern North Carolina. The site supports the largest colony of Brown Pelicans in southeastern North Carolina.

Key Bird Species

| Criteria | | Season | Number | Year | % '01 | '97-'01 | % '97-'01 |
|----------|------------------------|--------|------------|------|--------|------------|-----------|
| 2a | Brown Pelican | B | 534 prs | 2001 | 11.7 % | 717 prs. | 16.5 % |
| 2b | Royal Tern | B | 331 prs | 2001 | 3.0 % | 655 prs. | 5.7 % |
| 3b | Sandwich Tern | B | 5 prs | 2001 | 0.2 % | 213 prs. | 8.3 % |
| 3a | Laughing Gull | B | 475 prs. | 2001 | 1.5 % | 1,092 prs. | 5.4 % |
| 1 | Gull-billed Tern | B | 22 prs. | 2003 | -- | -- | -- |
| 2b | American Oystercatcher | B | 11 prs | 2001 | -- | -- | -- |
| 3ei | Waterbirds | B | 1,345 prs. | | | | |

B=Breeding FM=Fall Migration SM=Spring Migration W=Winter