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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**TASKING PROFILE**

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**To (Recipient):** Strickland, Thomas

**From (Author):** Robertson, Gordon

Vice President  
American Sportfishing Association  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Subject Text:** CC of letter to Tom Strickland thanking him for participating in the 2010 ASA Sportfishing Summit in Fort Lauderdale and the

**Req. Surnames:**

**Mail Carrier:**

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**Correspondence Specialist and Phone:** SIO-OES Tim Feeney/202-208-6701

**Closed**

**Comments:**

**Signed:**

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November 30, 2010

Mr. Thomas Strickland  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickland,

On behalf of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), thank you for your recent attendance and participation at the 2010 ASA Sportfishing Summit in Fort Lauderdale. The discussion of access issues within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area (CHNSRA) was timely given the current stage of the development and adoption of the Final Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and, ultimately, the Off-Road Vehicle Rule. We appreciate the interest you showed in the topics we discussed in Ft. Lauderdale, as well as the interest you showed earlier this year in a visit to the seashore in Dare County, North Carolina.

The recreational fishing industry has had a longstanding relationship with the Department of Interior and depends on its sound management of its public lands and waters for healthy and abundant fisheries. In addition to these stewardship responsibilities, we are equally dependent on reasonable access to public fisheries resources for the pursuit and enjoyment of the sport. CHNSRA is a premier location along the east coast for many recreational activities, including surf fishing, kite boarding, kayaking and bird watching, attracting visitors from across the country and supporting much of the local economy. Many of these activities require use of off-road vehicles to access many areas of the seashore.

The residents and businesses in and around Cape Hatteras, North Carolina have been working with the National Park Service on an off-road vehicle management plan since the 1970s. Most of this activity has occurred over the past six years, including a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee process to assist in development of a fair and reasonable management plan. Unfortunately, the communities now understand that the process was used as a means in which to draft overly-restrictive management measures that will cripple a local economy that depends on tourism and reasonable access. This outcome is reflected in the November 9, 2010 FEIS issued by the National Park Service, which includes a preferred alternative that is the most restrictive management option to date. The numerous recommendations and concerns expressed by our community aimed at achieving reasonable access while balancing resource protection have been ignored in the FEIS preferred alternative.

ASA believes that in finalizing the FEIS preferred alternative, the National Park Service will not fulfill two primary responsibilities identified in the enabling legislation that created CHNSRA.

**AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION**  
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The first responsibility is the preservation of traditional, cultural, recreational and commercial values for the citizen visitors. The second responsibility is the conservation of natural resources. We believe the FEIS preferred alternative unnecessarily sacrifices recreation for resource conservation. Many of the management measures proposed in the FEIS will significantly impair the visiting public experience without measurably improving the protection of natural resources.

To follow up on our discussions at the Sportfishing Summit, we respectfully request a meeting with yourself, Secretary Salazar and select members of the Hatteras community regarding concerns with the process to develop an off-road vehicle management plan for the seashore prior to final approval of the FEIS preferred alternative. Given the immediacy of the finalization of the plan, we request that this meeting be held as soon as possible.

Please be assured that the communities understand and fully support the importance of healthy natural resources within in the seashore. Our desire is for the Department of the Interior to fully understand the contribution local communities make to neighboring national parks and, in the case of CHNSRA, the importance of striking a better balance between resource protection and reasonable public access to public lands and resources. The implications of the final management plan for CHNSRA go far beyond the impacts it will have on the Hatteras community, as we are aware of approximately seventeen National Parks across the country that are awaiting the decision at CHNSRA and will follow suit in their development of off-road vehicle plans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate the full suite of challenges you currently face and we do not make this request lightly but the Hatteras community is facing economic challenges that need the immediate attention of your office.

Sincerely,



Gordon Robertson  
Vice President

cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior  
Mr. Will Shafroth, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Mr. Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
The Honorable Richard Burr, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Kay R. Hagen, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Walter B. Jones, U.S. House of Representatives



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American Sportfishing Association

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Leading the Way for Fishing's Future



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# Fax Cover Sheet

Date: November 30, 2011

To: The Honorable Ken Salazar

From: Gordon Robertson, Vice President, American Sportfishing Association

Subject: Access Issues in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 3

Fax Number: 202-208-5048

Message: Please see the attached letter requesting a meeting to discuss access issues in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. You may contact Gordon Robertson at 703-519-9691 ext. 237 or at grobertson@asafishing.org for scheduling the meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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