



Chincoteague's population has gone from 3500 to 40,000 for Pony Penning Week, yet you can find empty places. Assateague's sweeping dragon curves take the pounding of the sea, while Chincoteague is protected from all but the fiercest storms. North lie the condos and shops of Ocean City. Here is the last bit of Real Beach on the mid-Atlantic coast, a place of shapeshifting sand, and creatures adapted to it.





































