

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Day at the docks was simply terrific

First, the weather cooperated. Lots of sunshine with some wind.

Second, everybody had a good time. From the folks who attended to the people at displays, to the parents and children at the Youth Fishing Tournament and to the respectful crowd at the Blessing of the Fleet.

It was simply a great day for seeing folks after a long summer season and remembering the occasion for the celebration.

Day at the Docks was started to celebrate the “Spirit of Hatteras” when the village recovered from Hurricane Isabel in 2003, states the event website. This September event is a confirmation of the strength of community, heritage and living traditions of the watermen. The concluding activity is the Blessing of the Fleet. The communities from all over the island gather at the harbor in solemn prayer for the watermen’s safety at sea and their successful catches.

And, what a time!

The spokesperson for the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation, which hosts the Chowder Cookoff, told the tale.

The organization sent a huge shout out to the six restaurants for entering the cookoff: Hatteras Sol, Tavern on 12, Dinky’s Waterfront Restaurant, Breakwater Restaurant, Toucana Grill and Hatteras Seafood.

Attendees paid a \$10 tasting fee to participate and then vote for their favorite.

And the winners are first place Toucana Grill, second place Breakwater Restaurant and third place Hatteras Seafood.

The foundation thanked sponsors of the massive tent: Midgett Realty, Island Convenience and Dinky’s.

The attendees contributed \$3,774, all of which goes to the cancer foundation. “We are forever grateful to this amazing community and visitors that support our effort.”

The concrete marlin contest started at mid-day. The team angler pulls a bucket full of concrete to the side of the dock (side of the boat) and the mate grasps with a “marlin” with a gaff hook and hauls it onto the dock (boat). This year’s winners of the Men’s division are Johnny Fairbanks and John Canning and for the Youth Division, Emma Oden and Stella Powell.

Ah, the Youth Fishing Tournament comes after registration and starts at 1:30 and lasts for an hour. Some 149 young people fished around Hatteras Harbor. Parents baited hooks and kept lines from getting tangled. It’s a wonderful event.

The ladies organizing bring a “first-class event to kids.” Each winner gets a 5-gallon bucket filled with donated fishing items.

Now, we’re going to read all the winners names, so you can congratulate the youngsters and their families. All winners are from Hatteras Island:

Age 5 and Under
Heaviest Pinfish

1st, Stryder Dawson, age 4, Buxton, .29

2nd, Ellis Tolson, age 3, Buxton, .28

3rd, Peter Ertle, age 5, Frisco, .27

Longest Fish

1st, Juliette, age 3, Frisco, 12" croaker + porgy

2nd, Juniper Waterfield, age 4, Frisco, 12" croaker

3rd, Emmy Hicks, age 5, Hatteras, 11 ¼" croaker

Ages 6-8

Heaviest Pinfish

1st, Oakley Jarvis, age 6, Frisco, .31

2nd, Kasen Ballance, age 8, Hatteras, .30

3rd, Addie Dempsey, age 6, Frisco, .28

Longest Fish

1st, Kinleigh Foster, age 7, Hatteras, 9 ½" spot

2nd, River Haggrich, age 8, Hatteras, 9 ¼" spot

3rd, Miller Robinson, age 8, Hatteras, 8 ½" spot

Ages 9 and Over

Heaviest Pinfish

1st, Caroline Knowstop, age 12, Buxton, .26

2nd, Nessa Vayette, age 10, Buxton, .27

3rd, Addie Lynn Warren, age 10, Frisco, .29

Longest Fish

1st, Isla Haggrich, age 10, Hatteras, 11" croaker

2nd, Bodhi Lloyd, age 9, Frisco, 11 ½" flounder

3rd, Lydia Williams, age 10, Hatteras, 11 ¾" croaker

Grand Prize, Heaviest Pinfish

Bessman Basford, 4, Frisco, .33. Bessman was a head taller than his trophy.

Grand Prize, Longest Fish

Reagan Farrow, 9, Frisco, 18" stingray

Update on Buxton nourishment, terminal groin

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company has announced that the 2026 Buxton beach renourishment project entered its final phase Wednesday afternoon, September 16, 2026, as the contractor completed renourishment along the developed Village of Buxton shoreline and shifted operations northward into the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

To date, about 1.5 million cubic yards of sand—75% of the 2.0-million-cubic-yard total—has been placed on the beach within the project area.

With the protective dune and berm in Buxton complete, the remainder of construction activities will consist of widening the beach along a portion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Weather permitting, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock remains on track to complete nourishment by the end of September 2026. Native dune grasses are scheduled for installation on the newly-constructed dune along Buxton in November.

Buxton Terminal Groin Project Update

Construction is underway on the trestle in preparation for removing the seaward remnants of the former jetty. Following removal of the old material, new sheet piles will be driven and reinforced with armor stone. The project remains on schedule, with substantial completion anticipated by December 15, 2026, or sooner.

Real estate market seems to be moving sideways for near future; tax receipts down

The business news this week focuses on the performance of the island's real estate market during August.

Looking at the cumulative sales results from January through August and August on a standalone basis, the overall conclusion would be: different month/same patterns.

The residential market continues to show weakness in almost all indicators, except that properties under contract reported an impressive increase which may forecast stronger sales this fall. However, this growth may be a seasonal increase as buyers seek to maximize their 2027 rentals, and sellers have received most of their income for this year.

Indicators for the unimproved lot market were strong for the first eight months of the year with all indicators recording increases. This could also reflect some seasonal influence as buyers prepare to build over the late fall and winter months in order to capture as much rental income as possible next year.

Except for February, the monthly interest rate for 30-year fixed rate mortgages in August remained above 6 percent. Considering the fed's interest rate increase last Wednesday and persistent inflation, there seems to be little hope for a reduction any time soon. All things considered, the bottom line is that it appears that the real estate market will be moving sideways for the near future, reports Tom Hranicka, Radio Hatteras Business Correspondent.

In other news associated with the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through July were down 1.0 percent, while the occupancy tax receipts fell 3.3 percent over the first seven months in 2026.

On a monthly standalone basis, meal tax receipts were down 7.27 percent for July. Occupancy tax receipts fell 5.2 percent compared to July of last year.

Just a reminder to First Responders

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative has issued an invitation to all Hatteras Island First Responders. Please join us Tuesday evening, September 22 for burn victim training featuring guest speaker Derek Miller from the UNC Jaycee Burn Center. The evening starts at 6:30. Dinner is included.

That's all for this week. This is Radio Hatteras.