

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Cyndy Holda](#)  
**Cc:** [Kenny Ballance](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: village beaches, please explain  
**Date:** 05/12/2009 09:57 AM

---

My thoughts on how to explain the terminology:

"Seasonally closed areas" were identified in the 1978 draft interim ORV management plan and have been managed that way for many years. "Village beaches," though not perfectly accurate, is the widely used colloquial term for the "seasonally closed areas." It is not a term fabricated by the current superintendent and the most recent press release is not a change in policy or in how the seasonal closures have been characterized. While the term does include the beaches within the villages on Hatteras Island, it has also always included the beaches adjacent to Coquina Beach, Ocracoke Campground, and Ocracoke Day Use Area (Note: The 1978 plan lumped the latter two areas together as "on Ocracoke Island from milepost 65 to 70."). Most recently, the term was widely used by the negotiated rulemaking advisory committee in numerous discussions about seasonal ORV closures in areas with higher pedestrian use. In fact, the subcommittee that worked on the issue was referred to as the "village beaches subcommittee."

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148  
(c) 252-216-5520  
fax 252-473-2595

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

▼ [Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Cyndy  
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc

05/12/2009 07:21 AM

Subject: Fw: Cyndy, please explain

For your review and consideration.....

Cyndy M. Holda  
Assistant to the Superintendent &  
Community Liaison

----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 05/12/2009 08:21 AM -----

**Harry Gilliam**  
<[hegilliam@sprynet.com](mailto:hegilliam@sprynet.com)>

0023612

To Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov

cc

05/11/2009 07:12 PM

Subject Cyndy, please explain

Please respond to  
Harry Gilliam <hegilliam@sprynet.com>

Cyndy,

With less and less of Ocracoke having vehicle access to the beaches now, I am, like many, disappointed by your press release today.

But I felt compelled to write when I read your breathtakingly creative interpretation of the truth in the closure of one area due to its designation as a village beach—a statement which lands just about as close to the truth as that particular stretch of beach is to Ocracoke village.

You said: "Superintendent Mike Murray announced that the annual seasonal closures of village beaches to off-road vehicle (ORV) use within the National Seashore will go into affect on Friday, May 15, 2009. The ORV closures are esstablished in village beach areas that receive heavy pedestrian use, including areas adjacent to Coquina Beach and the villages of Hatteras and Ocracoke Island."

Among those areas are "· Ocracoke Island, beach from 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 68 to 0.4 of a mile north of Ramp 70, (Day Use Area)."

The stretch of beach you refer to, between Ramp 68 and the north end of the "lifeguard beach" north of Ramp 70:

\* Is NOT a "village beach" by any stretch of anyone's imagination. Other beaches are literally miles closer. If that is a village beach, then all beaches in the National Seashore easily qualify.

\* Is not "adjacent to" Ocracoke village.

\* Even when open, has neither "heavy pedestrian" nor heavy vehicle use. In fact, if tire tracks are any indicator, this ORV area has the lightest vehicular traffic on the island. And its pedestrian traffic is even lower than most pedestrian-only areas on Ocracoke, since there is no practical overland access to the area.

I am writing this, of course, because I am disappointed. But to put it bluntly I also don't it when public officials bullshit me.

So why ARE you trying to foist these areas of Ocracoke off as "village beaches?"

Perhaps you and Mr. Murray would care to join me and some of the news media a mile or so south of Ramp 68 one sunny day this week, at a convenient time for both of you, and have you delight us with your explanation of how this stretch so astonishingly evolved into a beach with heavy traffic adjacent to a village. I think that without your voice-over, people may be forced to make their own interpretations based merely on what the video camera shows.

Harry Gilliam  
Property Owner, Ocracoke  
703-727-1020

-----Original Message-----

>From: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov

>Sent: May 11, 2009 4:22 PM

>To:

>Subject: "Press Release: NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15"

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>(See attached file: 051109AnnualSeasVillageClosures.doc)

>

>National Park Service News Release

> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2009

> CONTACT: 252-473-2111 ext. 148

>

>

> NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15

>

>Superintendent Mike Murray announced that the annual seasonal closures of  
>village beaches to off-road vehicle (ORV) use within the National Seashore  
>will go into affect on Friday, May 15, 2009. The ORV closures are  
>established in village beach areas that receive heavy pedestrian use,  
>including areas adjacent to Coquina Beach and the villages of Hatteras and  
>Ocracoke Islands. "These closures provide for the safety of all beach  
>users and minimize user conflicts in congested areas during the busy summer  
>season," said Superintendent Murray.

>

>The seasonally closed areas are identified by signs at both ends of the  
>area and on maps available for viewing at the offices of the  
>Superintendent, each District Ranger station, at each Visitor Center and at  
>all other public contact stations. High numbers of visitors and village  
>residents often enjoy these areas by swimming, sunbathing, walking, shell  
>hunting, and engaging in family activities. To ensure a safe visit for  
>everyone, visitors are reminded to keep dogs on leashes and pack in/pack  
>out all trash. Swimmers should be aware of rough surf conditions and the  
>potential for rip currents. Fireworks are not permitted on National  
>Seashore beaches.

>

>The seasonal closures apply to the following areas:

- > 1) Bodie Island, Ramp 1 to 0.1 of a mile south of Ramp 2, (Coquina Beach).
- > 2) Hatteras Island, beach areas fronting the villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon.
- > 3) Hatteras Island, beach from the north boundary of Buxton to 0.4 of a mile north of Ramp 43.
- > 4) Hatteras Island, beach fronting the villages of Frisco and Hatteras.
- > 5) Ocracoke Island, beach from 1.0 south of Ramp 59 to 1.4 miles north of Ramp 67.
- > 6) Ocracoke Island, beach from 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 67 to Ramp 68, (Campground).
- > 7) Ocracoke Island, beach from 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 68 to 0.4 of a mile north of Ramp 70, (Day Use Area).

>

>The one safety closure adjustment would be:

> Hatteras Island: A safety closure is in effect 2.0 miles south of Ramp  
> 38 to the Buxton Village line.

>

>Although access to popular spits and the Cape Point area is currently  
>restricted because of temporary resource closures implemented under the  
>consent decree, ORV and pedestrian access remains open at many locations  
>throughout the National Seashore. Alternative access routes will be used  
>to keep ORV and pedestrian access open whenever possible.

>Park management will continue to monitor and adjust existing safety and  
>resource closures and ORV and pedestrian access corridors, as necessary.

>

>For more information, see the weekly Beach Access Reports or Google Earth  
>map posted on the Seashore's website at:

><http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/off-road-vehicle-use.htm>

>

>

-NPS-