

0021060

**From:** [David Carter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Cc:** [Norah Martinez](#); [Britta Muiznieks](#); [John McCutcheon](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Commercial Fisherman Call  
**Date:** 04/25/2008 02:20 PM

---

Us rangers had discussed maybe the possiblity of using the Carsonite markers with the "No Motor Vehicle" sticker. Placing them about 100 - 150 feet out from the symbolic fencing. This would be simalur to a safety closure, not allowing general public vehicle in the area but still allows permitted commercial fisherman. If we do set up an area for the commercial fisherman I would ask that it not be implemented until Monday.

David Carter

-----Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS wrote: -----

To: Norah Martinez/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
From: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS  
Date: 04/24/2008 23:22  
cc: David Carter/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Fw: Commercial Fisherman Call

Norah,

Any thoughts of what we could do to assist make the situation easier on the commercial fishermen? For example, can we at least designate a "Parking by Permit Only" zone (or something equivalent) on South Beach in an area open to ORV use to help with their boat launching issue?

Note: I'm not inclined to start allowing them to drive through resource closures. We have not allowed it before, and as soon as the Consent Decree is signed, the buffers will be mandatory and there will be no latitude for allowing it. I am looking for any other ideas that would help them with the situation, shorten their driving distance, etc.

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148  
(c) 252-216-5520  
fax 252-473-2595

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 04/24/2008 10:14 PM -----

**Cyndy  
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

ToMike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc

SubjectCommercial Fisherman Call

04/24/2008 03:38  
PM

April 24, 2008

Mike,

On Thursday, April 24, 2008 I received a call from Steve Ballance. He is a commercial fisherman who lives in Buxton/Frisco area. Both he and Michael Peele, another commercial fisherman and also a Reg Neg Committee member, have called me several times in the past few days trying to communicate to NPS (and to you and I specifically because they believe we understand them better than previous NPS managers) us their needs to access their traditional and more productive fishing grounds this time of the year.

Requesting access, below the high water mark, through the resource closures between Ramp 49 and Ramp 45.

Need the area “just west of the bite” (Cape Point hook) but west of the Cape Point prenesting area, to launch and retrieve boats because the water is normally calmer and the beach is a more gradual slope for launching their dory.

They are fishing for sea mullet this time of year and the season will extend to late May, at which time they will finish with ocean fishing and move to the sounds for crabbing season.

They don't understand why they cannot drive across 150 yd of hard packed sand below the high water now when there aren't even any bird nests on the ground yet, no eggs, and no chicks yet. I discussed the concept of “disturbance” with them but they implied that a very limited number of vehicles passing does not constitute a disturbance...and if it does, then suggested that we stop any NPS vehicles from driving through these 150 yd closures as well.

They stated they could completely see why NPS does not want recreational drivers going through the areas...much more apt to drive at a high rate of speed and “wheel around” but a fishermen pulling a dory is not apt to have the same driving behavior as a recreational fisherman or “joy riders” or day users on the beach.

They both brought up the old issue of “we were promised many years ago that we'd always have access to the beaches to make a living for our families” and now NPS and USFWS are taking that way of life away from us. We can't make it as commercial fishermen if we can't access the good fishing spots along the beach.”

After these exceedingly heavy rains we've experienced lately, access to the beginning of Ramp 43, 44, and 45 are all heavily flooded. The commercial fishermen, pulling a dory behind them, are more having great difficulty traversing these wet areas. Harden the “roadbed” sand surfaces and alternate interdunal routes would help this situation but very complicated, involving EIS/NEPA, etc., etc. I realize. I tried to explain this to them but they both say “Now you're talking Greek to me” and just don't understand why we can't “punch a hole through the dunes and let the water go to the sea.”

Ahhhh...if it were just that easy!@

Michael Peele plans to bring a letter with him to the next Reg Neg “officially”requesting some of these ideas.