



Town of Southern Shores
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Resolution 2012-04-01

**Resolution in Support of H.R. 4094
introduced in the 112th Congress 2d Session February 28, 2012**

Whereas, Town of Southern Shores recognizes the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area as a pristine treasure of the National Park Service (NPS) which includes a wide variety of shore birds and wildlife; and

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

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of United States citizens vacation each year on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and visit to enjoy the history, culture, cuisine, and beaches; and

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

Whereas, the areas now being recommended for complete closure from pedestrian and vehicular access due to shorebird breeding habitat and pre-nesting areas deny all access to some of the world's most productive surf fishing areas within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area; and

Whereas, as a result of a Consent Decree filed April 30, 2008 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, the NPS is charged with annually developing a final Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan and issuing a special and final regulation for closure of areas of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area; and

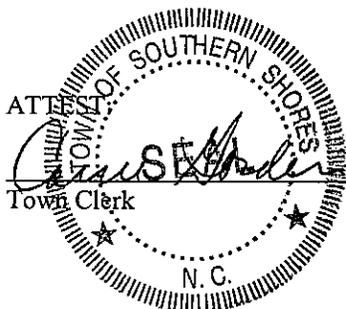
Whereas, closure of beaches in the Cape Hatters National Seashore Recreational Area circumvents the NPS's responsibility of balancing tourism and resource protection; and

Whereas, the Town of Southern Shores recognizes Dare County, NC's dependence on tourism as its #1 industry, providing the economic substance for it's citizenry, and that Dare County is one of the few 'Donor' counties out of 100 North Carolina counties, in that the proceeds of its tourism industry produces net-revenue for the State of North Carolina; and

Whereas, the Town of Southern Shores acknowledges the economic devastation Dare County will suffer if the beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area are closed to pedestrian and vehicular access.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Southern Shores Town Council supports the passage of H. R. 4094 (introduced in the 112th Congress 2d Session February 28, 2012) proposing the "Preserving Access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Act" which if enacted would reinstate management of beach access in accordance with the June 13, 2007 "Interim Protected Species Management Strategy/Environmental Assessment" issued by the NPS, and would prevent additional restrictions on access to the seashore and provide access corridors to the greatest extent possible.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2012




Mayor