

0021964

From: battaglia
To: mike_murray@nps.gov; gordon.myers@ncwildlife.org
Subject: Re: Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area
Date: 09/15/2008 10:26 PM

Gentlemen –

My wife and I have been coming to Hatteras Island for more than twenty years, and two years ago purchased property there for the purpose of recreation!

Just earlier this month, I took my daughter charter fishing – something that we both love to do – and where better to do it than Hatteras, NC??

I posed a question to our “Captain,” regarding his feelings about the potential beach closures, thinking that, as a charter boat captain, perhaps his opinion might differ from those I know who love to fish from the seashore. To my surprise, he stated that, besides being a commercial fisherman, he is also a restaurant owner, and the slight adjustment to the beach accessibility has **ALREADY** had an impact on his restaurant business. He fears that he will be forced to close his restaurant within the next couple of years, if the draw to the recreational fishermen (women included) goes away.

My wife and I make every effort to make the 6 hour drive to Hatteras, once a month, to get to our little get-away and enjoy the beauty of the seashore. We have noticed, especially during the holiday weekends, that the crowds are just not there, as we remembered from last year! I’m afraid that you are going to stand by and let some “banner-waving” activists cause economic ruin to your seashore community – **OUR National Seashore Recreational Area**. Perhaps technically, this is not a “Wild Life Preserve,” but the majority of the people who use this area for recreation, do take care for the wild life that thrives on, or visits the seashore!

Let’s not bite off our noses to spite our face, as the old adage goes!!! Let’s address those who do not take care of the seashore, when caught climbing the dune with a vehicle or thrashing through the bird refuge, or destroying the beaches for the nesting turtles!! Because of speeders, do we close the highways?? Please be sensible with your decision process! Please keep this area, thriving for wild life and the recreational fishermen!

Jim and Janice Battaglia
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