

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Manteo, North Carolina

CH-40
2/24/67

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the Cape Hatteras National Seashore area. Enclosed are folders on Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS and Wright Brothers NM. They are closely related geographically.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Overnight accommodations and restaurants are provided by private concerns in the villages adjacent to the boundaries of all three areas. The Dare County Tourist Bureau, Manteo, North Carolina; the Nags Head Chamber of Commerce, Nags Head, North Carolina; and the Ocracoke Civic Club, Ocracoke, North Carolina, will be glad to assist you with rates, reservations, etc.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The National Park Service maintains visitor centers at all three areas. During the summer season, slide programs, beach walks, nature trails, and other interpretive programs are available at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Detailed information on services available may be obtained by stopping at the visitor centers located near the lighthouses on Bodie and Hatteras Islands and at the visitor center at Silver Lake Marina on Ocracoke Island.

SWIMMING AND SKIN DIVING

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore the National Park Service maintains four beaches at which lifeguard service is provided: Coquina Beach & Oregon Inlet Campground Beach on Bodie Island, Lighthouse Beach on Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Beach on Ocracoke Island. These facilities are open from about June 10 through Labor Day.

Water temperatures are not conducive for swimming before late May, at which time they average approximately 65° increasing to 68° early in June. Water activities in temperatures of this range present additional hazards, and you are strongly urged to use caution and common sense in swimming and skin diving.

Both water sports are permitted by National Park Service regulations at any location; however, due to strong lateral currents along the Outer Banks, swimmers are urged to use one of the lifeguard protected beaches. Skin Divers are cautioned to take these conditions under consideration in planning their activities.

Cape Hatteras beaches are all sandy, and there are no coral reefs or shipwrecks in the National Seashore. Shipwrecks that would be of interest to skin divers are located a considerable distance off shore, and a boat of a size adequate for ocean use would be necessary to reach their vicinity.