

# Preserve Beach Access Newsletter



## Our Mission

to Keep America's Beaches  
Open and Accessible to All

**August 1, 2009**

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Before Congress adjourned for the August recess, Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Warren Judge and County Manager Bobby Outten traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet first-hand with Senators and Representatives.

Following their visit to the nation's capitol we have seen an active and positive week for beach access in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

Senator Richard Burr introduced a bill in the Senate (S.1557) which is being co-sponsored by Senator Kay Hagan. The bill would set aside the consent decree and reinstate the Interim Management Strategy for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to both Senator Burr and Senator Hagan for their bi-partisan support.

## Senator Richard Burr Introduces S.1557

A Senate bill to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area has been introduced by Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina. The bill, known as S.1557, was filed August 3, 2009 and reintroduces S.3113 from the previous session of Congress.



S.1557 is the Senate version of H.R. 718 introduced earlier this year in the House of Representatives by Congressman Walter Jones.

The newly introduced bill would set aside the consent decree and reinstate the Interim Management Strategy issued by the National Park Service on June 13, 2007. The consent decree followed a lawsuit filed by special interest groups against the National Park Service. Reinstating the previous Interim Strategy provides reasonable access while also protecting shorebirds and sea turtles.

The filing of S.1557 occurs one week following a visit to Washington, D.C. by Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Warren Judge and County Manager and Attorney Bobby Outten.

"We went to Washington," Judge said, "to meet face-to-face with members of Congress to explain the economic, social and cultural harm caused by beach closures." He added, "We are grateful to Senator Burr for reintroducing S.1557. It is a step in the right direction for the residents and visitors of Dare County."

The Washington, D.C. visit by Dare County officials was another in a series in recent years. Bobby Outten said, "It is important to meet with members of Congress on a regular basis." He added, "The legislative process takes time, but we are optimistic our efforts will produce results as seen in this bill reintroduced by Senator Burr."

## Senator Kay Hagan Co-sponsors Legislation



U.S. Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) is co-sponsoring legislation to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy to govern the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. The bill, S.1557, was introduced by U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) on Monday, August 3.

"We appreciate Senator Hagan co-sponsoring S.1557," said Warren Judge, Chairman of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. "This is an important step in providing reasonable access for all Americans to the nation's first seashore established in 1937 for recreation," he explained. "Senator Hagan's support confirms that preserving beach access is a bi-partisan issue," Judge added, "and our hope is that additional legislators from both sides of the aisle will now join as co-sponsors of S.1557 and H.R. 718 that was introduced by Congressman Walter B. Jones (R-NC) in January."

Both bills would set aside the Consent Decree which became effective in May 2008 following a lawsuit by special interest groups against the National Park Service. The Consent Decree has resulted in extensive beach closures. During the week of July 4, over 45 miles, more than 65% of the Seashore's beaches, were off limits and local people and businesses have suffered.

Reinstatement of the Interim Management Strategy provides reasonable access to the Seashore while protecting shorebirds and sea turtles. Under both bills, the Interim Management Strategy would remain in place until the final rule governing beach access is issued by the National Park Service.

Commissioner Judge and County Manager Bobby Outten traveled to Washington, DC last week to meet with members of Congress to provide detailed information about the crippling effects of the Consent Decree. According to Outten, additional trips will be scheduled to continue efforts to gain additional bi-partisan support for beach access.

## Visit Your Congressional Representatives Now

As the United States Congress adjourns for the August summer break, legislators are heading home to their districts. This is the perfect opportunity to visit your elected officials and personally ask for their support of Senate bill (S.1557) and House of Representatives bill (H.R. 718). The most effective way to do this is face-to-face, as a constituent at their local district field office.

S.1557 and H.R. 718 would reinstate the National Park Service "Interim Management Strategy" that provides reasonable access and protects shorebirds and sea turtles in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. A consent decree set aside the Interim Strategy after a lawsuit by special interest groups. This is a classic example of trying to "fix something that wasn't broken."

### **S.1557 and H.R. 718**

- Reinstates the Interim Strategy that was subject to public review
- Does not remove protection for shorebirds and sea turtles

- Provides flexibility for Park Service to adjust buffers based on bird behavior
- Restores reasonable access to the recreational area
- Helps the tourism-based economy & supports struggling small businesses

#### **YOU CAN HELP**

Visit your elected officials during the August recess. We need people from all 50 states to personally visit Congressional field offices during the August recess. Tell your legislator and their staff that you support S.1557 and H.R. 718. Ask them to co-sponsor and vote for the House and Senate versions of this bill. Also, share your first-hand experience about the importance of beach access.

To find Congressional field offices - insert your state & zip code on the following links on [www.PreserveBeachAccess.org](http://www.PreserveBeachAccess.org)

For maximum impact, there is no substitute for face-to-face contact. However, if you are unable to visit your legislators in person, please be sure to call or email them.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Join the "Preserve Beach Access" Facebook Group

[Click Here](#)

## Voices of the People

People everywhere are talking about open and accessible beaches. Following are a few of the comments received this week from people signing up at "Act Now" on the Dare County Preserve Beach Access website -



### **Jean-Francois - Eastman, Quebec**

We love the Outer Banks, but for the second year in a row we couldn't access the Cape. We are thinking about going to Daytona next year. Sadly

### **Beth - New Stanton, Pennsylvania**

Thanks for informing us about this situation. We just vacationed in Salvo and were given your brochure by our real estate company. I will be checking back frequently for current information. I also intend to inform my friends and family. I find it sad that we are living in a world where animal well-being is placed ahead of human well-being, when there is a sane solution for co-existence.

### **Ginny - Marlinton, West Virginia**

Traveling to the Outer Banks every summer has become a tradition in our family. We are always impressed with the cleanliness of the beaches, and the respect that visitors and tourists give to the area. Thank you for advocating for this cause.



#### **Editor's Note:**

The beach access website has helpful links to the [Cape Hatteras Anglers Club](#), the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association [NCBBA](#), and the Outer Banks Preservation Association [OBPA](#) (Click on the highlighted organization name for a direct link to their website)

## You Can Help

The residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area need your support. Here's how you can help -

### **Forward this newsletter**

Click "Forward email" at bottom of this newsletter

**Send an E-Card** to your friends & family [Click Here](#)

### **Write Congress**

Ask your elected officials to support S.1557 and H.R. 718. [Sample Letter](#)

**Add a link on your website** for instructions [Click Here](#)



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