



July 4th & Freedom Is At Risk on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area



Today as the United States of America celebrates its 233rd birthday, freedom is at risk in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

When patriotic Americans reflect on their freedoms today, the residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area will continue to be denied public access to key portions of the most popular area beaches because of a federal court-ordered consent decree.

The court order is the result of three environmental groups filing a damaging and expensive lawsuit against the National Park Service, which manages the recreational area. This lawsuit has had a devastating effect on the local, tourism-based economy.

"Our people have always been faithful stewards of the environment," said Warren Judge, the elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Dare County, North Carolina where most of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area is located.

"Long before a few environmentalists targeted our area," Judge added, "the residents and visitors of Hatteras Island worked diligently with the National Park Service to protect wildlife based on scientific principles and sound management practices. The environmentalists are trying to fix something that wasn't broken."



Board of Commissioners, Vice-Chairman, Allen Burrus reflected, "Our people, who were the first to care about the environment, are now being ruined because of the consent decree." He added, "We need to take proper care of the birds, but we also have to do what is right for people. Children should not see their parents go bankrupt because of some birds that are not even classified as endangered."

In This Issue

[Tell 4 on the 4th](#)

[Vandalism Closures](#)

[Other Closure Activity](#)

[Voices of the People](#)

[You Can Help](#)

Quick Links

[Act Now](#)

[Send E-Card](#)

[We Believe](#)

[Our Links](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)



Learn how the consent decree is hurting people and businesses. To see *My Story* videos

[Click Here](#)

Jack Shea, another Dare County Commissioner explained, "Our Board is unified in bi-partisan support of open and accessible beaches. This is not a political issue." He emphasized, "This is a matter of survival for our businesses and families. That is why our board has unanimously taken a strong stand in favor of beach access."



The campaign to preserve access to America's beaches is sponsored by the Dare County Board of Commissioners in partnership with the Dare County Tourism Board.

On the campaign website www.PreserveBeachAccess.org a sample letter is available you can send to Congress in support of House of Representatives bill, H.R. 718. [Click Here for Sample Letter](#). You can also see instructions for adding our link/logo to your business website. For more information, [Click Here for Link Instructions](#)

Tell 4 on the 4th

People are frustrated and angry about restrictions to beach access in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Businesses are hurting from the devastating effects of the consent decree. People are living with uncertainty and worried about the future.

Today on the 4th of July, there is a positive step each of us can do to help preserve beach access. "**Tell 4 on the 4th.**" Please pick up the phone, or go on-line, and personally invite 4 people to sign-up at "Act Now" on the beach access website www.PreserveBeachAccess.org.

"**Tell 4 on the 4th**" is an opportunity to help spread the word about our struggle by contacting family and friends all over America and asking them to sign-up at "Act Now." Ask each person you contact to then reach-out to 4 people they know.

Encouraging people to sign-up today at "Act Now" is important in building a broad database of support from people in all 50 states.



This database will be an important tool in the future as beach access issues move through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process and the legislature.

When the time comes to mobilize people from across America, we need to contact them quickly to energize them for action. That's why building the database is so important right now.

What better day than the 4th of July to do something positive about preserving our freedom of access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Your help today can make a difference. "**Tell 4 on the 4th**"

Two Acts of Vandalism Close Ramps 23 & 27

On June 29th the National Park Service announced the closure of Ramps 23 & 27 because of two acts of vandalism. To learn more [Click Here](#)

The Crime Line number to report information about these acts of vandalism is **252-473-3111**.

When vandalism occurred earlier this year on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, Warren Judge, the Chairman of the Dare County Board of Commissioners urged the Park Service to "Investigate and penalize the people who are actually guilty."



Judge said back on March 24, "Look for the ones who have the most to gain from these acts of vandalism. Those are not the people who favor access to the Cape Hatteras national Seashore Recreational Area."

The most recent vandalism closures triggered a flurry of newspaper articles, editorials and blog comments. Among the news coverage is a worth reading "Editor's Blog" by Irene Nolan in the Island Free Press. [Click here](#) to read the blog and reader comments.

Other Modifications Announced This Week

In addition to the vandalism closures at Ramps 23 & 27, the National Park Service announced other modifications in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

A closure was expanded south of Ramp 38 for unfledged Least Tern chicks, a species not classified as endangered.



The westernmost boundary of the South Beach was reduced as Least Tern chicks hatch and move within the interior of the closure. South of Ramp 68 a closure was removed. And a closure was expanded at South

Point for unfledged American Oystercatcher chicks, another species not classified as endangered.

[Click Here to Read the National Park Service Report](#)

The beach access website is also your direct connection to a Google Earth map used by the National Park Service to show open and closed areas of the Recreational Area. A color-coded legend highlights specific areas open to pedestrians and ORV's, pedestrian only, limited access areas (open to pedestrians between closures) and areas closed to all public access due to resource closures. [Click Here for the Map](#)

-

Unfortunately, closure conditions under the consent decree can change on short notice. It is possible you could encounter an area closed by a recently placed sign, while it is still indicated as open on the National Park Services's access map. They update the map up to five times per week as conditions change, and may not include very recent changes made in the field by Park Service staff.

REMEMBER - when special interest groups claim that huge portions of the beach are open, the areas they are talking about may not really be accessible. This often happens when an open area is located on the north or sound side of a restricted closure. In other words, while the area may technically be "open," in reality, you need a helicopter or parachute to get there. As the old expression says, "You can't get there from here."

Voices of the People

Freedom-loving people are making their voices heard in support of open and accessible beaches. Throughout America, people are sharing their comments when signing up at "[Act Now](#)" on the beach access website.

Following are samples of this week's comments -

Bill - Bath, North Carolina

Been fishing on Hatteras for over 35 years. I have always kept the beach cleaner than I found it. Kept a look out for wildlife and yielded to nesting areas for both birds and turtles. Picked up injured animals and taken them to authorities for care. Now somebody with a bunch of signs and string are going to tell me I'm a problem. Sounds like the "research" needs a second look.

Elizabeth - North Beach, Maryland

I'm behind you all the way!!



Virginia - Cleveland, Ohio

Can't believe what I have been reading! How could they deny access to the wonderful OBX beaches???? My soul is refreshed there. It is the most wonderful place in all the world. It would be a real travesty to deny us now, and generations to come, the beauty and peace of the National Seashore. Please continue the fight!!!!

Brian - Virginia

Just took my 4x4 onto Hatteras Beaches for the first time, but I've been going with fishing buddies for years. As usual, every 4 wheeler I saw was well-behaved and abiding by the rules of beach driving. I'm tired of special interest groups in this country trying to gain control and exclude others by casting them in a bad light. That's why I joined NCBBA recently and have already been politically active. Please keep me informed and keep up the good work!

Editor's Note:

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

You Can Help

Stay involved. The residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area need your support. Right now, businesses are hurting and people are worried about their future. Here's how you can help -

Forward this Newsletter to others. Click the "Forward email" link at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

Write Congress.

Let your Senators and Representative know you support H.R. 718. [Click Here for Sample Letter](#)



Add a link on your business or group's website to the beach access website [Click Here for Instructions](#)



*There is more to be done
Freedom is at risk
and you can make a difference*