

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Paul Stevens](#); [Cyndy Holda](#)
Subject: Fw: Safety Closure In Front Of Frisco
Date: 09/16/2008 03:44 PM

Paul and Cyndy,

Would appreciate hearing your thoughts about whether this would be a reasonable and prudent approach at this time, given the current status of the RegNeg issues. Let's discuss in person, rather than exchange further emails.

Mike Murray
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/16/2008 02:42 PM -----

**John
McCutcheon/CAHA/NPS**

09/16/2008 01:37 PM

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Norah Martinez/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Safety Closure In Front Of Frisco

Mike,

I am requesting that you reconsider the "safety" closure in front of Frisco/Hatteras villages, especially in front of Frisco for opening to ORV access.

I am not being pressured by anyone or any ORV group, but I removed the seasonal closure in front of Avon village late last night with no safety closures. You can drive from ramp 34 to ramp 38. This has not occurred for the past few years. Currently in front of Avon, and to the south, to ramp 38, there is no gradient which concerns me, no beach shelves, no hazards, it is a wide drivable beach. Currently, there is no merit for closing this section for safety. We will monitor it closely as we head further into the fall and winter seasons as the gradient and narrowness become more pronounced.

The identical situation is present in Frisco as it is in Avon. Currently there is one full beach turtle closure just west of Ramp 49 blocking access to the east end of the Frisco safety closure. Besides the temporary turtle closures in this area, I see no strong rationale for keeping the Frisco area closed off as a safety closure. I realize

the reg-neg committee has been given the new safety closure language for study (in sub-committee) which we proposed early in the year. I do not know where that stands.

The narrowest distance between the ocean and the dune is approximately 85 feet (high tide with full moon) half way between ramp 49 and the east end of the Frisco safety closure.

The average beach width between Ramp 49 and the Frisco pier is approximately 120 feet. It is flat with little gradient. I see no safety hazards. I would request to open that portion of beach an additional .9 miles (which would place the east end of the safety closure about .1 miles west of the Frisco Pier where it starts to narrow near the Frisco Bath House area.

Until a final plan is approved, have consensus on what a safety closure should mean, may I suggest that we be conservative on using these types of closures. I have no heartburn using them for legitimate reasons, but the Frisco beach front currently does not pose any hazard to the public for a mix of ORVs and pedestrians.

I would recommend leaving the west end (near Ramp 55) as is, due to beach shelves and a fairly narrow beach at just under 50 feet at high tide.

I have filled out the beach modification paperwork for Avon and will fax that through the CRO to you.

Thank-you Mike.

John McCutcheon, Hatteras District Ranger
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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