

From: [Mike Murray](mailto:mike_murray@nps.gov)
To: hun398@cs.com
Subject: Re: Sporst Fisherman rebut to Audubon Society letter
Date: 02/11/2010 10:01 AM

Mr. Andrews,

Thank you for your thoughtful comments.

Mike Murray
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02/06/2010 01:48 PM To mike_murray@nps.gov
cc
Subject Sporst Fisherman rebut to Audubon Society letter

Mike Murray

I know that you received a lengthy letter from the Audubon Society in which they rightfully suggest that the Shorebirds & Turtles need nesting areas if they are to survive. I, like most Sport Fishermen, agree with them when it comes to *that part* of their science and I believe their goals are laudable.

However, I am diametrically opposed to the solution they propose for at least two reasons.

Their letter is signed by quite a few people from all over the country, which is part of the reason I oppose their suggested solution. I wonder how many of the people who signed their letter have ever even been to the Outer Banks. How many of those people have generations of family who depend on the Outer Banks for just a brief respite from the day to day struggle to make a living. I am very proud to say that my Granddaughter is a 4th generation

OBX'er and I pray that she will be allowed to carry on the OBX traditions started by her great-grand-father.

I suspect unlike most of their signatories, I spend a lot of time on the Outer Banks. As I said I am a Sports Fisherman and I happen to be a local property owner in Salvo on Hatteras Island.

I know the beaches from Organ Inlet to Ocracoke. I have ridden them all and fished them all. I am cautious around all wildlife I encounter on the beach and maybe most importantly, I keep an eye on my beach because ***I use it regularly***. I will ***not allow anybody*** to spoil my beach.

I am no different than any other Sports Fisherman which brings me to the second reason I oppose the Audubon Society solution. There are hundreds maybe thousands of members of various Sport Fishing organizations on the Outer Banks who feel as I do about our beaches and would be willing to work with these groups to help protect the wildlife. However, I have not seen them make any overtures to us to help, their solution is to ban us from the beach.

It is obvious to any fair-minded person that if organizations like Audubon Society were seriously interested in protecting the wildlife they would come to us to see if we can help. After all, we are actually out there every day and on just about every beach. Rather than ban us from the beach, they would ask us to help look after them.

I know that I speak for hundreds of Sport Fishermen when I say that we are willing to do what ever we can to help. ***We*** actually go to these beaches, we know what they look like, we see the changes induced by both man and Mother Nature, we know the difference and, most important, we want to help.

If The Audubon Society & the US Park Service tried to leverage our presence to benefit the wildlife, I am sure much could be achieved. However, if The Audubon Society continues to view us as the problem, I can assure you that the fight will go on. I owe that to my children and grandchildren.

David Andrews
Leesburg, Virginia