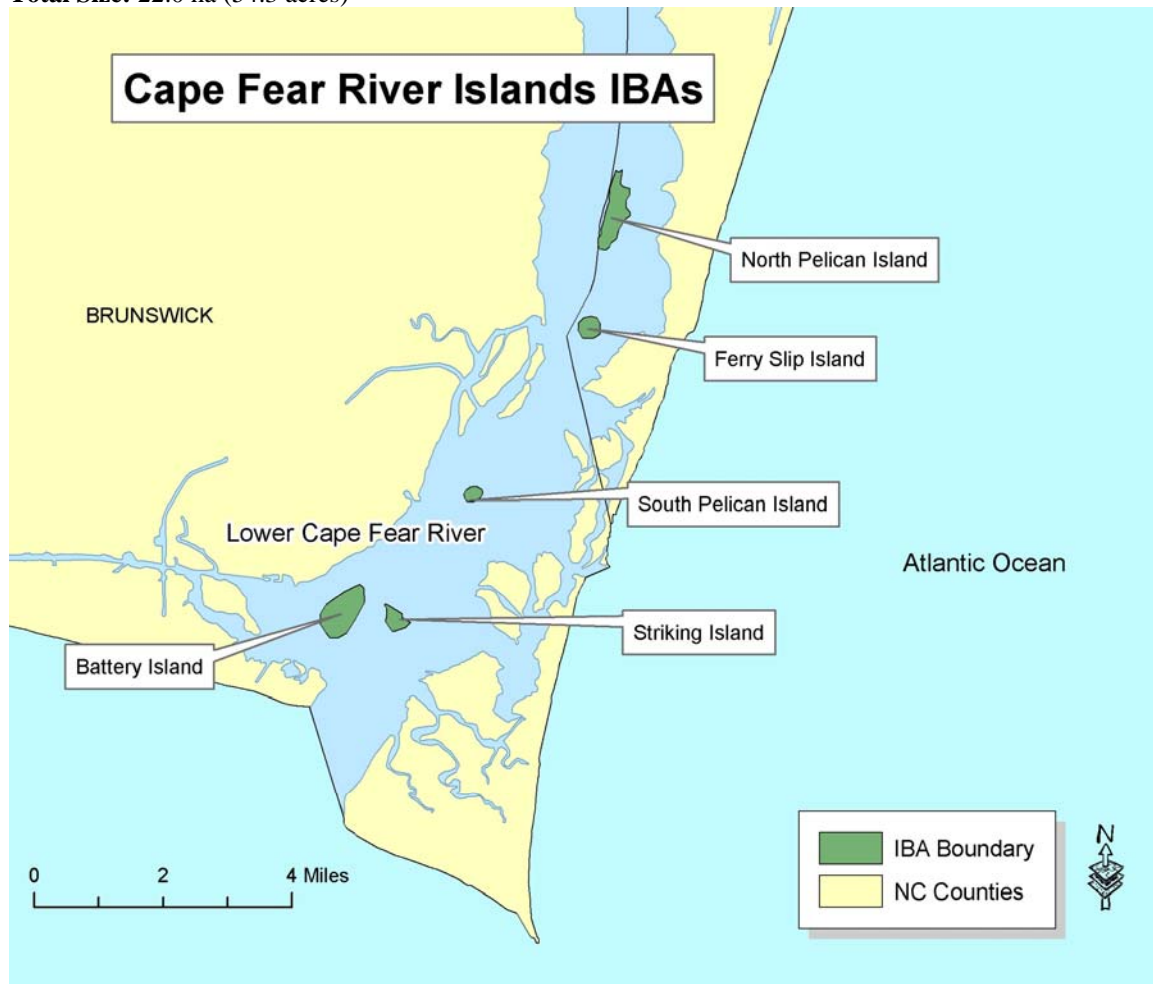


## Striking Island

**Location:** Brunswick County

**Total Size:** 22.0 ha (54.3 acres)



**Site Description:** Striking Island is a natural marsh island located in the lower Cape Fear River south of Wilmington. The site consists primarily of intertidal and high saltmarsh with small islands of upland washed oyster shell banks, shrubs and grassy areas.

**Habitats:** saltmarsh, shrub/scrub, oyster shell "rakes"

**Land Use:** wildlife conservation

**Primary Threats:** disturbance to nesting birds

**Protection Status:** The site is protected and managed by the National Audubon Society. The site is posted and patrolled, and is off-limits to all visitors.

**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.

**Birds:** Striking Island is an important foraging site for wading birds from the nearby Battery Island Audubon Sanctuary. The site supports nesting Laughing Gulls, American Oystercatchers, Willets and Clapper Rails. The number of nesting Laughing Gulls varies annually, but typically ranges between 300 and 500 nesting pairs. The site is also important to the lower Cape Fear River population of wintering American Oystercatchers.

### Key Bird Species

Criteria		Season	Number	Year	% '01	'97-'01	% 97-01
3a	Laughing Gull	B	325 prs.	2001	1.0 %	470 prs.	2.3 %
2b	American Oystercatcher	B	6 prs.	2001			
2b	American Oystercatcher	FM,W,SM	20	2001			
3a	Willet	B	8 prs	2001			
3ei	Waterbirds	Spring-summer (NB)	100-700	2001			

B=Breeding FM=Fall Migration SM=Spring Migration W=Winter NB=non-breeding