

**Draft Subcommittee Document for Discussion Purposes Only
Does not Represent Agreement
Rev. 1/19/09**

**SITE SPECIFIC NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES
SOUTH POINT (Ocracoke)**

GOAL: Protect natural resources and maintain access.

DEFINITION OF AREA: South Point is defined as approximately Ramp 72 southeast to the inlet. South Point includes the ocean, inlet and sound shorelines and all land in between.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES: South Point is valued for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Fishing for Big Drum, Spanish Mackerel, bluefish, flounder, and other species.
- Shelling along the Oceanside.
- Crabbing, clamming, and bait fishing along the sound side.
- Breeding and non-breeding area for Piping Plovers.
- Breeding area for colonial water birds and occasionally American Oyster catchers.
- Non-breeding area for resting and foraging for migratory shorebirds.

ROUTES AND AREAS: The following routes and areas would be established.

- An area from 10 m from the toe of the dune to the tide line from Ramp 72 to approximately .5 mile southeast.
- From March 15 to at least 31 July, a 10 m ORV pass thru corridor would be established from the tide line, upland, and again back to the tide line, from approximately .5 miles from Ramp 72 for approximately .8 miles. It would be established approximately 50 m from the tide line for Oceanside foraging and at least, but probably more than, 50 m from inland, likely nesting areas for Piping Plovers. The exact location would be determined based on an annual habitat assessment. The intent of this pass thru corridor is to avoid conflicts with PIPL breeding adult foraging areas oceanside.
- From as early as July 31 to March 14, in the same area (.5 miles from Ramp 72 southeast .8 miles), establish an oceanfront corridor of approximately 33 m from the tide line.
- From the end of the ORV pass thru corridor, establish an oceanfront corridor of approximately 33 m from the tide line around the southeast point and heading northwest as far as the northwest point. The exact terminus of this route would be determined based on an annual habitat assessment. This corridor might be adjusted somewhat from breeding and non-breeding seasons, but remains essentially the same.
- A pedestrian only area may be established on the inlet side, some 33 m from the tide line, from somewhere around the southeast point and heading northwest as far as the northwest point. The exact extent of this pedestrian area to be determined based on an annual habitat assessment.

- Sound side access would be provide via a potential route roughly opposite Ramp 72 and in the non-breeding season, a route approximately 1.3 miles from Ramp 72 across the interior sand to the soundside.
- Access within this area would be allowed within the hours of _____.
- Due to the dynamic area of the Outer Banks, a periodic review process needs to be established to address changing habitat and geomorpholical conditions.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The ORV pass thru corridor would be for driving only with no getting out of the vehicle, stopping, or parking.
- The ORV pass thru corridor would be subject to daily monitoring to monitor for flushing and impacts on birds.
- Monitoring would be conducted in a way to establish over time potential changes to various buffer distances based on actual field data. Such changes could be increases or decreases in buffer distances.
- There would be a seamless transition from breeding to migratory/winter closures (when one opens the other closes).
- Effective predator control, particularly of mink, needs to be conducted.
- These routes and areas are subject to closure due to natural resource protection measures.
- A boat access landing area may be established from Ocracoke to the northwest point of South Point.

CAVEATS

- For some stakeholders, agreement to these routes and areas are pending sufficient natural resource protection measures.
- This does not take into account potential pedestrian-only area interest by some stakeholders and is without input from water sports.