

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [alan.sutton](#)
Cc: [cyndy](#)
Bcc: [Paul Stevens](#); [Kenny Ballance](#)
Subject: Re: Ocracoke Sea Turtle Fatality
Date: 06/30/2010 01:00 PM

Alan,

I appreciate your message. The incident is indeed sad and unfortunate; however, it is important to keep it in perspective as a rare occurrence - the first documented nesting turtle fatality at the Seashore. We appreciate the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association offer of a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the violator.

I have forwarded your message to Chief Ranger Paul Stevens for his further consideration. Paul advises that since last year the law enforcement staff have deployed such cameras at various locations and times throughout the Seashore.

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

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▼ [alan.sutton <alan.tradewinds@embarqmail.com>](mailto:alan.sutton@embarqmail.com)

alan.sutton
<alan.tradewinds@embarqmail.com>

06/28/2010 10:13 AM

To: mike <mike_murray@nps.gov>
cc: cyndy <cyndy_holda@nps.gov>
Subject: Ocracoke Sea Turtle Fatality

Superintendent Murray,

Melinda and I are incredibly saddened, outraged, and frustrated by the senseless death of a turtle on Ocracoke.

We are saddened by the loss of the turtle.

We are outraged that someone would operate their ORV in such a reckless manner.

We are frustrated that this act occurred at a time that law-abiding citizens, people that may have witnessed the act, have been forced off of the beach. One of my DEIS comments stated the need for fishermen and astronomers to have night-time access to improve the monitoring of the seashore. This turtle death is exactly the type of incident that could be prevented by allowing responsible citizens access. At the very least there might be witnesses to ensure prosecution and future deterrence.

We are incredibly frustrated that ORV rule changes chase away people that have come here for years and know the rules and appreciate the seashore. Newcomers to the Seashore are unaware of regulations. Melinda and I, private citizens trying to operate a business, are left to explain the rules and access.

Ocracoke's south point pre-nest closures were intentionally vandalized during a bad northeast weather event, when no fishermen were present, in March 2009. You and I discussed this incident in detail, including the need for cameras to record the vehicles entering and leaving the seashore when there are no witnesses. I trust that after our conversations in March 2009 motion sensitive trail cameras have been installed, so that the perpetrators of this turtle incident might be prosecuted.

Sincerely,
Alan & Melinda Sutton
Tradewinds Tackle
Ocracoke, NC