

0023100

From: [John McCutcheon](#)
To: [Paul Stevens](#)
Cc: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Hatteras Island Rescue Squad (HIRS) and Closures
Date: 02/20/2009 01:34 PM

Paul,

Talked recently with Bob Helly, assistant Chief with HIRS. Bob is the one who went to W. Judge with concerns. We have worked things out.

Bob has several access issues (both personal and relating to emergency services) about RM closures as it relates to public safety and access. With emergencies and "essential vehicles" premise, there are no issues. Bob does want to have proactive safety patrols where they, HIRS, can drive into closures to educate beach goers about RIP tides and water safety. We discussed at length about the different NPS closures and who can and can't go into the closures. I advised him that the Rangers can't go into RM closures unless it is an emergency or urgent situation. Same goes for any rescue unit. Emergencies where life and safety issues are at stake is one thing, patrols are not.

HIRS can go into seasonal (non-RM) closures, such as, in front of Avon Village in a marked unit to conduct these types of patrols (which are limited and infrequent anyway). Bob understands this and he is satisfied. Bob had many technical questions about turtles and why the NPS handles these the way we do, etc. I gave him Michelle's contact number.

I will be meeting with him again and giving him updated maps of our closures prior to implementation during the week of March 8th.

We should not have any more concerns here.



John McCutcheon
Hatteras District Ranger

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
PO Box 190 (U.S. Mail)
16500 Lighthouse Road (Shipping)
Buxton, NC 27920

252/995-5044 or 5041 Ext. 223 Office
252/995-6268 Fax
252/216-6386 Gov. Cell (Try First)