

From: juniorcaster@aol.com
To: mike_murray@nps.gov
Subject: Perspective of a young fisherman
Date: 04/30/2008 07:33 PM

Mike Murray,

My name is Christopher Sean Storrs. Im a Junior at L.C. Bird High School in Richmond virginia and an avid fisherman and tournement caster. Every spring and fall my days (and nights) on the weekend are spent on the beach or on the piers of Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke, and the northern outer banks. Drum are a passion for me. I work everyweekday after school so that i have enough money to pay for gas for the 3-5 hour trip it takes to get to drum water everyweeknd the conditions look anywhere near right for fishing. I paid 5 thousand dollars of my own money for a jeep solely for fishing. I eat in it, sleep in it, and drive it wherever it needs to go to get me to fish. Often on fridays i cant leave untill 10 pm and arrive at the fishing grounds(Hatteras Inlet, ocracoke, etc) until 3 or 4 am saturday morning. Closing down the beaches at 10 pm would leave me a fish out of water. Living in central virginia i dont get to fis h as much as id like. By cutting off prime night fishing that valuable time would be cut in half of days im fishing the beach. Pier fishing, especially avon, is my favorite time spent on the water. However with the new regs this fall it will become too crowded to bother with at night,as all the "sand fleas" will be pushing the diehard fall drum pier guys off the planks. Shark fishing is another thing i love, and in the summer, its my favorite thing to do. With basically every pier banning it and all good fishing being done at night, a beach closure would basically aallow for 1-2 hours of shark fishing per day, basically not worth the effort of gathering baits and deploying them. Fishing has always been something ive done to get away from all the bullshit, have a good time, maybe even catch a fish. Then i had to learn to deal with giant enclosures for tiny birds knocking out prime spots like cape Point and the hook, not a huge deal, almost understandable. But now im going to get the boot everynight just after dark. Its rediculas. If the beaches close at 10 pm, looks like a 17 year boy will be arrested for trespassing. I hope you push for free and open beach access. Everytime the "other side" gets it their way they gain more power,and take more away from us all, please dont let them win this battle. Good beach access is limited enought already.

Chris storrs

One of many fighting for a way of life

I dont know if your a hunter or a fisherman, but please, try and help the thousands who are. They win this one it gives them more of a leg to stand on on their next battle..."but they closed the beaches in nc, why not the rest of the country too...."

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