

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, January 26, 2025.

Snow comes to Hatteras Island. Lots of snow.

A Winter Storm Warning was issued for all of Dare County starting at 5 o'clock Tuesday, January 21 and running through 7 on Wednesday morning. Residents and visitors are advised to prepare for hazardous conditions, including snow, ice and dangerously low temperatures.

And, on Wednesday, Hatteras Islanders and visitors woke up to bitter cold temperatures AND 8 inches of snow in Rodanthe and 5.8 inches in Buxton, according to the National Weather Service. In Frisco, a Radio Hatteras volunteer reported an average 10 inches in his yard.

On Wednesday, schools were shut down. Dare County government offices and facilities were closed. Both institutions were optimistic they would be open on Thursday. That didn't happen. Dare County reopened Friday. Dare Schools declared Friday as a remote learning day and said see you Monday.

Trash in Rodanthe, Waves. Salvo and Avon was collected on Saturday.

The National Park Service closed down on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the agency closed all ramps in the national seashore. Snow and sand don't mix. At least a half-dozen vehicles needed to be towed off the beach. All but two ramps were reopened on Thursday. Park Service facilities reopened on Friday.

No ferry service

The North Carolina Ferry Service at 6:49 a.m. January 22, 2025: "Good morning! Winter weather is causing service suspensions on all NC Ferry routes this morning. We're hoping for improving conditions during the day today, and each route will resume service as soon as it is safe to do so."

The Hatteras-Ocracoke, Ocracoke-Swan Quarter, and Ocracoke-Cedar Island ferry operations resumed normal operations as of 2 o'clock Thursday, January 23.

NC 12 maintained

Local crews NCDOT worked regular hours and then showed up at 9 o'clock at night to plow the road and then worked all Thursday. As one person wrote: "their hard work and long hours shouldn't go unnoticed especially when they are pulling all nighters out there in the snow and cold to make sure our roads are safe for emergency personnel and us."

NCDOT reported nearly 2000 of its employees and contractors were out snow plowing and salt spreading from the Piedmont to the coast, with the hardest hit areas around Elizabeth City and the Outer Banks.

Since snow began falling Tuesday night, department crews spread more than 953,000 gallons of brine and another 15,000 tons of salt. Contractors spread 2.8 million gallons of brine on roads. NCDOT says employees and contractors cleared interstates and primary roads like U.S. and N.C. highways first, followed by the most heavily traveled secondary roads.

Crews from the western half of North Carolina loaded up 10 plows and 15 crew members and headed for Dare County.

Jeff Ryder, who heads the NCDOT Manteo Office, "we do appreciate their help."

The crews are from around Chimney Rock and know how to move snow. They cleared NC 12 up in Corolla and worked primary roads. The western crews, dubbed Mountain Men, also worked Roanoke Island and Manns Harbor.

On Friday, NCDOT crews continued to clear and treat the roads.

Phone scam in Dare County

The Dare County Sheriff's Office issued the following press release on January 24, about an ongoing phone scam that is affecting Dare County residents.

“A scam using this phone number (252) 401-8820 is currently going around using Deputies' names from the Dare County Sheriff's Office regarding missed court dates and money needed to keep the called party out of jail. This also applies to supposedly missed jury duty.

“Please hang up.

“If you are unsure, please contact the Sheriff's office, 252 475 5980.

Please note that the Dare County Sheriff's Office nor any of their employees ever ask for payment, money in person or over the phone, text or internet for missed court dates, tickets etc.

Hazard mitigation plan available for review

The [Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan draft](#) is now available, and public meetings to provide input in Currituck and Dare counties are scheduled for January 28.

This plan evaluates the community's hazard risks and vulnerabilities and establishes goals, objectives, and actions for reducing risk and building local resilience.

Take this opportunity to review the plan that covers Currituck and Dare counties, and the towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head and Manteo, and provide your feedback to the planning team.

Comments on line are due by January 31. Go to [obx dash hmp dot com](#) to make comments.

Go to [Island Free Press](#) for a link to attend meetings online.

Public meetings will take place January 28, to present the draft plan and gather feedback.

The public meeting for Dare County will be held at the Dare County Emergency Operations Center, 370 Airport Rd, Manteo, at 3 o'clock.

Spotted seatrout harvest shut down

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries closed coastal and joint waters in North Carolina to both commercial and recreational spotted seatrout harvest at 5 o'clock, Friday afternoon, January 24 due to widespread cold stun events.

The division has confirmed significant spotted seatrout cold stun events in seven water bodies from the Little Alligator River to the Morehead City area. The division is still receiving and verifying more cold stun reports and collecting associated environmental data. These efforts will continue regardless of the closure in order to protect the stocks.

Under the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan adaptive management, if a significant cold stun event occurs, the Division of Marine Fisheries is to close all spotted seatrout harvests until the spring. The intent of the closure is to allow the surviving fish a chance to spawn before harvest reopens. Peak spawning occurs from May through June.

The spotted seatrout season will remain closed until June 15 or the date adopted in Amendment 1 to the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan at the February Marine Fisheries Commission business meeting, when it will reopen by proclamation.

Commercial seafood dealers have until 5 o'clock Friday, January 31 to sell, offer for sale, transport or otherwise dispose of any unfrozen spotted seatrout that remain in their possession from prior to the closure.

For more specifics on the closure in coastal waters, see Proclamation FF 11-2025.

The public should continue to report any cold stun events they see in Coastal and Joint waters.

Cold stun events can be reported at any time to the N.C. Marine Patrol at 252-515-5507 or during regular business hours to the Division of Marine Fisheries at 252-515-5638. When reporting a cold stun event, please provide the specific location, date, and time the cold stun was observed, along with your contact information.

Funds needed for Bodie Island restoration after fire

The Bodie Island Double Keeper's Quarters and Visitor Center was impacted by a fire earlier in January. Fortunately, OBX Forever store staff and NPS staff who were in the building at the time made it out safely, and the fire was extinguished without any reported injuries.

Due to the interior damage, the building is closed indefinitely. The investigation into the cause of the fire, clean up, and repairs are ongoing.

During the closure, the park's outdoor areas remain open for visiting.

The annual Bodie Island Lighthouse climbing season, which typically begins near the end of April, will **not** be impacted by the current closure of the visitor center.

Outer Banks Forever expresses its gratitude to the Nags Head, Roanoke Island Volunteer, Kill Devil Hills, and Colington Fire Departments, and Dare County EMS, who all responded to the fire.

Outer Banks Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. The mission is to protect and enhance Outer Banks national parks, now and forever. That includes supporting the parks when they face unexpected challenges like this one.

Consider supporting restoration efforts at the historic Bodie Island Double Keeper's Quarters and Visitor Center. Send a gift to the Parks Forever Fund. This fund helps the Outer Banks' national parks adapt to immediate needs as they arise and create a sustainable way to address longer-term needs.

To donate by check, send to Outer Banks Forever, P.O. Box 1635, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

To donate online go to [obxforever dot org slash donate](http://obxforever.org/donate).

A note from Cape Hatteras Secondary Principal Beth Rooks: Homecoming on January 24 and a dance on January 25 at Cape Hatteras Secondary was postponed due to icy roads. New dates for these events will be sent by Monday.

Upcoming this week

On Wednesday, January 29, drop by the Buxton United Methodist Church for a Chili Sale starting at 4 and running to 5:30.

On Thursday, remember the St. John United Methodist Church in Avon free dinner. Serving starts at 5 o'clock and runs to 6:30.

Coming up in February

A **Buxton Community Health Fair** is slated for February 4, starting at 10 in the morning and ending at 1 o'clock. The Fair will be held at the Fessenden Center Annex, off Buxton Back Road. Wellness screenings are featured.

Starry Nights, a celebration of stargazing on one of the darkest stretches of the East Coast, is coming to Hatteras Village on Saturday, February 8, for the second consecutive year. The totally child-centered event features a mobile planetarium that will be set up at the Hatteras Village Fire Station. The afternoon and evening events are sponsored by the Hatteras Village Civic Association and are free to the island community.

The **Hatteras Village Waterfowl Festival** set for February 22 at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. Falconry returns as does the duck call competition. Activities for children throughout the day. The day is free and open to all.

And, just up the road, the **Buxton Civic Association** is joining with Café Pamlico to sponsor a Mid-Day Mardi Gras Fundraiser from 3 to 6 o'clock on February 22. Live music and special food. Tickets are \$10.

Now, be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.