

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, August 16, 2026

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Buxton Naval Facility property will continue meeting, but on a reduced schedule. The first board meeting was held on April 10, 2025. The board has met quarterly.

On May 28, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, completed its major cleanup work. Two response actions were initiated by the Corps. The first was in 2024 to remove petroleum impacted soil. The second, dated 2025, was a much larger project which involved removing remnant infrastructure, tainted water and soil and other items. During the second 2025 Interim Response Action, a secondary source of petroleum contamination was identified. Petroleum impacted soil was found around the former heating oil plant site, indicating the petroleum likely originated from a release at the plant.

Two additional actions at the Formerly Used Defense Site remain to be completed. Since the Interim Response Action excavations changed site conditions, a comprehensive sampling contract was modified. That sampling program is expected to be completed during October and November 2026. The first draft of the report is expected in June 2027. The last project at the site is the Small Arms Range. Once the project is funded, a site inspection for “munitions constituents, primarily lead,” will be performed.

The next meetings of the Restoration Advisory Board are scheduled for January 21, 2027, and sometime in June or July. The schedule reduces the meeting schedule to two per year, rather than quarterly.

In a change of command ceremony this past July 31, Col. Robert Fairel assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District. He has served in various operational and staff positions across the Engineer Regiment. At the same ceremony, Col. Ron Sturgeon retired from the Corps. He took a very active interest in the Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Use Defense Site, visiting the site and the Restoration Advisory Board meetings several times.

Update on Buxton beach nourishment project. A media release from Dare County reports that the Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company has announced that beach nourishment work in the Buxton project area continues to progress, with completion of the dune in front of the village expected within the next few days.

Beach fill pumping begins imminently, if it hasn't already, at Oramar Drive, and will initially proceed south, with contractors expected to complete the beach fill in the southern portion of the project area before returning to Oramar Drive and start working north.

Great Lakes has also announced that a second dredge, the *Amelia Island*, is expected to arrive in Dare County early next week and begin pumping sand. The dredge *Liberty Island*—which has been pumping sand since the Buxton project got underway on Friday, July 31, 2026—is scheduled to leave the project area from August 18-20, 2026 for fueling and its annual U.S. Coast Guard inspection. During that time, the *Amelia Island* will continue pumping sand onto the shoreline.

With two dredges operating as planned, the project remains on schedule for completion by Sept. 30, 2026.

For more information about beach nourishment projects in Dare County, visit MoreBeachToLove.com.

While the beach nourishment project is going on, just past the stopping point for the nourishment another project is proceeding.

The Jetty. The first jetty will be rebuilt as part of nourishment. The jetty will hold sand in place for five years or more. The Island Free Press has extensive coverage of the project, including the actual construction process and lots of history.

That jetty means a lot to many people. On Wednesday, August 12, some of those surfers gathered at 6:30 a.m. for renowned photographer Daniel Pullen to make a photograph of the gathering, which attracted 40 people on short notice. Here's what Brett Barley wrote about the jetty.

“Our local group of surfers out at the Jetty over the years got together one last time today, before it gets rebuilt during its repair. (We were missing quite a few due to such short notice) This hunk of steal means a whole lot to a few of us around here... more than words can really describe, it's just a feeling we all share. I've got so much I could say but will keep it short....This wave shaped my surfing and made my career.... And my son got to experience the last of it.

I'm not sure what the wave will be like in the future, but it won't be the same... A New Era is officially beginning, but SHEESH does it have some big shoes to fill! Good Luck."

In a 45-minute Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, Aug. 10, here's a few items summarized:

The organizers of the Coastal Family Collaborative is a non-profit organization striving to open a childcare center in Frisco for 30 Hatteras Island children. In a presentation on Aug. 3, the Collaborative asked for \$125,000 to pay rent on an existing center for three years. Subsequently, a small committee met with reps from the county and the Collaborative. On Monday, the board agreed to give money not to exceed \$35,000 and to require a six-month report. The \$35,000 is slightly more than a year's rent. The excess can be used for other expenses.

The commissioners quickly ran through the resolutions required to issue 2026C Limited Obligation Bonds for not to exceed \$67 million for vastly improving Public Works Department on Roanoke Island; building a new Emergency Medical Services station in Nags Head; and building a new field house for Manteo High School.

An initial resolution and an approving resolution were both adopted unanimously. No one spoke at the public hearing.

The commissioners changed the date for the regular September meeting. Instead of meeting September 9, the meeting date is now changed to September 1, 2026.

Satellite system for Hatteras Island students. When the ocean or sound overwash NC 12 on Hatteras Island, school will continue. Dare County Schools has developed satellite learning that divides the island into four zones with public places for school. Dare County Schools staff will be available to provide in-person instructional support.

The satellite hubs are:

- **Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo:** Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building and Salvo Fire Hall
- **Avon:** St. John Methodist Church
- **Buxton:** Cape Hatteras Elementary School and Cape Hatteras Secondary School
- **Hatteras:** Hatteras Civic Center and Community Building

Community organizations have offered their facilities for use by the school system. The program would be activated based on the circumstances of an individual weather event, meaning not every satellite location would necessarily be used each time. For additional information, visit [Island Free Press dot org](http://IslandFreePress.org).

Dare County will host a community meeting to discuss communication and coordination related to closures of NC12. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Fessenden Center in Buxton. The meeting follows the temporary closure of NC12 on July 24, 2026, when intense rainfall caused significant flooding that made portions of the roadway unsafe and impassable.

Representatives from Dare County and NCDOT will review the circumstances surrounding closures of NC12 and discuss existing procedures for monitoring roadway conditions and communicating potential and active highway closures with the public. The discussion will also provide an opportunity to gather community feedback and explore ways to enhance communication before, during and after future weather-related closures of NC12.

Outer Banks Health announced recipients of the 2026-2027 Community Benefit Grants Program. The grants are awarded for 14 projects that will increase access to healthcare and financial resources in the community. Since the program began in 2006, Outer Banks Health has awarded over \$2.5 million in grants to community organizations. One of the recipients is our very own local **Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men** for its Lift Program supporting housebound citizens living in elevated homes by providing essential assistance.

The Marine Fisheries Commission meets August 19 and August 20 at the Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Midtown Raleigh. The meeting is open to the public and will be livestreamed on YouTube.

It begins at 1:00, Wednesday, August 19, and at 9:00 Thursday, August 20. The commission will accept public comments beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday and at 9 a.m. Thursday.

The Commission is scheduled to vote on:

- Sending the draft Coastal Habitat Protection Plan 2026 Amendment out for public and advisory committee review.

- Approving the final determination of 335 MFC rules as necessary under a mandatory periodic review of existing rules, which requires state agencies to review existing rules every 10 years.
- Setting the number of licenses in the Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Pool for the 2026-2027 License Year.
- Electing a vice chair.

Other agenda items include information on:

- The NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries' Annual Fishery Management Plan Review and accompanying draft Fishery Management Plan Review Schedule.
- Summary of NC Kingfishes Stock Complex data analysis to aid in the review of the Kingfishes Fishery Management Plan.

A full agenda and meeting materials, as well as a link to the YouTube livestream, are available on the Marine Fisheries Commission Meetings webpage.

It's been hot! A Heat Advisory was in effect from 11-8 in the evening, Friday, August 14. The National Weather Service expected heat index values up to 109 degrees. On Friday at 3:00 and Saturday at 2:00 heat index values reached 100 degrees.

Upcoming Closure of Billy Mitchell Airport for Repaving Project. Beginning August 17, Cape Hatteras National Seashore will close the Billy Mitchell Airport to accommodate a runway pavement rehabilitation project. The project will provide full resurfacing of paved areas, new reflective paint, and new tie-downs and anchors, improving visitor safety and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

Barbecue chicken dinner Monday. Tomorrow August 17, a chicken barbecue dinner will be served up at the Cape Hatteras Secondary School from 5 to 7. Chicken, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, biscuit, sweet tea, for \$13. Desserts available for a donation. Secondary Activities Group is sponsoring the dinner. That's the group that does student recognitions, awards and rewards.

Surf and Sounds Chamber music on Tuesday. The Bryan Cultural Series announces the return of the Surf and Sounds Chamber Music Series, now in its 12th year of bringing exceptional classical music to the Outer Banks. Six nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians will perform four free concerts from August 18 through 21 in Southern Shores, Nags Head, Buxton and Manteo.

At 7:30 in the evening, Thursday, August 20, at Cape Hatteras Secondary School in Buxton, the audience will hear a program that moves between classical elegance and playful American energy.

All performances are free and open to the public. Donations supporting the Bryan Cultural Series' mission to bring exceptional arts programming to the Outer Banks are welcomed.

TONIGHT. It's not too late to take in the action at Neptune's Kitchen and Dive Bar at 24394 NC 12, Rodanthe. Cold Drinks, Great Food, Local Bands, Local Businesses, Family Fun, and Sunset Seating! The music and fun started at noon. Bands play into the night.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.