



TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

June 2020

ADMINISTRATION

BEACH SAFETY

Summertime is officially here, and we want all our residents and visitors to have a safe and happy time at Topsail Beach. There are many things to do and enjoy while at the beach, but we hope everyone takes the time to be safe. We urge everyone to take the steps necessary to protect yourself by:

- 1) Learning about rip currents and how to protect yourself and your loved ones.
- 2) Protect "All The Skin You're In" from sunburn and dangerous UV rays.
- 3) Stay away from sea animals like jellyfish if the wash up on shore.

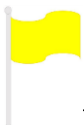


Today I want to focus on rip currents. Rip currents are dangerous, channeled currents of water that can carry swimmers away from the shore. They may be present, even when not visible just by looking at the water. Flags are posted at all public beach accesses and beach conditions are monitored throughout each day. Flags will change based on the conditions. Please remember that the absence of red flags does not assure safe conditions. Please get familiar with what each color means. Remember, many visitors, tourist and vacationers are unfamiliar with the Rip Current danger, so spreading the word can help reduce loss of life.



Green Flags - Low Hazard and Calm Conditions

The ocean is always unpredictable, and even on clear and calm days, hazards still exist. However, there are days when the threat of danger is lower than others. A green flag on the beach is an all-clear sign, indicating that it is safe to swim. Even when the flag is green, make sure to exercise caution in the ocean.



Yellow Flags - Be Aware and Cautious

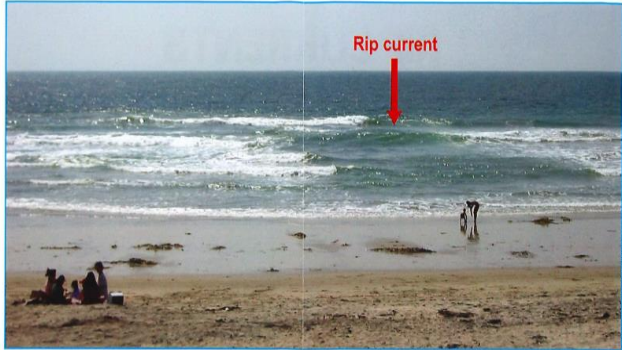
Yellow flags mean some rip current activity is expected. You should be cautious if entering the water, do not swim alone, and know what to do if caught in a rip current. If you are swimming with children, or you aren't a strong swimmer yourself, wear a life jacket when swimming on yellow-flag days.



Red Flag - Strong and Frequent Rip Currents are expected

Red flags mean dangerous rip current activity is expected. The rip currents would be likely to be stronger and more frequent. Though you can still swim if there is a red flag, all swimmers are discouraged from entering water. Those entering the water should use extreme caution.

Rip currents can occur any time even on calm days, so always be alert. NC Sea Grant and NOAA has provided additional information so you can learn more about rip currents. Brochures are available to the public at Town Hall.



A narrow, darker gap between areas of breaking waves is one sign of a rip current.

Facts about rip currents

- ◆ Rip current speeds vary. Average speeds are 1-2 feet per second, but they have been measured as fast as 8 feet per second—faster than an Olympic swimmer!
- ◆ Rip currents can be very narrow or more than 50 yards wide.
- ◆ Sometimes a rip current ends just beyond the line of breaking waves; however, others may continue to flow hundreds of yards offshore.
- ◆ Rip currents do not pull people under the water—they pull people away from shore.
- ◆ Rip currents are sometimes mistakenly called undertow or riptides but these terms are not correct. Only the term rip currents is technically correct.

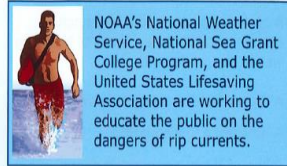
Safety tips

- ◆ Know how to swim.
- ◆ Never swim alone.
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out.
- ◆ Swim near a lifeguard.

United States Lifesaving Association statistics indicate that the chance of death by drowning at a beach protected by lifeguards is 1 in 18 million.

Where can I get more information about rip currents?

- ◆ Before you leave for the beach, check the latest National Weather Service forecast for local beach conditions.
- ◆ When you arrive at the beach, ask lifeguards about rip currents and other hazards.
- ◆ More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:
weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent
usla.org/ripcurrents



NOAA's National Weather Service, National Sea Grant College Program, and the United States Lifesaving Association are working to educate the public on the dangers of rip currents.



NOAA's National Weather Service
 Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office
www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent

NOAA PA 201550

BREAK THE GRIP OF THE RIP

RIP CURRENTS!

Rip currents account for more than 80% of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards.

What are rip currents?

- ◆ Rip currents are channelized currents of water flowing away from shore at surf beaches.
- ◆ Rip currents typically form at breaks in sandbars, and also near structures such as jetties and piers.
- ◆ Rip currents are commonly found on all surf beaches, including Great Lakes beaches.

Why are rip currents dangerous?

- ◆ Rip currents pull people away from shore.
- ◆ Rip current speeds can vary from moment to moment and can quickly increase to become dangerous to anyone entering the surf.
- ◆ Rip currents can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore.

Rip Current



Rip currents often form near coastal structures.



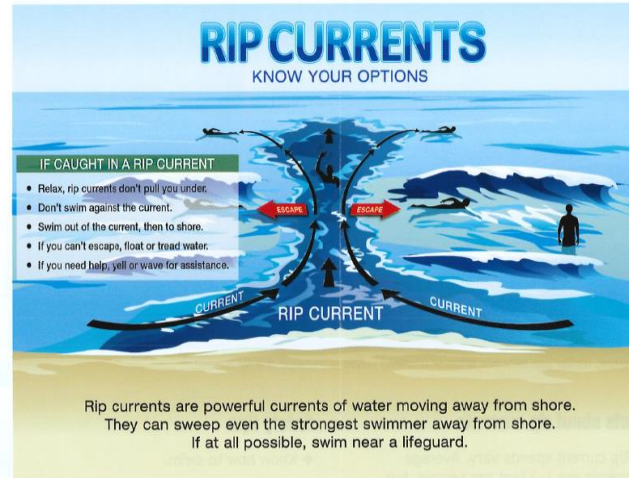
Rip currents sometimes generate a plume of visible sediment moving away from shore.

What are clues that a rip current may be present?

- ◆ A narrow gap of darker, seemingly calmer water between areas of breaking waves and whitewater.
- ◆ A channel of churning, choppy water.
- ◆ A difference in water color.
- ◆ A line of foam, seaweed or debris moving seaward.

What if I'm caught in a rip current?

- ◆ Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- ◆ Don't swim against the current.
- ◆ You may be able to escape by swimming out of the current in a direction following the shoreline, or toward breaking waves, then at an angle toward the beach.
- ◆ You may be able to escape by floating or treading water if the current circulates back toward shore.
- ◆ If you feel you will be unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself. If you need help, yell and wave for assistance.



How do I help someone else?

Don't become a victim while trying to help someone else!

Many people have died trying to rescue rip current victims.

- ◆ Get help from a lifeguard.
- ◆ If a lifeguard is not present, call 9-1-1, then try to direct the victim to swim following the shoreline to escape.
- ◆ If possible, throw the rip current victim something that floats.
- ◆ Never enter the water without a flotation device.



A lifeguard rescues a swimmer caught in a rip current.

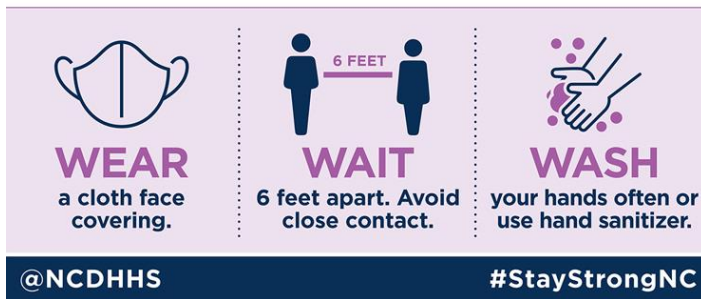
Courtesy of Oceana Communications

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Commissioners and staff continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and the impacts it may have on our community. We also remain in contact with Pender County officials on a regular basis, and follow the guidelines set forth in Governor Cooper's Three-Phased Recovery Plan. Information is updated on our website and we will continue to provide updates through our social media platforms. **Remember Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash**

If you leave home, know your Ws!



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The time to put an emergency kit together is before a disaster.

An emergency kit is a container of items your family may need in or after an emergency.

Most of the items can be found in your house. It



is important to put them in one place. Be sure every family member knows where the kit is kept, and be sure to keep these items to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus:

- **Face coverings / masks**

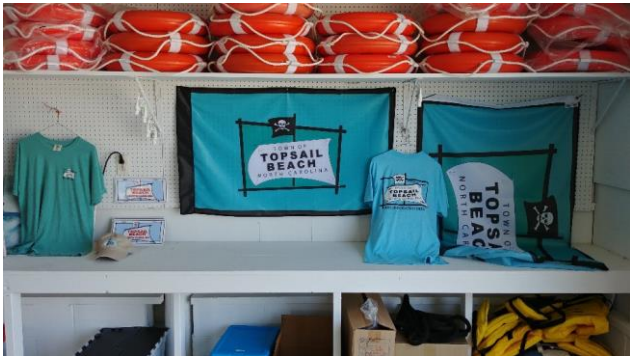
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing wipes

You need to put enough water, food and supplies in your kit for three to seven day for each person and pet. You may be on your own for hours or even days after a disaster. Being ready for an emergency helps you and your family to survive. It also allows police, fire fighters and emergency medical workers to help those who need it most.

Visit ReadyNC at <https://www.readync.org/plan-and-prepare/get-kit> for more detailed information.

BUSH MARINA

Bush Marina is open and ready for another summer with a few added features. This year, we have ice available for sale to our boaters and visitors for convenience as they spend a day on the water. We have also added merchandise for anyone that wants to show their Topsail Beach Pride! We have shirts, hats, flags, license plates, and even a little sunscreen in case you forgot.



The Town would also like to welcome Rachel Stidley to our team. Rachel will be working as a Bush Marina Attendant for the summer, so be sure to come by and say HELLO!

Commented [MR1]:

BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT



Our Channel Dredging and Beach Nourishment Project is completed for the season, with plans for the dredge to return in late fall/early winter to complete the remaining portion of the contract. Some of the key highlights of the project include:

- ✓ Dredged and placed 1.7 million cubic yards. This was the largest project on Topsail Island to date.
- ✓ Built 4.2 miles of new dune, 80' wide at the base
- ✓ Placed 75-150 feet of dry sand beach in front of new dune
- ✓ New Topsail Inlet was dredged to 18' deep and 500' wide at low tide.
- ✓ Inlet Channel up to the Old Sound Pier was dredged to 16' and 200' wide
- ✓ Dredged the side channel along Carolina Avenue to 9' deep 90' wide.
- ✓ Planting of approximately 900,000 sea oats is scheduled to begin in July

Later this year Weeks Marine will return to complete the project. That will include:

- ❖ Dredging from Inlet into Topsail Creek 12-14' deep
- ❖ Dredging the channel by Assembly Building to 9' and 100' wide
- ❖ Will place 350,000 cubic yards of sand in beach south of pier
- ❖ Additional work may also be negotiated as time permits

Please be sure to visit our website for more information on the project. Look for the icon on the main page to see photos, videos, and detailed information on the project.



POLICE

The Topsail Beach Police Department would like to welcome Andrew Marechal to the team. Drew comes to us with a lot of experience, most recently with Pender County Sheriff’s Department. His professionalism and outgoing nature fits right in here at Topsail Beach.

ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY			
MAY 2020			

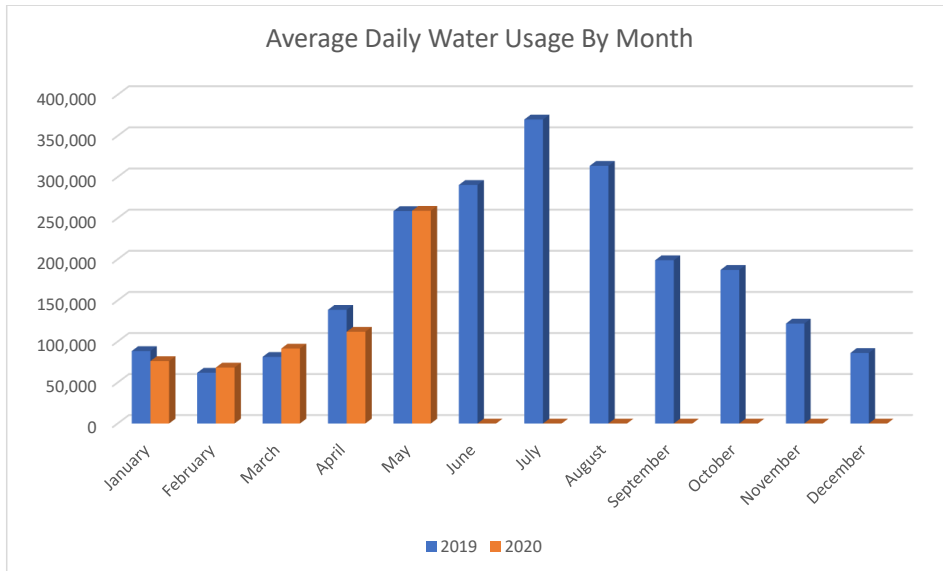
ARREST MADE	1	ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE	6
ALARM CALL	3	CALL FOR SERVICE	26
BEACH PATROL	8	BEACH WHEELCHAIR	2
CIVIL CITATION	32	BOAT RELATED CALL	1
DEATH	1	DISTURBANCE CALL	2
DOG RELATED CALL	5	LARCENY REPORT	1
MESSAGE DELIVERED	1	MISSING PERSON	1
OPEN DOOR FOUND	3	PARKING COMPLAINT	35
SCHOOL ATTENDED	4	SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK	125
SPECIAL WORK	53	STATE CITATION ISSUED	57
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	8	SUSPICIOUS /UNLOCKED VEHICLE	10
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	1	TRESPASS CALL	5
TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY	0	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	55

OTHER – BREAKING AND ENTERING (1), PROPERTY DAMAGE (2)

PUBLIC WORKS

WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for May 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This May our four wells generated a total of 8,025,820 gallons of water for an average of 258,897 gallons a day, almost identical to May 2019 (258,562). Well #4 generated the largest amount for the month, at 3,464,900 gallons for the month.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND ZONING

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board met on May 27, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Appointment of the Walk/Bike Citizen Advisory Committee.
2. Rescheduled Planning Board Training Workshop led by the Cape Fear Council of Governments to June 24, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
3. Recommended proposed amendment to the Land Development Code to prohibit the display of real estate signs along waterfront of private property.
4. Recommended funds for the Land Use Plan Update to be established in the FY2020-2021 Budget.
5. Directed Town Planner to draft proposed ordinance to regulate the maintenance/replacement of damaged rooftop tarps.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Weekly field assessments continue with improvements by the real estate companies with sign placement. Non-compliance with the roadside debris placement is on-going and being addressed as discovered.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on May 27, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Chairman Dillman will reach out to committee members to schedule a joint meeting to resume discussion of the Walk/Bike Plan.
2. Directed Town Planner to mark examples of the proposed bike and pedestrian pathways along both North and South Anderson Boulevard to create visual information to assist in prioritizing options.

Summer Concert Series - The June concert has been cancelled with the remaining concerts to be discussed as the COVID-19 precautionary restrictions are determined.

BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY

A total of 34 permits were issued at a valuation of \$631,765.00 with one substantial improvement/repair and one demolition.

MAY 2020 BUILDING PERMITS

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ ACC	1	\$18,000.00	\$135.00
Commercial Remodel	1	\$7,000.00	\$215.00
Demolition	1	\$5,000.00	\$105.00
Electrical Repair	5	\$1,415.00	\$275.00
Land Disturbance	5	\$5,000.00	\$150.00
Mechanical Repairs	15	\$110,150.00	\$880.00
Misc. Plumbing	1	\$800.00	\$55.00
Res. Alteration/ Addition	1	\$407,000.00	\$3,061.00
Misc. Building Repair	2	\$75,000.00	\$480.00
Zoning for Driveway	1	\$2,400.00	\$30.00
Zoning Review	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
	34	\$631,765	\$5,416.00

CENSUS 2020

It is NOT TOO LATE!!!

You Can Still Respond....

You can inspire others. Tell everyone – your friends and family, neighbors and co-workers – that you will complete the census, and that they should respond now, too!

Census results have an impact on planning and funding for health clinics and highways, fire departments and disaster response, which is critical to Topsail Beach. The Census impacts potential funding from both the federal and state governments, and it determines the number of representatives we have in Congress. For more information on what the Census means to you, visit North Carolina Counts Coalition at <https://www.nccensus.org/about-the-census>.



Town Hall will be closed on July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. We hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday.

Dates to Remember:

Board of Commissioners – June 10th (6:00 PM)

BIS Committee – June 18th (10:00 AM)

Planning Board – June 24th (3:00 PM)

TISPC – June 25th (2:00 PM)