



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 April 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2009
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Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches will be managed again this summer under the terms of the U.S. District Court approved consent decree. Park visitors can expect to see resource closures for breeding shorebirds in effect to varying degrees from mid-March to mid-to-late-August and turtle nesting closures may occur until early November. Shorebird pre-nesting closures have already been established at the inlets, Cape Point, and South Beach. As soon as subsequent breeding activity is observed, the consent decree requires that automatic, non-discretionary buffers be implemented.

The Beach Access Report is issued every Thursday throughout the breeding season, **and updated news will be reported weekly in bold, BLUE print.** ****All distances are approximate.**** The weekly Beach Access Report is complemented by a Google Earth map, which is updated up to 5 times per week as access conditions change. The latest Google Earth beach access map can be viewed at:
<http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/googleearthmap.htm>

Note: Closure conditions may change in the field on short notice. **On-site signage, rather than the Beach Access Report or Google Earth map, is the most accurate and current indication of what is open or closed to the public.** Closed areas are clearly marked in the field with “symbolic fencing” consisting of wooden or carsonite posts, closure signs, string, and flagging tape. Knowledge of tidal changes and caution should be exercised while traveling the beaches of the park. Pets are prohibited in resource protection areas. Elsewhere, pets must be physically restrained at all times on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length.

The National Park Service is committed to providing accurate and current information on the beach access and temporary resource closure issue for the visiting public and our community neighbors. We continue to receive questions about issues related to beach access and have developed a “Frequently Asked Questions” information sheet that is now posted on the Seashore’s website at: <http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/off-road-vehicle-use.htm>

For more information, please contact: cyndy_holda@nps.gov or call 252-473-2111, ext. 148.

Bodie Island District (Coquina Beach to Ramp 27; 16.5 miles of ocean shoreline)

Ramp 1 - Ramp 2 (Coquina Beach Area) (1.2 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for pedestrian access, but not for ORV access.

- An ORV SAFETY closure is 1.2 miles long.

Ramp 2 - Ramp 4 (2.4 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

Ramp 4 – Oregon Inlet (Bodie Island Spit: 2.1 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access for 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 4. The inlet shoreline south/west of the closure, outside of the existing pre-nesting and RESOURCE protection closure areas, remains open for boat landing/pedestrian access.

- On April 10, 2009: The North Shore/Bait Pond closure was modified (expanded) for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- April 2, 2009: A RESOURCE protection area was established on the north shore of the Bait Pond, under the Bonner Bridge and east to the tidal creek, for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- April 2, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 4 for observed AMOY breeding behavior. This closure precludes ORV access along the ocean shoreline 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 4.
- April 2, 2009: Due to continuing erosion of the ocean shoreline, the existing RESOURCE protection area has been extended approximately 0.2 miles south, which precludes pedestrian access in the intertidal zone past the closure.
- March 23, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established 1.3 miles south of Ramp 4 along the ocean shoreline, as a result of observed piping plover breeding behavior.
- March 11, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established that included interior areas of the spit and the “pond” shoreline and allowed an ORV access corridor along the eastern ocean shoreline to a point 1.4 miles south of Ramp 4 and pedestrian access to the inlet. There is no ORV or pedestrian access in the RESOURCE protection area.

Villages of Rodanthe, Waves, and Salvo: (Pea Island NWR boundary to Ramp 23 - 3.0 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

Ramp 23 - Ramp 27: (4.3 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

Hatteras Island District (Ramp 27 South to Hatteras Inlet; 31.9 miles of ocean shoreline)

Ramp 27 - Ramp 30: (2.1 miles)

Current Status: Beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access **south of Ramp 27 for 0.7 of a mile and north of Ramp 30 for 0.6 of a mile.**

- **April 18, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established 0.7 of a mile south of Ramp 27 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.**
- April 4, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established 0.6 of a mile north of Ramp 30 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- March 28, 2009: The existing RESOURCE protection area was expanded 150 meters to the south for observed American oystercatcher (AMOY) breeding behavior.
- March 25, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established 1.1 miles north of Ramp 30 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.

Ramp 30 - Ramp 34: (4.3 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

Ramp 34 - Ramp 38: (3.9 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

Ramp 38 - Ramp 43: (6.0 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open to ORV and pedestrian access for **2.4** of a mile south of Ramp 38.

Currently, there is no through access for ORVs between Ramp 38 and Ramp 43. Pedestrian access is open.

- **April 17, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 2.4 miles south of Ramp 38, in an area not open to ORVs, for observed AMOY breeding behavior.**
- April 13, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 1.8 miles south of Ramp 38, in an area not open to ORVs. **(REMOVED on April 17, 2009)**
- April 1, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 1.9 miles south of Ramp 38, in an area not open to ORVs. **(REMOVED on April 17, 2009)**
- An ORV SAFETY closure is 2.8 miles long, beginning 1.8 of a mile south of Ramp 38 to .4 of a mile north of Ramp 43, due to very narrow beaches. This section is open to pedestrian access, but not ORV access.

Ramp 43 - Ramp 44: (0.4 of a mile)

Current Status: The beach is open for ORV and pedestrian access.

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

Current Status: ORV access is open from Ramp 44 south for 0.2 of a mile. **Salt Pond Road and Ramp 45 are closed. The Interdunal Road is open to pedestrian access.**

- **On April 22, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established on the ocean shoreline in front of Ramp 45 for observed PIPL breeding behavior. Ramp 45 is closed to ORV and pedestrian access just north of the dune line.**
- **On April 19, 2009: The full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) located 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 44 was modified (extended) 300 meters to the south for observed AMOY breeding behavior. This closure is now 0.4 of a mile in length and there is no ORV or pedestrian access within the resource protection area.**
- On April 14, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 44 for observed AMOY breeding behavior. There is currently not an alternative ORV access route to Cape Point.
- March 12, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established at Cape Point that included interior areas of Cape Point and a complete shoreline closure from approximately 0.2 miles south/west of Cape Point to approximately 0.3 east of Ramp 45; and allowed for an access corridor along the eastern ocean shoreline. The total closure distance was approximately 1.0 mile in length. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area.

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

Current Status: The Interdunal Road is open from Ramp 44 to Ramp 45. Salt Pond Road is closed. ORV and pedestrian access is open from Ramp 45 for 0.2 miles east and 0.2 miles west (i.e., a cul-de-sac). Access is also open from Ramp 49 for 1.9 miles east to where a RESOURCE protection area is located.

- April 13, 2009: A full beach closure was established on the western boundary of the existing South Beach pre-nesting area closure for observed AMOY breeding behavior which precludes ORV corridor access or pedestrian access along the lower beach.
- March 31, 2009: The western boundary of the existing full beach closure (Resource protection area) was expanded by 50 meters due to a deliberate violation (vandalism of fencing).
- March 23, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established from approximately 0.2 miles to 0.7 miles west of Ramp 45 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- March 12, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established at South Beach that included upper beach areas that encompass the dunes and extends towards the ocean but allows for an ORV corridor along the lower beach. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area.

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

Current Status: The beach is open to ORV use for 1.2 miles west of Ramp 49 to the Frisco line. There is pedestrian, but not ORV, access from the Frisco line to 0.1 of a mile east of Ramp 55.

- On April 5, 2009: The Sandy Bay AMOY closure was modified (expanded) for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- March 13, 2009: A 150 meter buffer was established southwest of the Sandy Bay parking lot for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- An ORV SAFETY closure for Frisco Village and Hatteras Village is 4.7 miles long. This section is open to pedestrian access, but not ORV access.

Ramp 55 - Hatteras Inlet: (Hatteras Inlet Spit: 2.7 miles)

Current Status: ORV and pedestrian access is open along the ocean shoreline from Ramp 55 west to the southern exit of the Pole Road. Pole Road is open except in front of the Isabel overwash areas, where traffic is routed onto the beach due to a RESOURCE protection area. Cable Crossing and Spur Road are open to the sound shoreline. Sound access is open 110 meters south of Spur Road, where a RESOURCE protection area begins. Access to the inlet including the “Rip” is closed due to a RESOURCE protection area.

- March 30, 2009: Due to a deliberate violation (vandalism of fencing), the eastern boundary of the Hatteras Inlet pre-nesting area was expanded for a total of 0.1 mile (50 meters east of the easternmost vandalized sign).
- March 11, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established at Hatteras Inlet Spit that included the ocean beach from approximately 0.1 mile south of the southern exit of Pole Road south/west to the inlet, then along the inlet shoreline to the sound shoreline 110 meters south of the Spur Road. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area.
- March 11, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established on the soundside at the Isabel overwash area that included portions of the Pole Road adjacent to the overwash fans. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area. Ocean shoreline access is open past this area.

Ocracoke Island District (16.3 miles of ocean shoreline)

Hatteras Inlet (North Ocracoke Spit) to Ramp 59: (1.4 miles)

Current Status: An access corridor is currently being maintained (weather dependent) above the high tide line for ORV and pedestrian access from Ramp 59 north for 0.9 miles to North Ocracoke Spit.

- March 10, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established at North Ocracoke Spit that included interior areas and the inlet shoreline and portions of the ocean shoreline. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area.

Ramp 59 - Ramp 67: (7.8 miles)

Current Status: There is no through ORV shoreline access between these two ramps. Pedestrian access is open.

- **On April 19, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 3 miles southwest of Ramp 59, in an area not open to ORVs, for observed AMOY breeding behavior.**
- On April 14, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 0.7 of a mile southwest of Ramp 59 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.
- An ORV SAFETY closure is 5.2 miles long, and begins 1.0 miles south of Ramp 59 to 1.4 miles north of Ramp 67. This section is open to pedestrian access but not to ORV access.

Ramp 67 - Ramp 70 (includes Ramp 68): (3.9 miles; includes Ramp 68)

Current Status: There is no through ORV shoreline access between these two ramps.

- **On April 22, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was modified (extended) approximately 1.3 miles north of Ramp 70 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.**
- On April 15, 2009: A full beach closure (RESOURCE protection area) was established approximately 0.8 of a mile southwest of Ramp 68 for observed AMOY breeding behavior.

Ramp 70 - Ramp 72: (1.8 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open to ORV and pedestrian access.

Ramp 72 to South Point: (3.5 miles)

Current Status: The beach is open to ORV and pedestrian access on the ocean shoreline for 1.9 miles south of Ramp 72.

- March 24, 2009: The pre-nesting area was expanded by 50 meters at two locations at the inlet due to deliberate violations (vandalism of fencing). One of the expansions precludes ORV access to the inlet shoreline. Pedestrian access is permitted below the tide line to portions of the inlet shoreline outside of the established pre-nesting area.
- March 10, 2009: A pre-nesting area (RESOURCE protection area) was established at South Point Ocracoke that included the sound shoreline, portions of the inlet shoreline, and interior portions of the spit; and allowed an access corridor along the ocean shoreline to the inlet. There is no ORV or pedestrian access within the RESOURCE protection area.

Temporary resource protection areas are necessary to protect threatened and endangered species and species of concern including piping plovers, American oystercatchers, colonial waterbirds (3 species of terns and black skimmers), and sea turtles. Posted areas are closed to vehicles, pedestrians, and pets.