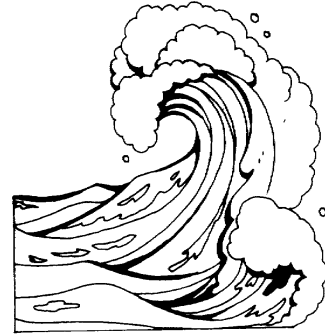


[From Fall 1999]

## Hurricane Dennis

On Monday, August 30, Chincoteague Refuge began feeling the effects of Hurricane Dennis with high winds, tides, and surf. By Wednesday the beach had been hit hard with sustained Northeast winds that pushed the surf over Parking Lot #1, filling Swan's Cove Impoundment with salt water and the east end borrow ditch with sand. All parking lots and the Swan's Cove Trail were closed to traffic until Friday morning when Parking Lots #2 and #3 were opened to traffic. The Off-Road Vehicle Zone was reopened at 8:00 AM on Friday as well. Damage was also inflicted to the Swan's Cove Bike Trail. Refuge Maintenance staff worked to open the trail on Friday.



Bob Wilson  
Deputy Refuge Manager

**Editor's Note:** As this newsletter was being prepared, the eye of hurricane Floyd passed over the Delmarva Peninsula and Chincoteague, on September 16.

According to John Schroer, Refuge Manager, the reduced dune line caused by Dennis's prolonged visit resulted in considerable flooding and damage from Floyd.

The Swan Cove bike trail was undermined further, resulting in its closure for an undetermined period. In addition, Parking Lots #1 and #5 were covered with sand and debris.

Let's hope hurricane Gert keeps her distance!