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Cape Hatteras National Seashore - Vandalism of Resource Protection Clo... <http://www.nps.gov/caha/parknews/vandalism-of-resource-protection-clo...>


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



CAHA # 1978

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Vandalism of Resource Protection Closure Signs Results in
Expansion of Buffer



NPS PHOTO

Date: May 11, 2008

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Vandalism of symbolic fencing marking a shorebird closure in the SouthBeach area of Cape Hatteras National Seashore was discovered early Saturday morning. Approximately 1.7 miles east of Ramp 49, a park ranger patrolling the area discovered and documented twelve posts with "Area Closed" signs broken off at the sand line and several carsonite closure markers pulled out at the shoreline. During the investigation, two sets of footprints were found along the edge of the fence line that extended from the dunes to the waters edge. No footprints or tire tracks were observed entering the closed area which was established to protect a least tern colony; no birds appeared to have been disturbed during the act of vandalism. As prescribed in the court ordered Consent Decree, this closure violation resulted in a mandatory expansion of the closure area by 50 meters to the west.

The recent court approved Consent Decree related to shorebird and sea turtle protection at the Seashore requires the National Park Service to automatically expand the closure area by 50 meters if a confirmed deliberate act disturbs or harasses wildlife or vandalizes fencing, nests, or plants. Park staff documented the site and expanded the closure as ordered in the Consent Decree.

Superintendent Mike Murray reiterated the need for all parties to meet the Consent Decree requirements. "I urge everyone to consider that future acts of intentional vandalism to resource protection areas will result in greater expansion of the buffers. These expansions are not discretionary under the Consent Decree," stated Murray.

For more information about closures at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and visitor opportunities, visit the park's webpage at www.nps.gov/caha.



Did You Know?

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, which commemorates the first English attempt at colonization of the New World, is only a few miles northwest of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

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Last Updated: May 11, 2008 at 12:48 EST

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