



Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

info@southernshores-nc.gov

www.southernshores-nc.gov

Resolution 2008-03-04

Resolution Supporting the Negotiated Rule Making Process and Against Closing Vehicular Access to Beaches

Whereas, Town of Southern Shores recognizes the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as a pristine treasure in the National Park System which includes a wide variety of shore birds and wildlife; and

Whereas, Town of Southern Shores further recognizes the NPS dual mandate of balancing tourism and resource protection within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore; and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of US citizens vacation each year on the Outer Banks to enjoy its history, culture, cuisine, and beaches; and

Whereas, the Outer Banks of North Carolina and specifically Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands are world famous for its surf fishing, boating, surf boarding, kite boarding, windsurfing, ocean kayaking, sunbathing, shelling, and other beach activities; and

Whereas, the areas recommended for complete closure deny practical access to some of the world's most productive surf fishing areas which include Oregon Inlet, Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, South Ocracoke, 24 hours/ 365 days a year; and

Whereas, several diverse user groups have been selected by the US National Park Service as stakeholders, referred to as the Federal Advisory Committee, and charged with developing an Off Road Vehicle plan for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and are negotiating in good faith; and

Whereas, closure of the beach due to action by the courts circumvent the good faith efforts of the Negotiated Rule Making,

Whereas, the Town of Southern Shores also recognizes Dare County dependence on tourism as its #1 industry, providing the economic substance for it's citizenry and that Dare County is one of only four 'Donor' counties out of 100 North Carolina counties; and

Whereas, the Town of Southern Shores acknowledges the current lawsuit against the National Park Service and the economic devastation Dare County would suffer if the beaches are closed to beach driving.

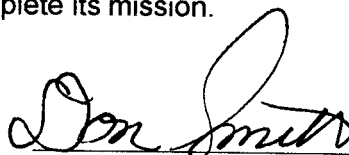
Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Southern Shores Town Council encourages Dare County, State, Federal elected officials and the US Department of Justice to fully engage a committed defense to prevent irreparable economic harm to the citizens of Dare County by premature closing of any beach until the Negotiated Rule Makers can complete its mission.

Approved this 25th day of March 2008.

SEAL

ATTEST:


Carrie Gordin, Town Clerk


Don Smith, Mayor