

Before the early 1600's Native American Indians enjoyed the freedom, the bounty of the protected waters of Chincoteague and Assateague waterways. Starting in the 1600's our early settlers joined an amicable enjoyment of these waterways along with the local Native American Indians. For more than 400 years the economy of fishing, wildfowl hunting, oyster and clam beds, these waterways have been used as highways to navigate in and around these beautiful Islands for recreation and commercial business. 1925 started the annual swim of the World Famous Wild Chincoteague Ponies a Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company event to raise valuable monies for the fire company these past 86 years. Not to mention these ponies have been a local staple for commerce and viewing pleasure for 400 years.

Today, this way of life is about to change for the worse. Our tourism, oyster and clam farming, charter boat industry, commercial fishing, limited beach access and even the World Famous Wild Ponies are in jeopardy.

Please, please go to <u>http://www.chincoteague.com/preserve-access/</u> for important information concerning the changes that are about to take place. Contact your local representative to voice your concern and ask to have these waterways open.

We want our waterways to remain open to navigate around Chincoteague Island. These waterways from Chincoteague Inlet through Assateague Channel and into Chincoteague Bay to remain open to the Chincoteague Island community.

The charter boat community has been singled out to pay fees, onerous reporting, regulated, and excluded on these waterways. Our livelihood is at stake, you our customer stands to lose valuable access to such a beautiful area and a way of life.

Visit us at www.chincoteague.com/charterboats or www.chincoteaguechamber.com