

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Paul Stevens](#)  
**Cc:** [Jon Anglin](#)  
**Subject:** DEIS issue  
**Date:** 05/21/2010 02:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [CAHA Visitation.2006-2009.ppt](#)  
[CAHA PaidRentalGraph.2007-08.pdf](#)

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Paul,

Prior to the June 10 DEIS meeting, please get staff input and be prepared to make a recommendation about management of the village beaches. Should the ORV closures of village beaches be seasonal or year-round? If seasonal, should we have consistent dates for all villages and what should the dates be? If we have seasonal dates, I'd like for us to have a beach width or other criteria for determining when a village beach should have a safety closure during the off-season (or a way to address the likely concerns about re-opening Frisco and Hatteras villages to ORVs after all these years, if that is what is proposed)?

The intent is to have a clear policy that drives future decisions, rather than leaving it up to stakeholder pressure to influence decisions. If you end up recommending seasonal, rather than year-round ORV restrictions on the village beaches, please consider the attached visitation and rental occupancy data in determining "the busy season". In other words, the dates for seasonal ORV restrictions should be based on levels of use, rather than tradition, and should be forward-thinking about future visitor interests (i.e., will future shoulder-season visitors want to rent expensive cottages in villages that are open to ORV use? hard to know, but needs to be considered since the plan could affect the types of visitors that come at certain times of year). Ideally, any revisions we make in the village beach policy should help simplify implementation by reducing the number of seasonal changes and/or making the dates of seasonal changes more consistent.

Caveat: We will need to consider the impact of whatever you recommend on the overall distribution of miles for ORV and pedestrian use. All the conservation groups have heavily criticized alternative F for its relative lack of year-round vehicle free areas. For example, if you end up recommending that all village beaches be vehicle-free for a short period of time, then we may need to re-designate other sections of beach to be vehicle free during the off-season in order to achieve a reasonable balance of user miles.

Feel free to discuss it with me before June 10 if there are any questions.



CAHA Visitation.2006-2009.ppt



CAHA PaidRentalGraph.2007-08.pdf

Thanks,

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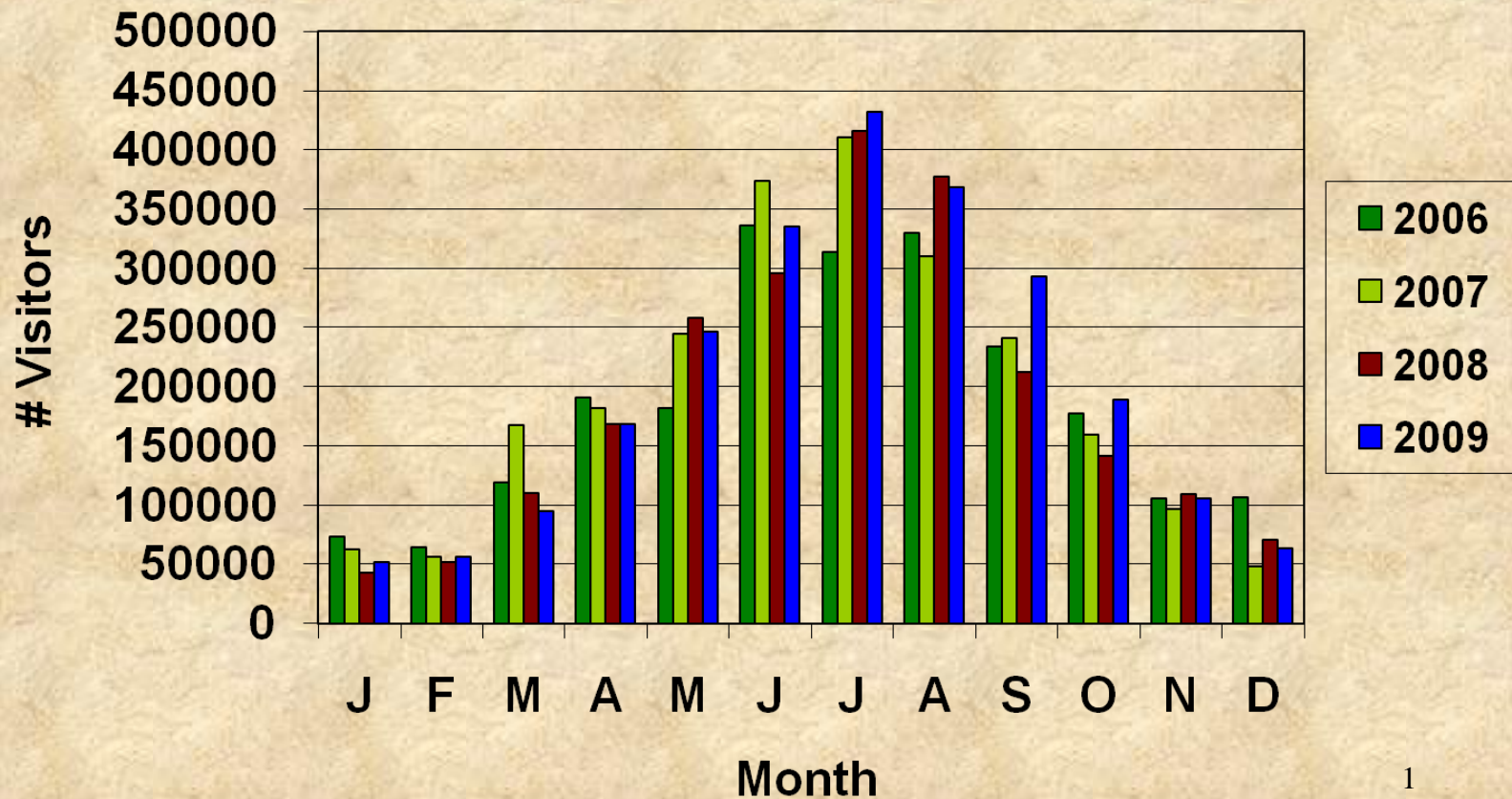
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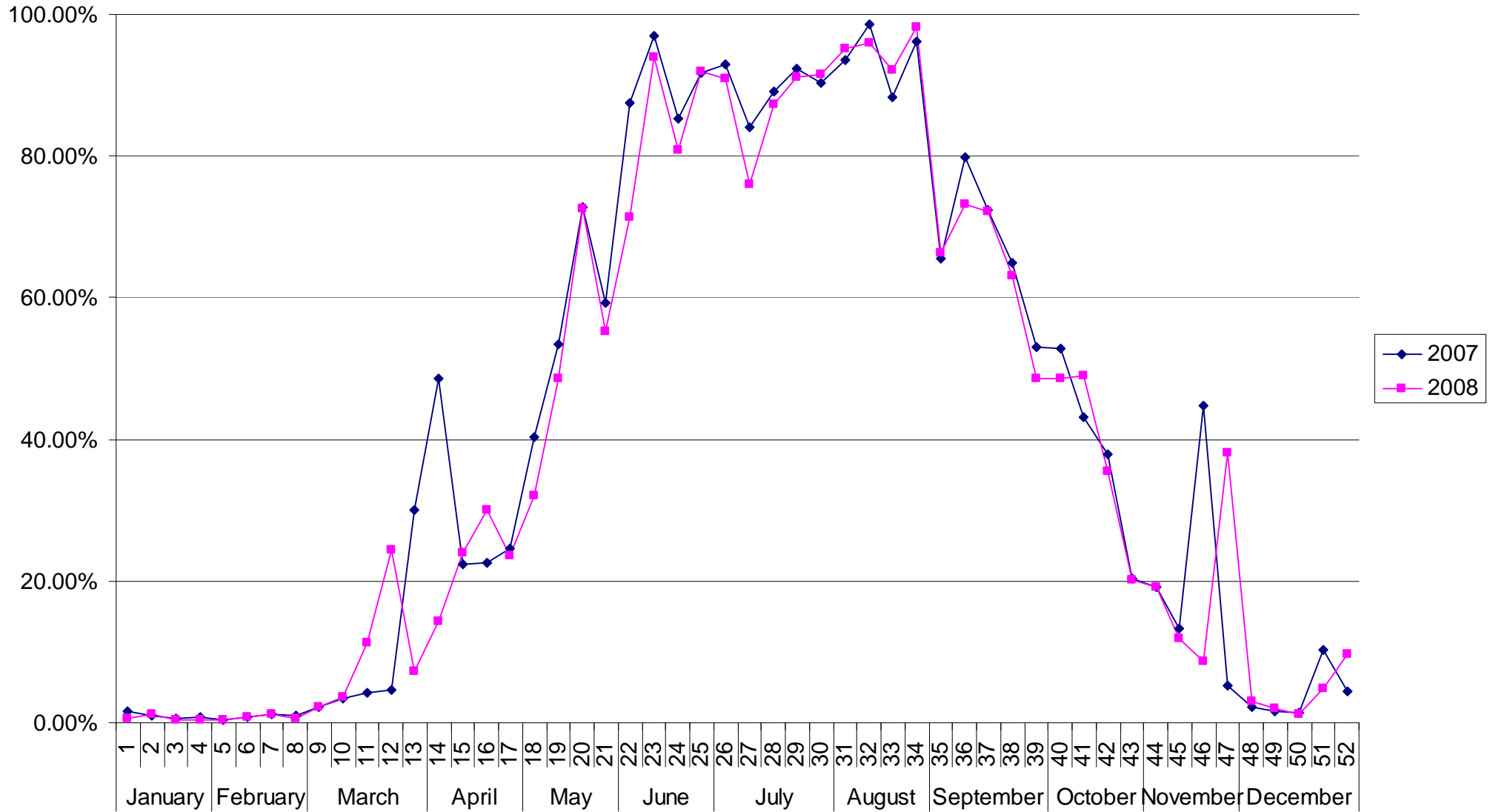


## CAHA Visitation by Month 2006 - 2009



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### Weekly Percentage of Hatteras Homes Rented by Paying Customers



Estimated total number of Hatteras rental homes in 2007 – 2,357.

Estimated total number of Hatteras rental homes in 2008 – 2,330.

### **Data on Rental Housing Occupancy for Hatteras Island**

RTI contacted eight rental housing agencies that rent in the villages on Hatteras Island (Colony, Dolphin, Hatteras, Midgett, Outer Banks, Sound or Surf, Sun and Vacation Traditions). The agencies were asked to provide the number of houses occupied by paying guests weekly for 2007 and 2008. Five agencies provided the data. These five agencies together account for just over 80% of the total houses rented in 2007 and 2008.

To calculate the total number of houses occupied by paying guests each week for the three firms that did not provide data, we calculated the percent of houses rented for each week for the five agencies that provided data. We multiplied the percent rented each week by the firms that provided data times the total number of houses managed by the three agencies that did not provide data ().

In total, an estimated 2,357 houses were offered for rent on Hatteras Island through these 8 rental agencies in 2007 and 2,330 in 2008. The graph shows the percent of these homes occupied by paying guests.

100% corresponds to 2,357 houses in 2007 and 2,330 in 2008.

50% corresponds to 1,179 in 2007 and 1,165 in 2008.

20% corresponds to 471 in 2007 and 466 in 2008.

For the firms who provided data, we used the highest number of rentals in any week as the total number of houses for rent by each firm so the highest percent rented in any week is 100%. For the three firms that did not provide data, we used information on the total number of houses managed by each firm provided to RTI by the Outer Banks Tourism Bureau, which collects the information from the agencies. (Note: for the firms that provided data, the highest number of rentals is only a few houses different from the totals provided by the Outer Banks Tourism Bureau, so this assumption does not affect the results).

The data do not include:

- Ocracoke rentals
- Rentals in villages north of Whalebone Junction
- Houses occupied by owners or non-paying guests