

**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

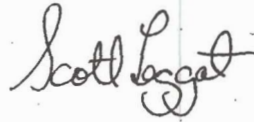
WHEREAS, said beach closures are often arbitrary and presumptive, anticipating endangered species may inhabit currently unoccupied areas in the future, and are, thereby, excessive;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors requests that permanent, responsive leadership be established for the CHNS at the earliest possible opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors 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 16th day of November, 2005.

Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Leggat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

By: _____
Scott Leggat, Chairman