

From: [CAHA Superintendent](#)
Sent By: [Cyndy Holda](#)
To: kayota@attglobal.net
Cc: [Norah Martinez](#)
Bcc: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Response to Email (Dated May 5, 2008)
Date: 05/30/2008 08:32 AM

A3821 (CAHA)

Dr. Steve Kayota
Hatteras Island Homeowners Coalition
Kayota@attglobal.net

Dear Dr. Kayota:

I apologize for the belated response to your electronic mail of May 5, 2008, expressing concerns about the recent established safety closure that was lifted on May 3, 2008 in front of Avon Village. Hatteras District Ranger John McCutcheon made the decision to lift the safety closure due in the early part of May, since the safety concerns that triggered the closure no longer existed.

Historically this section of beach becomes narrow and can have a dangerous grade for a mix of pedestrians and ORV use during the fall and winter seasons. During that time, several large sand shelves developed, further endangering any type of ORV use. This safety closure was monitored through-out the fall and winter by the Hatteras Ranger staff. By mid-April 2008 the sand shelves had dissipated and the gradient of the beach flattened.

By the last week of April it was determined that the safety closure was no longer needed. Further monitoring by the Ranger staff on the morning of May 5, 2008 indicated sufficient width for two ORVs to safely pass each other at high tide in the narrowest section south of Avon Pier.

I believe the timing of removing the safety closure was a coincidence relative to the timing of the resource closures. If a safety closure no longer meets any safety related merits, then it will be reopened such as the case in front of Avon Village.

Visitor safety is paramount to the operation of our national park areas. Ranger McCutcheon's decision to lift this closure was justified under our current policy and in our judgment did not compromise pedestrian or ORV safety.

Thank you for commenting on the operation of the park. We can always make improvements in managing the park. If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to contact us again.

Michael B. Murray
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