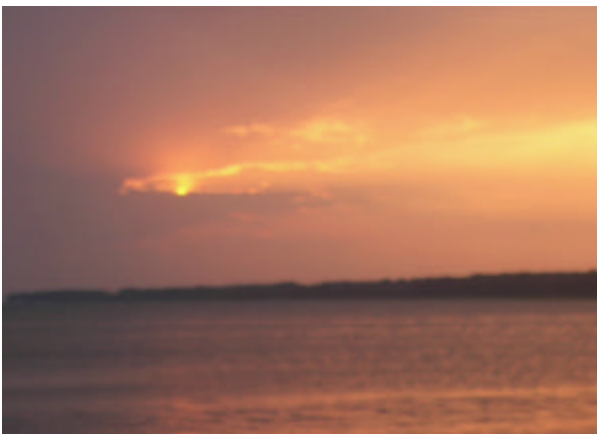


Tom's Cove













In the American Revolution, and the War of 1812, Tom's Cove didn't exist. Assateague ended in a blunt set of dunes, Chincoteague had its own set of sea-facing dunes. The shapeshifting sands, moving under the force of wind and wave and storm tide were shaped into the sweeping Hook after the Civil War. In the time I've been going to the islands, the Hook has grown and widened, the Cove has shallowed (I ran a kayak aground on my two-day backcountry passage from north Assateague to the Cove). Some day, instead of a shallow cove, it may be another saltwater marsh.



