

Hello,

I would love to have been given the chance to speak in person at the meeting on Feb 26, but due to misinformation about the allotted times the public would be given to speak, I was unable to do so.

My family & I usually make at least 2 week long trips to the Outer Banks each year & a weekend trip here & there. One of our trips is in the spring & the other is late fall/early winter. We have rented houses in Waves, Nags Head & S. Nags Head. We rent a house large enough to accommodate 3 families since my wife's parents & her brother's family travel with us. Last spring our trip was ruined by the beach closures. We probably contribute \$3000 to \$6000 dollars to this areas economy on each trip. (House rental, Shopping, Fishing supplies, Gas, Restaurants, Groceries, Etc). I'm sure there are people who spend less & probably just as many or more that spend MUCH more.

Here's my dilemma.

I FISH. I also have a 7 year old daughter that likes to fish with her daddy. I have a wife that likes to shop & sight see & occasionally likes to fish.

My wife can probably find a lot more places to spend her money, like Myrtle Beach or her favorite shopping place, New York City.

I had rather stay at home & fish the area lakes (Lake Norman) than deal with the crowds at Myrtle Beach since fishing is very limited to non existent & I would not have a clue where to catch fish in the New York City area except for the local fish markets. The Outer Banks area has been my family's favorite vacation destination for many years now, but that changed dramatically last spring. Until then I was happy fishing & was able to take my daughter places where she could catch fish. I usually try to pre-fish an area before taking her, so that she will not become discouraged. The best thing she likes about fishing here is that when she gets tired of fishing, she really enjoys playing in the sand. With so many areas closed, it was nearly impossible to find areas that held fish. Just because there is water to throw your bait in, is no sign that the fish are there. As I mentioned earlier, we generally stay in Nags Head, & I am fully prepared to drive clear to Ocrakoke & have done so in years past in order to find fish, but with the beach closures being so strict most of the areas where the fish are located are off limits.

OUR DEFINITION OF A VACATION IS NO LONGER BEING MET HERE.

Unless the beaches are returned to the people, as were intended & PROMISED, we will be forced to find another vacation area that will meet our needs. I know that we are not the only families that feel this way. Unfortunately we will be losing a vacation place that feels like home & the area merchants will be losing our money as well as the money of others.

I hate to think that the economy of the towns in the Outer Banks area & the vacation dreams of many people are being destroyed by a few people that think a few birds are more important than HUMAN BEINGS!

Sincerely,

Tommy, Chrystal & Tara Sloan

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