



# Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Item No. 10

Meeting Date: 1/3/06

Item Title: RES. REGARDING BEACH ACCESS - CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

Item Summary:

*(Use additional Paper if necessary)*

Number of Attachments:

**Will your presentation require audiovisual equipment?** Yes  No

*Note:* All audiovisual materials must be submitted in digital format to the Clerk of the Dare County Board of Commissioners with this sheet. Acceptable formats include: VHS, DVD, audio CD, Word document, Adobe Acrobat PDF files, PowerPoint files and jpeg files.

**Specific Action Requested:**

Adoption of Resolution.

**Submitted By:** Stan White, Chairman

*Date:* 1/3/06

**Dept. Head**

*Comments:*

*Signature*

*Date:*

**Finance**

*Comments:*

*Signature*

*Date:*

**County Attorney**

*Comments:*

*Signature*

*Date:*

**County Manager**

*Approval:*

*Signature*

*Date:*

**Commission Action:**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
OUTER BANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REGARDING BEACH ACCESS ON THE  
CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE**

**WHEREAS**, Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) is a vital part of Dare County; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHNS encompasses eight villages which are economically dependent on full accessibility to the beaches for residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, access to the beaches of the CHNS has always been the defining element of the complete seashore visitor experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the founding legislation and commitments to the public created the CHNS for both recreational and conservation purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, vehicular and pedestrian beach access is critical to area tourism and the economic stability of Dare County and the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, public access to the beaches was guaranteed by the founding legislation creating the CHNS in 1952 and is facilitated by the now famous "Hatteras Ramp System"; and

**WHEREAS**, access to the beaches by motorized vehicles is compatible and not in conflict with CHNS responsibilities protecting Park resources, including species protected under the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treat Act; and

**WHEREAS**, residents and visitors to the CHNS acknowledge a need for a reasonable application of resource protection also find that unprecedented beach closures by the National Park Service (NPS) have effectively eliminated the most popular surf fishing locations on the East Coast and subjected local businesses and communities to economic hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, said beach closures are often arbitrary and presumptive, anticipating endangered species may inhabit currently unoccupied areas in the future, and are, thereby, excessive;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners requests that permanent, responsive leadership be established for the CHNS at the earliest possible opportunity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners further stipulates that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the NPS formulate a resource protection policy in order to fulfill the legislative mandate and promise to the public to manage the CHNS for recreational and conservation purposes while ensuring continuous free and open access to pedestrian and vehicular use.

Adopted this 3rd day of January, 2006.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk