



## Recent Developments, Website Comments and Ways You Can Help

6/20/09

The impact of the consent decree continues to have a devastating effect on businesses and people.

Although those closest to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area have been the hardest hit, the negative consequences of beach closures has had a ripple effect throughout the entire community.

The Dare County campaign to preserve access to America's beaches is actively working, along with others, to increase public awareness of our struggle locally and at a national level.



This grassroots effort, sponsored by the Dare County Board of Commissioners in partnership with the Dare County Tourism Board, needs your on-going help and participation.

It is important, at this time, that we build a broad base of support from people all over the country. Developing this grassroots foundation now will be critical in the future when specific legislative issues arise and we need to mobilize quickly for action.

This nationwide database of support is continuing to grow as people are signing up at "[Act Now](#)" on the beach access website.

## Beach access Op-Ed article published in Virginia newspaper



If you've ever wondered what wildlife really thinks, you can find out in an interesting Op-Ed by Dare County Commissioner Jack Shea.

See the article as it appeared in the Petersburg, Virginia Progress-Index newspaper on Sunday, June 14, 2009. [Click Here to Read the Op-Ed](#)

## Closure Report on Portions of Cape Hatteras Beaches

This week six closures were expanded in portions of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. In another case, a closure was expanded on the north end and reduced on the south.

Of the expanded closures, two were attributed to Least Tern breeding behavior, one for breeding behavior and chicks, and another for Least Tern chicks. Breeding behavior of American Oystercatchers caused two expansions. Neither Least Terns nor American Oystercatchers are classified as endangered. One expansion was due to unfledged Piping Plover chicks, considered a threatened species, not endangered.

These expansions were outlined in the National Park Service's Beach Access report for June 18, 2009. You can read this weekly report through a link on the Preserve beach access website under "Today's Access" on the Home Page. [Click Here to Read the 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 beach. 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 to See 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 Service's access map. The map is updated 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 a huge amount of the beach is 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."

## Political Convention Adopts Resolution Supporting Beach Access

In a unanimous vote, the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Republican Party this week endorsed a resolution in support of public access to the beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

The resolution supports House of Representatives bill H.R. 718 introduced earlier this year by Congressman Walter B. Jones to restore the National Park Service's Interim Management Strategy until a long-term plan can be adopted. H.R. 718 would set aside the current mandates put in place in the wake of the consent decree. [Click here to learn more about H.R. 718](#)

Preserving Beach Access is a bi-partisan issue endorsed by people from every walk of life and party affiliation.



Whether you are a Democrat, Independent, or Republican, contact your Congressional Representative and Senator and express your support of open and accessible beaches.

Your letter to Congress could be the one that makes a difference.

[Click here for a sample letter to Congress](#)

## Hatteras Residents Appeal to Dare County Board of Commissioners

This week Hatteras Island residents filled the room for the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, June 15. During the public comments portion, area residents passionately expressed their concern about their financial future because of the negative impact of restricted beach access.

Dare County Charter Cable subscribers can view the entire proceeding on Government Access Channel 20 on Monday, June 22, at 1:00pm and again at 7:00pm. DVD's are also available at all Dare County Libraries.

In response to the meeting Irene Nolan, Editor of the Island Free Press, shared her thoughts in a blog. [Click Here to Read More](#)

## We The People

Following are recent comments from people signing up at "Act Now" on the beach access website -

**Wesley from Aulander, North Carolina** - I feel the beaches should remain open. Why should someone in Washington, D.C. tell us here in North Carolina how to use our beaches. We are not stupid. We know we have to take care of our beaches so our grandkids can also enjoy fishing, surfing, and using the beach. The people of Dare County depend on the beaches. So, we need to Keep Em Open.



**Craig from Staffordsville, Virginia** - I recently visited the island for the first time with my disabled wife and dachshund. It was nice to have vehicle access to the beach so my wife could enjoy the ocean. I would also like to note that the shores were teeming with wildlife unmolested. The early morning walks with my dog was really enjoyable because of the wildlife encountered and natural beauty of the island. It was evident to me that the local people were very protective of this very special place and don't need outsiders telling them how to take care of it. I hope to enjoy many more trips to the island, as it was the most disability and pet friendly area I have been to while on vacation.

**Natalie from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina** - I am absolutely sick over what is happening to our home. Prior to the beach closings, I used to go to the beach every weekend, most often

The Point. These are the places that make me love the Outer Banks, and they are being taken away from us.

**Michael from Baltimore, Maryland** - This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever experienced in my life. I am not able to access a beach I have come to my entire life with my family to fish, walk and look for shells. We can no longer bring our elderly disabled parents, who have paid taxes all their life, and now can't walk the long distances required to get to the fishing areas we have always been able to enjoy to get our evening meal. I find it very discriminatory toward the disabled period!!!!

**James from High Bridge, New Jersey** - I was greatly depressed to hear that the beach would be closed. I have been going there since I was ten. It was always my hope that I would be able to bring my kids to that wonderful beach to fish off the point, or even teach them to surf. The 10 to 11 hour ride down there is more than worth it, just to



see an untouched beach community that gives you the relaxed presence. I am deployed with the Army now and am looking forward to visiting in May 2010. I just hope to have the same Cape Hatteras we are used to for fishing, cooking, and relaxing on the beach sitting on my tailgate.

*Editor's note: James, thank you for your service. We look forward to your safe return.*

## What Can I Do?

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 "Forward email" link below.
- Send an attractive E-Card to your friends and family [Click for E-Card](#)
- As outlined earlier, write Congress. [Click for Sample Letter](#)
- Add a link on your website to [www.PreserveBeachAccess.org](http://www.PreserveBeachAccess.org)

The campaign to preserve access to America's beaches needs businesses and organizations everywhere to provide links on their websites. Unlike the special interest groups that

oppose us, we do not have the resources for pay per click, on-line advertising. Providing a link on your website is vital to this campaign. Easy instructions for adding a link or displaying our logo are on the website. [Click Here](#)



*There is more to be done*

Freedom is at risk and you can make a difference

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