

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Beach nourishment is happening on Hatteras Island. On May 18, 2026, Dare County's contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, started mobilizing equipment for the beach nourishment project in Avon. Sand placement is expected to begin May 24-26, 2026, depending on weather.

Great Lakes estimates that it will take about two weeks to place 375,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach in Avon. The parking lot at Ramp 38, the staging area for the Avon project, will be closed until July 15, 2026 or completion of the project, whichever comes first.

Great Lakes then expects it to take approximately one week to demobilize all of their equipment and begin moving it to Buxton. The contractor currently expects to begin beach nourishment in Buxton in mid-June 2026, placing 2 million cubic yards of sand onto the beach over a period of approximately 95 days, depending on weather.

Visit [More Beach to Love dot com](http://MoreBeachToLove.com) for the latest information about all 2026 beach nourishment projects taking place in Dare County. This includes projected timelines and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

On May 21 the Cape Hatteras National Seashore reopened more than a mile of beach between the south end of Buxton and off-road vehicle ramp 43, following an interim response action by the Army Corps of Engineers, soil testing, and consultations with the U.S. Public Health Service and Dare County's Department of Health and Human Services.

The Seashore plans to reopen the lifeguarded beach parking area in the coming days after a contractor removes a large quantity of house collapse debris that Seashore staff and volunteers have collected over the past nine months. Lifeguards monitor this beach between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. While the lifeguarded parking area is closed, the Seashore recommends visitors park in the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking lot and walk north to the beach using the multi-use pathway.

The beach in front of the Village of Buxton remains closed due to the presence of threatened oceanfront structures.

The Seashore expects to reopen that location following Dare County's upcoming beach nourishment project.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore regularly monitors all areas of the seashore for visitor safety and resource protection.

The Dare County Department of Health & Human Services has lifted the precautionary public health advisory previously issued for the beach area associated with the Buxton Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) following recent environmental testing and ongoing remediation efforts. The original advisory was issued due to petroleum odors and sheens observed in the area and reports of associated illness.

Following a meeting among Dare County Health Director Sheila Davies, staff from the National Park Service, and the United States Public Health Service, Davies determined that recent environmental testing results support lifting the precautionary advisory.

National Park Service staff collected 35 sand samples from 17 locations within the Buxton FUDS site Friday, May 15, 2026. Photoionization detector readings were taken at all 17 sampling locations, including both surface samples and samples collected at groundwater depth (approximately 36–48 inches). Additional readings were collected at 16 locations extending south from the Buxton FUDS site to the Lifeguard Beach walkover. All detector readings registered 0.0 ppm.

Laboratory analysis conducted through a mobile lab found all sand samples to be well below the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality action limit of 100 parts per million for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons – Diesel Range Organics. The highest detected level among all samples was 0.39 parts per million.

This testing occurred after extensive petroleum cleanup efforts conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers over the past eighteen months.

“Based on the environmental testing data and consultation with our federal partners, we are confident that conditions now support lifting the precautionary advisory for this area,” said Davies. “We appreciate the collaborative work of all agencies involved and their continued commitment to protecting public health and the environment.”

The National Park Service will continue to monitor the area and coordinate with partner agencies as needed.

Dare County has received the final permit to repair a historic Buxton groin as part of the planned beach nourishment project scheduled for mid-June. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the permit May 19.

Additional permits came from the National Park Service and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. The announcement was made by Island Free Press which has an extensive article about the groin work.

Island free Press dot org

Dare County purchases house in way of Buxton nourishment

As Dare County prepares for a major beach nourishment project in Buxton expected to begin in mid-June, the county has purchased and demolished one oceanfront home and is working to acquire another in order to clear the path for a new protective dune line along the shoreline, reports the Island Free Press.

The home, owned by John Hooper for more than four decades, was demolished May 18 by local contractor Top Dollar Construction after being purchased by the county.

Assistant County Manager Dustin Peele said Dare County purchased the home for \$250,000, which reflected what the owner likely would have received through insurance if the structure had eventually collapsed into the ocean.

The demolition crew controlled the debris field.

For additional information, go to island free press dot org

No recreational red snapper fishing is authorized under exempted fishing permits due to lawsuit ruling from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia

On May 21, 2026, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order granting the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, halting activities under the exempted fishing permits (EFPs) that authorized the 2026 state recreational red snapper seasons in the South Atlantic. The South Atlantic exempting fishing permits for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina are no longer in effect until further order from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The recreational harvest of red snapper in the South Atlantic remains closed.

All recreational fishing under these South Atlantic exempted fishing permits is not authorized.

The ruling does not affect the South Atlantic red snapper commercial season that NOAA Fisheries will announce at a later date. NOAA Fisheries will announce if there will be a 2026 federal recreational season for red snapper in the South Atlantic.

Originally, NOAA issued a Red Snapper exempted fishing permit to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries and each of the three other southeastern states to explore whether states can collect near real-time data to monitor the Red Snapper recreational fishery.

Dare County Water Department launches new payment system

The Dare County Water Department launched a new, secure and user-friendly online billing and payment management system for Dare County water customers. The upgraded platform was effective Monday, May 18, 2026. It is designed to provide greater convenience, flexibility and transparency for customers managing their water services. Users' account and customer numbers will not change, ensuring a seamless transition to the new system. This new system allows customers to access and manage their accounts anytime, from anywhere. Customers can register for online access through the county's new payment portal at darecountync dot municipal online payments dot com slash darecountync/utilities.

Creating a registered account is recommended to take full advantage of the system's enhanced features.

The platform continues to support a variety of payment options, including credit card, debit card and e-check.

Customers who are already enrolled in automatic bank draft payments do not need to take any action, as those arrangements will continue without interruption. New automatic payment options using debit or credit cards are also available through the portal.

For questions or assistance with the new system, customers may contact the Dare County Water Department at 252-475-5990 or Water at DareNC dot gov.

Lifeguarded beaches

Cape Hatteras National Seashore has announced the locations of lifeguarded beaches.

Lifeguarded beaches are the safest places to swim at the Seashore. There are five beach locations staffed with lifeguards from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day from 9 to 5. The locations of the three lifeguarded beaches on Hatteras Island are:

---Rodanthe Beach Access, provided by Dare County, at 23732 NC 12 in Rodanthe

--Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Beach Access, adjacent to the former site of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Until debris is cleaned out, beachgoers should park in the end of the Lighthouse Parking lot and walk on the multiuse path to the beach access.

Frisco Beach Access, just south of Frisco Village

NOAA releases hurricane forecast

Forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service are predicting a below-normal hurricane season for the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30, predicts a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season.

The agency is forecasting a total of 8 to 14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 3 to 6 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 3 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges.

An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

The Atlantic season is expected to be below-normal due to competing factors. El Niño is expected to develop and intensify during the hurricane season, while ocean temperatures in the Atlantic are expected to be slightly warmer than normal and trade winds are likely weaker than average. El Niño conditions tend to support less tropical storms and hurricanes, while warmer ocean temperatures and low winds support a more active year.

NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity based on large-scale weather and climate patterns. It does not indicate where or when any storms may affect land as that is determined by short-term and variable weather patterns is not a landfall forecast.

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for important preparedness information.

The 2026 Atlantic tropical cyclone names as selected by the World Meteorological Organization are Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Leah, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.

The official start of the Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 and runs through November 30.

The 2026 Atlantic Seasonal Outlook will be updated in early August, ahead of the historical peak of the season, which typically extends from mid-September through October.

Proctors needed at Cape Hatteras Secondary

Cape Hatteras Secondary is seeking adult community members to serve as volunteer proctors during end of year exams on the following dates: May 27 through 29, June 1 and June 4. The time commitment is from 8:20 to Noon with the possibility of finishing early. Proctors play an important role in helping maintain a smooth, secure, and supportive testing environment. Reach out to Clay Tideman at 252-995-5730 ext. 3002 or tidermancl@daretolearn.org if you are available

Memorial Day Service set for Hatteras United Methodist Church

The community is invited to attend a special Memorial Day Service honoring the men and women who served our country on Monday, May 25, at 10 o'clock. at Hatteras United Methodist Church. The event is hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Cape Hatteras Flotilla, and community partners.

The service will be a time to give thanks, remember, and honor those who made sacrifices in service to the United States. Speaker Don Ward will deliver remarks

Veterans and community members are warmly encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events

--At the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station in Rodanthe, Breaches Buoy Reenactment has started on Thursday afternoons for the summer season. At 1:30, some United States Life-Saving Service history and highlights are presented on the porch. Then, at 2 o'clock, the group heads to the Breeches Buoy Reenactment at the 1874 building. Site is opened Monday through Friday, 10 to 5. Admission \$10 for the entire week. Senior and student rates available. Chicamacomico is an A250 passport program site.

--United Women of Faith hosts its annual yard sale for two days, Friday afternoon, May 29 from 3 to 6 and Saturday morning May 30 from 9 to Noon.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.