



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Outer Banks Group:
· Cape Hatteras National
Seashore
· Fort Raleigh National
Historic Site
· Wright Brothers National
Memorial

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National Park Service Beach Access Report for August 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2008
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***Bold, blue print = updated news.**

****Bold, dark red print = projected sea turtle nest closures**

**Report resource protection area violations to:

Dare Central Communications Center: 252-473-3444

Hyde County Dispatch: 252-928-3171

Ocracoke Sheriff Dept: 252-928-7301

On August 14, 2008, south of Ramp 4 approximately 1.0 mile of additional ocean shoreline was opened for pedestrian access only on Bodie Island Spit. Two American Oystercatcher chicks continue to forage along the shoreline and the area will remain closed to ORV traffic until both chicks are fully fledged. In addition, 1.2 miles south of Ramp 27 and 0.5 of a mile north of Ramp 30 approximately 0.5 mile of ocean shoreline was opened for a pedestrian corridor through a resource protection area where three American Oystercatcher chicks remain. The area will remain closed to ORV traffic until all chicks are fully fledged. Both areas are posted.

On August 6, 2008, approximately 0.8 of a mile west of Ramp 45 and 0.2 of a mile east of Ramp 45 reopened to off-road vehicle (ORV) and pedestrian access on Hatteras Island. On Ocracoke Island, 1.1 miles of ocean shoreline reopened to ORV and pedestrian access, but the discovery of a least tern chick with adults prevented reopening the entire point.

The week of July 27th, the east side of Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet reopened to ORV and pedestrian access. All of these areas are now open to ORV traffic from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm daily. A nighttime prohibition on beach driving is still in effect throughout the Seashore from May 1 to November 15 between 10:00 pm until 6:00 am. NPS is developing a permit to allow night driving between September 16 and November 15.

During the remainder of August and September, park visitors will experience a shift in resource protection areas as bird protection areas reopen once all chicks have fledged and sea turtle nests approach their expected hatch dates. As experienced in 2007 under the Interim Strategy, and again this season, some full beach closures will be implemented as turtle nests approach "day 50" (from the date when the nest was laid) in expectation of hatching. Under the terms of the Consent Decree, beginning September 15, all sea turtle nests that have reached their hatch window at day 50 will result in full beach closures until those particular nests hatch.

The ORV Access Mileage list accompanies the Beach Access Report weekly as a separate attached document, and provides a concise, simplified list of approximate ORV access, north and south of existing

ramps. In both reports, the mileages, distances and descriptions in both reports are APPROXIMATE and reflect the best information available at the time the weekly reports are prepared. The marked boundaries found in the field are the actual, legal boundaries of the closed areas and supersede any information in this report. Park visitors MUST pay close attention to and comply with resource protection area boundaries as found in the field. All resource protection areas are clearly marked with carsonite posts, signs, string, wooden poles or other markers.

Google Earth maps are available at:
www.nps.gov/caha

Go to the park website and click on the “Off-Road Vehicle Information – More...” Link in the top middle of the page, click on “Current ORV Access Information (Reports and Maps),” click on “Current Interactive Beach Access Map using Google Earth.” A free download of Google Earth is available for first time users or click on “(date) current beach access map” link for repeat users. The program allows you to zoom into any stretch of beach in the National Seashore to check the status of access and protection resource areas. The underlying Google Earth map imagery is dated (2004-2006) and may not always match the actual, current shoreline. The National Park Service color-coded line overlays are based on recent/current GPS readings and reflect actual shoreline locations and access status. In other words, the color coded lines (green, yellow, red) indicate the actual shoreline access status, even though in some cases it appears on the image that the line is located landward or seaward of the outdated base image of the shoreline. (See disclaimer on the maps) We are working with Google Earth to acquire more current base maps. The maps are updated periodically and the date of the most recent update is indicated on the link. The weekly Beach Access Report will continue to be issued on Thursdays.

The park is operating under a Consent Decree signed by U.S. District Court Judge Terrence W. Boyle on April 30, 2008. The Consent Decree adopts the NPS Interim Strategy, with a number of modifications including a prohibition on night driving on Seashore beaches between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am from May 1 through November 15. Between those dates, the public is expected to remove ORVs from the beach by 10:00 p.m. and may not enter the beach with vehicles until 6 a.m.; however, between September 16 and November 15, NPS will issue permits to authorize night driving between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The night driving permitting process is being developed, and will be available by September 16. No fee or limit on the number of 2008 night driving permits is anticipated.

Temporary resource protection areas are necessary to protect threatened and endangered species and species of concern including Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Colonial Waterbirds (Terns and Skimmers), and sea turtles. Posted areas are closed to vehicles, pedestrians and pets. Pets must be physically restrained at all times on a leash no greater than 6 feet on all National Seashore beaches

Bodie Island (Coquina Beach to Oregon Inlet)

There are approximately 5.8 miles of ocean shoreline from Ramp 1 to Oregon Inlet. Approximately 5.2 miles are open to pedestrian access. **There is ORV access along the ocean shoreline from 0.5 mile south of Ramp 4. There is pedestrian access along the ocean shoreline for 1.5 miles south of Ramp 4.** Approximately 2.5 miles are open to ORV access in Bodie Island and approximately 0.6 miles are closed to all access for RESOURCE PROTECTION areas. **The week of August 17th through September, as sea turtle nest “hatch window” dates approach, the visiting public can expect to see additional full beach closures on Hatteras Island.**

Ramp 1 – Ramp 2 (Coquina Beach Area) – 1.4 miles

The beach is open for pedestrian access but no ORV access. Annual seasonal closures went into effect on May 15, 2008 and extend from Ramp 1 to 0.1 of mile south of Ramp 2.

Ramp 2 – Ramp 4 to Bodie Island Spit – 4.2 miles

The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access along the ocean shoreline for 2.0 miles north of Ramp 4. The beach is open for ORV access 0.5 of a mile south of Ramp 4 and open for pedestrian access 1.5 miles south of Ramp 4. There is no through access to Oregon Inlet for ORVs or pedestrians.

- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.3 miles south of Ramp 2. This area was expanded on August 11 and there is no ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was established at Bodie Island Spit the week of March 24, 2008. It includes interior areas of the spit and the “pond” shoreline. Access to pond from the northeast side is closed as part of the RESOURCE protection area.
- The full beach closure of the small strip of soundside beach that runs parallel to the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge has been reinstated on July 10, 2008 for American Oystercatcher chicks in the area. Red carsonite posts (visible in the water) will mark the area as closed to all public access, including boat landing, until the chicks are fledged.
- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was established on Green Island during the week of April 7th. The island is closed to landing of any craft.
- A RESOURCE protection area south of Ramp 4 was MODIFIED and REDUCED by 0.3 of a mile to the south for an American Oystercatcher chick which is not fledged. There is 0.5 of a mile of ocean shoreline south of Ramp 4 to ORV and pedestrian access. Beyond this closure, there is a full beach closure that restricts access to Bodie Island Spit.
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 0.9 of a mile south of Ramp 4 (within an existing closure) for a nesting least tern colony. This is a full beach shoreline closure.
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 1.3 miles south of Ramp 4 and extends for 0.25 of a mile. This is a full beach closure (within a closure) for American Oystercatchers.
- ****On June 22 there was a deliberate violation of three closures in the Bodie Island area south of Ramp 4 and as a result of an intentional entry violation the buffer of the three closures at Bodie Island Spit were modified on June 23, 2008. As a result, there is now a continuous closure along this shoreline beginning 0.1 mile south of Ramp 4 and extending to Oregon Inlet.**

Hatteras Island (South Boundary of PINWR south to Hatteras Inlet)

Hatteras Island has a total distance of 42.8 miles of ocean shoreline. Approximately **39.7** miles of ocean shoreline are open to pedestrian access. Approximately **19.7** miles are open for ORV access on Hatteras Island. In addition to the annual seasonal ORV closures, ORV use is restricted by **6.3** miles of SAFETY closures. Approximately **3.1** miles are closed to all access for RESOURCE PROTECTION areas. **The week of August 17th through September, as sea turtle nest “hatch window” dates approach, the visiting public can expect to see additional full beach closures on Hatteras Island.**

Villages of Rodanthe, Waves, and Salvo: (north of Ramp 23 for 3 miles to Pea Island NWR boundary)

The annual seasonal village ORV closures went into effect May 15, 2008 and the beaches in front of Rodanthe, Waves, and Salvo are open to pedestrian but not for ORV access.

Ramp 23 – Ramp 27: (4.3 miles)

Currently, there is no through access for ORVs between Ramp 23 and Ramp 27 due to resource closures.

- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.5 mile south of Ramp 23. This area was expanded on August 8 and there will be ORV and pedestrian access available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

- **A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on August 12, 2008. The resource protection area had been established 1.7 miles south of Ramp 23 and 1.9 miles north of Ramp 27 to protect American Oystercatchers and a least tern colony. This closure was impacted on two separate occasions (May 26th and July 30th) with deliberate violations/unauthorized entry of the closure resulting in two modifications. Reopening this closure enables ORV and pedestrian access to 3 miles of beach south of Ramp 23.**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.9 mile south of Ramp 23 within another RESOURCE protection area (tern colony). This will be a full beach closure and installed on Saturday, August 2nd. Once the tern colony closure reopens there will be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on June 3, 2008 that had been established 10 meters north of Ramp 27 for a least tern colony that moved into an adjacent closure.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.9 mile north of Ramp 27. This area was expanded on August 13 and there will be ORV and pedestrian access available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 0.9 of a mile north of Ramp 27 when a small least tern colony with chicks was discovered. This is a full beach closure.
**On July 25, 2008, an intentional entry into the southern end of the protection area during nighttime hours resulted in a 100 meter expansion of the buffer in accordance with the Consent Decree. There was evidence that two separate set of tire tracks entered the closure for 0.1 of a mile, occupants got out and built a beach fire, walked to the dunes and back to the vehicles before exiting.
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 1 mile north of Ramp 27 with a 100 meter buffer. This is a full beach closure for American Oystercatchers.

Ramp 27 – Ramp 30: (2.2 miles)

The beach is open for ORV access along the ocean shoreline for 1.1 miles south of Ramp 27 and 0.5 mile north of Ramp 30. Currently there is no through ORV access between the ramps due to resource closures. There is pedestrian access along the ocean shoreline from Ramp 27 to Ramp 30.

- **A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED immediately south of Ramp 27. This full beach closure was for a nesting least tern colony. The removal opens the pedestrian boardwalk from the Hwy. 12 parking lot and 0.7 of a mile of ocean shoreline to ORV and pedestrian access.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED 0.2 mile south of Ramp 27 for a least tern colony. The least tern chicks have all fledged. This closure was combined for a total length of 0.7 of a mile with the closure listed above.**
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on July 17 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 27. No breeding activity observed after the American Oystercatcher chicks were lost.
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on July 17 1.0 mile south of Ramp 27. American Oystercatcher chicks have fledged.
- **A RESOURCE protection area, 1.2 miles south of Ramp 27 and 0.5 of a mile north of Ramp 30, was expanded on the north end of the closure, by 200 meters, to protect American Oystercatcher chicks that have not fully fledged. A pedestrian corridor on the ocean shoreline was installed on August 14, 2008 until the three chicks have fully fledged. “No dogs” signs are posted at each end of the pedestrian corridor.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.2 of a mile north of Ramp 30. This area will be expanded on August 15. This is a full beach closure. There will not be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The turtle nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**

Ramp 30 – Ramp 34: (4.3 miles)

The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access 2.0 miles south of Ramp 30. Ramp 34 is closed to ORV and pedestrian access. Currently there is no through access for ORVs between Ramps 30 and 34 due to a resource closure.

- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 0.3 of a mile south of Ramp 30.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 2.0 miles south of Ramp 30. This area will be expanded on August 15. This is a full beach closure. There will not be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The turtle nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 3.0 miles south of Ramp 30. This is a full beach closure and there is inadequate space above the nest for an ORV by-pass. Therefore, no through ORV access is available until the nest hatches. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED that began 2.4 miles south of Ramp 30 or 1.7 miles north of Ramp 34.
- A RESOURCE protection area begins 3.6 miles south of Ramp 30 was expanded to 200 meters. This is a full beach closure for nesting American Oystercatchers.
- A RESOURCE protection area begins at Ramp 34 for nesting least tern colony. This full beach closure for the nesting least tern colony with chicks and was expanded on July 10 by 250 meters to the south and closes Ramp 34 to ORV and pedestrian access. Once the tern colony closure reopens, there will be ORV and pedestrian access available behind the sea turtle nest closure (described above) outside of the signed protection area. The sea turtle nest is within the expected “hatch window.” The parking lot adjacent to Hwy. 12 at Ramp 34 is still open.

Ramp 34 - Ramp 38: (beaches in front of Avon = 4.0 miles)

The annual seasonal village closures went into effect on May 15, 2008. The beach is open for 4.0 miles for pedestrian access from Ramp 34 to Ramp 38. There is no ORV access.

- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) located approximately 1.6 miles north of Ramp 38 was REMOVED on August 3, 2008. This was within an annual seasonal village closure and therefore did not affect ORV access.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.3 miles north of Ramp 38. This area was expanded on August 3, 2008. This is within an annual seasonal village closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.4 miles north of Ramp 38. This area was expanded on August 13, 2008. This is within an annual seasonal village closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.7 miles north of Ramp 38. This area will be expanded on August 14. This is within an annual seasonal village closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The turtle nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**

Ramp 38 - Ramp 43: (6.0 miles)

The beach is open to ORV access for 2.0 miles south of Ramp 38 and less than 0.1 mile north of Ramp 38. Currently, there is no through access for ORVs between Ramp 38 and Ramp 43. Pedestrian access is open for 6.0 miles between Ramp 38 and Ramp 43.

- A SAFETY closure is 3.6 miles long, beginning 2.0 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 of a mile north of Ramp 43, was adjusted on May 14. This section is open to pedestrian access, but not ORV access.

- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED north of the village of Buxton on July 22, 2008. The American Oystercatcher chick has fledged or left the area.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 1.6 miles north of the Village of Buxton.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 3.2 miles south of Ramp 38. This area will be expanded on August 20. This is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be a pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The turtle nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.5 mile north of Ramp 43. This area was expanded on August 9, 2008. This is within the annual lifeguard swim beach and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- Another RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.5 mile north of Ramp 43. This area was expanded on August 11, 2008. This is within the annual lifeguard swim beach and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.3 mile north of Ramp 43. This area was expanded on August 9, 2008. This is within the annual lifeguard swim beach and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- Another RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.3 mile north of Ramp 43. This area was expanded on August 10, 2008. This is within the annual lifeguard swim beach and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is available behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

Ramp 43 - Ramp 44: (0.3 of a mile)

The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access from Ramp 43 to Ramp 44 and north of Ramp 43 for 0.4 of a mile. Ramp 44 is open and the east ocean shoreline is open to the end of Cape Point.

- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on June 4, 2008 that had been established for American Oystercatchers between Ramp 43 and 44.
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on June 10, 2008 that had been established for American Oystercatchers north of Ramp 43.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located 0.2 mile south of Ramp 43. This area was expanded on August 11, 2008. There is ORV and pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

Ramp 44 - Ramp 45 (Cape Point): (2.4 miles)

Ramp 44 is open. Ramp 45 is open with 0.8 of a mile west and 0.2 of a mile east of ocean shoreline open to ORV and pedestrian access.

- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was established the week of March 24, 2008. It included interior areas of Cape Point and a complete shoreline closure that started approximately 0.25 miles south/west of Cape Point and ends approximately 0.3 east of Ramp 45. The total closure distance is approximately 1.0 mile in length.
- The RESOURCE protection area south of Ramp 44 was REMOVED on July 31, 2008. Ramp 44 reopened allowing ORV and pedestrian access to Cape Point. The area west of the ocean shoreline, (see prenesting information above) is still closed. This area is clearly marked with carsonite posts and signs and entry into the resource protection area is strictly prohibited.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located 70 meters south of Ramp 44. This area was expanded on August 11, 2008. There is ORV and pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) located 0.1 of mile south of Ramp 44 was REMOVED on August 5, 2008.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 0.05 of a mile south of Ramp 44.**

Ramp 45 to Ramp 49 (South Beach): (3.4 miles)

Ramp 45 is open. Salt Pond Road is still closed due to a RESOURCE protection area. Currently, there is no through access for ORVs or pedestrians between the ramps due to resource closures.

- A RESOURCE protection area (prenesting area) was established the week of March 24, 2008. It included upper beach areas that encompass the dunes and extends towards the ocean.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 0.2 of a mile east of Ramp 45.**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.5 miles east of Ramp 45 (Salt Pond Road). This area was expanded on August 2, 2008. Ramp 45 has reopened and this area is inside the prenesting closure and does not affect ORV and pedestrian access. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- **A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED 0.15 of a mile west of Ramp 45. This closure was for American Oystercatchers and a least tern colony. This reopens approximately 0.8 of a mile of ocean shoreline west of Ramp 45 to ORV and pedestrian access.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED 0.5 of a mile west of Ramp 45. This was a full beach closure for American Oystercatchers.**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.8 mile west of Ramp 45. This area was expanded on August 9, 2008. Once the surrounding resource protection areas (least terns) are re-opened, there will be ORV and pedestrian access behind the nest closure outside of the signed protected area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area begins 1.0 mile west of Ramp 45 and extends for 0.25 of a mile along the shoreline. This is a full beach closure for American Oystercatchers.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 1.0 mile west of Ramp 45.**
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 1.9 miles East of Ramp 49. This is a full beach closure for a least tern colony and a pair of American Oystercatchers.
- A RESOURCE protection area was established 1.6 miles East of Ramp 49 and extends for 200 meters. This is a full beach closure for a least tern colony and a pair of American Oystercatchers. The closure was REDUCED by 200 meters when the active portion of the tern colony shifted to the east thus allowing for ORV and pedestrian access to the westernmost section of this closure. The reduction allows the buffer to be reduced, but maintains the required 200 meter buffer around the nests/chicks on the westernmost boundary of this closure.
- On May 11, 2008, a deliberate act of vandalism to twelve “Area Closed” signs and several carsonite markers resulted in a 50-meter expansion of the buffer on the easternmost resource protection area as is directed by the Consent Decree.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.2 miles east of Ramp 49. There is pedestrian access, but no ORV access behind the nest area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located 0.5 mile east of Ramp 49. This area was expanded on August 11, 2008. There will be no ORV and pedestrian access behind the nest because there is inadequate space above the nest and the toe of the dune for an ORV or pedestrian bypass. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located IMMEDIATELY adjacent (East) to Ramp 49. This sea turtle nest reached “day 50” and is a full beach closure. There will be no ORV and pedestrian access behind the nest because of there is inadequate space above the nest and the toe of the dune for an ORV or pedestrian bypass. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

Ramp 49 - Ramp 55: (5.9 miles; includes Sandy Bay soundside parking area)

The beach is open to ORV for 1.2 miles west of Ramp 49 and 0.1 of a mile east of Ramp 55 (in front of Frisco and Hatteras Villages). Currently, there is no through ORV access between Ramp 49 and Ramp 55, but pedestrian access is open from Ramp 49 to Ramp 55.

- The beach in front of Frisco Village to Hatteras Village is open to pedestrian access, but not ORV access for 4.7 miles.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located 0.4 of a mile southwest of Ramp 49. This area will be expanded on August 17. There will not be ORV and pedestrian access behind the nest because there is inadequate space above the nest and the toe of the dune for an ORV or pedestrian bypass. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 4.3 miles south of Ramp 49.**
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED at Sandy Bay parking area on July 22, 2008. The American Oystercatcher chicks have fledged or left the area.

Ramp 55 - Hatteras Inlet: (2.7 miles)

ORV and pedestrian access is open along the ocean shoreline from Ramp 55 west to the Hatteras Inlet. The Pole Road is open from Ramp 55 west to Hatteras Inlet. The Cable Crossing route is open to access on the sound shoreline. The Spur Road is open to access to the sound shoreline.

- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was REMOVED at the Isabel overwash area from the sound shoreline to the ocean dune on July 15, 2008. The Pole Road has reopened in front of the overwash fan areas and there is also ocean shoreline access.
- A RESOURCE protection areas was REMOVED 1.2 miles southwest of Ramp 55 and south of the Isabel overwash area on June 27, 2008 for nesting American Oystercatchers. The removal of this closure reopens 0.5 miles of ocean shoreline access and 0.3 miles of soundside shoreline access for ORV and pedestrians.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located 1.0 miles south of Ramp 55. This area will be expanded on August 15. There is ORV and pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area approximately 2.1 miles south of Ramp 55 was REMOVED on July 31, 2008. A migrating/wintering closure was established that includes upper beach and interior areas south of Pole Road. The shoreline is reopened.
- There is ORV and pedestrian access south from the southern terminus of the Pole Road on the ocean shoreline, around the tip of the Spit to “the Rip,” and along the sound shoreline. The area is experiencing a high rate of shoreline erosion and will be monitored daily should it become necessary to install a safety closure for ORVs.
- A RESOURCE protection area for foraging piping plovers was REMOVED on the sound shoreline on June 11, 2008. This foraging closure had been established on April 9 approximately 0.1 mile southwest of where the Spur Road exits onto the sound shoreline. This allows for a 0.22 mile corridor of shoreline access for boaters on the soundside. Currently, there is no access to the “Rip.”

Ocracoke Island

The Ocracoke Island District has a total distance of 18.3 miles of ocean shoreline. Approximately **16.3** miles are open to pedestrian access. Approximately **8.3** miles are open to ORV access on Ocracoke Island. ORV use is restricted by a **4.8** mile SAFETY closure. Approximately **2.0** miles are closed to all access for RESOURCE PROTECTION areas. **The week of August 17th through September, as sea turtle nest “hatch window” dates approach, the visiting public can expect to see additional full beach closures on Ocracoke Island.**

Ramp 59 - Ramp 67: (7.8 miles; includes North Ocracoke Spit)

There is no through ORV shoreline access between these two ramps. Pedestrian access is open from Ramp 59 to Ramp 67, 6.4 miles in length.

- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was REMOVED at North Ocracoke Spit on July 15, 2008 **and a migrating/wintering closure was established on August 6, 2008.**
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED 0.4 of a mile north of Ramp 59.
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on the dredge spoil piles on North Ocracoke.
- A RESOURCE protection area 0.9 of a mile south of Ramp 59 was REMOVED on June 19, 2008. The removal of this closure opened pedestrian access south of Ramp 59 to Ramp 67, which is 6.4 miles in length.
- A SAFETY closure, 4.8 miles long, begins 1.0 miles south of Ramp 59 to 1.4 miles north of Ramp 67, was adjusted on May 14 is still in effect. This section is open to pedestrian access, but not to ORV access.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 2.7 miles south of Ramp 59. This area was expanded on August 13, 2008. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is not available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 4.3 miles south of Ramp 59. This area was expanded on August 11, 2008. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 4.0 miles north of Ramp 67.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 3.8 miles north of Ramp 67.**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) was REMOVED approximately 3.7 miles north of Ramp 67.**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 3.6 miles north of Ramp 67. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is not available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on June 3, 2008 that had previously been established 4.5 miles south of Ramp 59 and 3.1 miles north of Ramp 67.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 2.4 miles north of Ramp 67. This nest was expanded on July 31, 2008. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. Pedestrian access is not available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 2.1 miles north of Ramp 67. This area was expanded on August 13, 2008. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.4 miles north of Ramp 67. This area will be expanded on August 19. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be pedestrian access behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. This nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.25 of a mile north of Ramp 67. This area will be expanded on August 14 resulting in a full beach closure. There will not be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. This nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- **An adjacent RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.25 of a mile north of Ramp 67. This area will be expanded on August 17 resulting in a full beach closure.**

There will not be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. This nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

Ramp 67 - Ramp 70 (includes Ramp 68): (3.8 miles; includes Ramp 68)

There is no through ORV shoreline access between these two ramps. Pedestrian access is open. The annual seasonal beach closure in front of the Ocracoke Campground and Day Use area went into effect on May 15, 2008. The beach from 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 67 to Ramp 68 is closed to ORV access for 0.9 of a mile.

- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on June 3, 2008 that had been established 0.3 of a mile south of Ramp 68.
- The RESOURCE protection area 0.8 of a mile south of Ramp 68 was REMOVED.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.3 of a mile south of Ramp 68. This area will be expanded on August 20. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be pedestrian access behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. This nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED on July 31, 2008 that had been established 1.4 mile northeast of Ramp 70.
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.8 mile north of Ramp 70. This area was expanded on August 12, 2008. This area is within a SAFETY closure and therefore does not affect ORV access. There will be pedestrian access behind (west) of the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”

Ramp 70 - Ramp 72 (1.8 miles) and Ramp 72 to South Ocracoke Spit (4.4 miles):

The beach is open to ORV and pedestrian access from Ramp 70 south along ocean shoreline, for approximately 1.7 mile to just north of Ramp 72 (sea turtle protection area blocks through access) and from Ramp 72 south towards South Point for 1.5 miles.

- A RESOURCE protection (prenesting) area was established the week of March 24, 2008 that encompasses interior and soundside areas of the spit. Ocean shoreline access is available for 0.2 miles from Ramp 72 south. On the soundside shoreline, 1.3 miles of shoreline is closed to ORV and pedestrian access.
- **A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 1.0 mile north of Ramp 72. This area will be expanded on August 17. There is ORV and pedestrian access behind the nest closure outside of the signed protection area. This nest is within the expected “hatch window.”**
- A RESOURCE protection area (sea turtle nest site) is located approximately 0.1 mile north of Ramp 72. This is a full beach closure. There will not be ORV or pedestrian access available behind the nest closure because of the location of the nest against the toe of the dune. The nest is within the expected “hatch window.”
- A RESOURCE protection area was REMOVED to 1.5 miles south of Ramp 72. Beyond the 1.5 miles there is still a full beach closure in effect that extends around the tip of the point and precludes overland access to South Point.

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