

# Fortescue Beach



## 2024 By the Numbers

Overturned: 19,541  
Man-made Impingement: 13,177  
Natural Impingement: 431  
Natural Overwashed: 1,285  
Total Crabs Rescued: 34,434  
Rescue Walks: 58  
Total Crabs per Walk: 593.7



Hazards near Heritage Bayfront Camping Resort

## Beach Information: Open Beach

Total Distance – 1.7 km

- Boat Ramp Hazard:** Crabs are frequently trapped in the rocks and rubble near the boat ramp on the northern end of the beach.

- Section 1- 0.36 km:** This is the northern-most section of the beach, closest to the marina and it includes the boat ramp.

- Section 2- 1.0 km:** This is the main length of the beach in front of the homes. Some of this area is only accessible on low tide. Please do not go under homes or onto property that you do not have permission to go on.

- Section 3- 0.34 km:** This section of beach is in front of the parking lot and during the day has many fishermen. Fewer crabs use this part of the beach and there are fewer crabs to rescue.

- Key Hazard:** Many broken bulkheads. Do not go under homes. It is very unsafe.

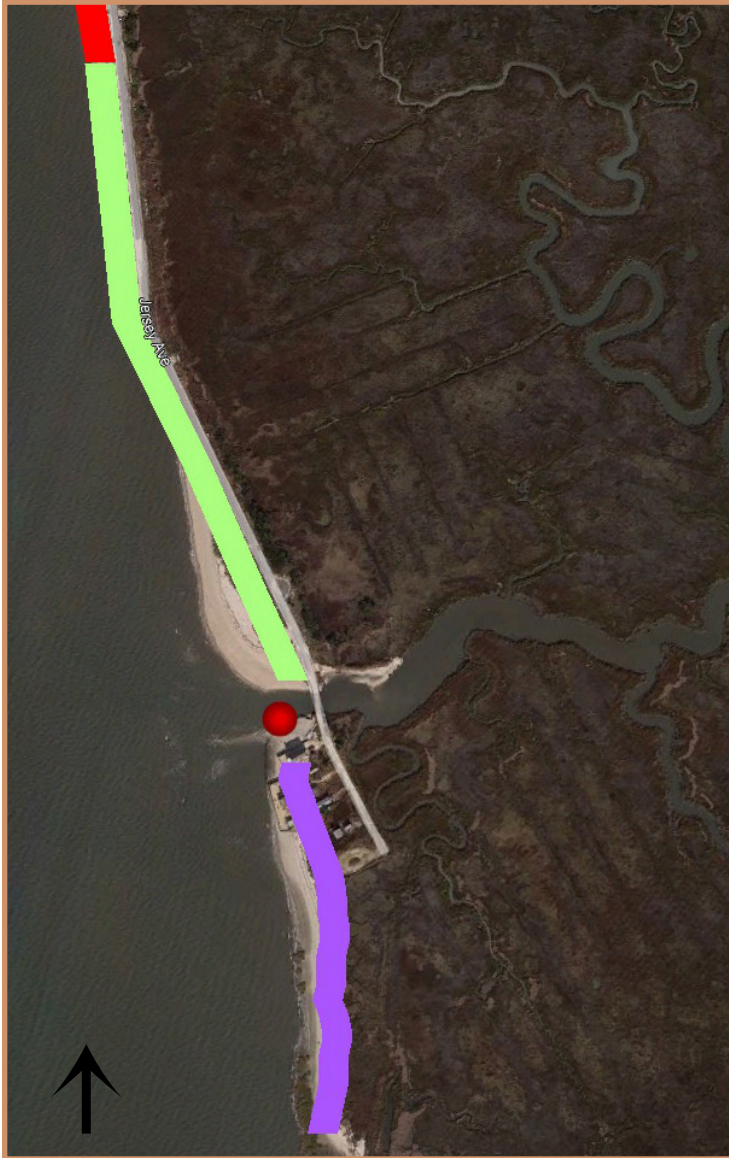
- Site of bulkhead repair project:** See next page for details

- One of the broken bulkheads, near campground, needs to be checked carefully because crabs are frequently stuck between the plastic bulkhead and older bulkhead.



# Beach Information: Closed Beach

**Closed:** Sections 4 and 5 will be **CLOSED** from May 7 to June 7.



**Total Distance** – 0.80 km

● Key Hazards- Derelict bulkhead

■ **Section 4- 0.72 km:** This closed section of beach starts at the end of the large parking lot and extends to the end of the road before small bridge. Section has changed since 2023. 2024 restoration: sand replenishment & breakwaters. Ask coordinator for info on accessing this beach.

■ **Section 5- 0.30 km:** Raybins Beach is owned by the Natural Lands Trust and NJDEP. Primarily a sandy beach with overturned crabs, but the bulk head at the house near the creek mouth is included in this section.



Derelict bulkhead at the end of Section 4.

**Bulkhead repair project:** Please keep an eye on these two properties. For property 1, the goal is to keep crabs out. This property is categorized as bulkhead. For Property 2, the goal was to remove jagged edges of bulkhead that trap crabs. This property is categorized as rubble because it is no longer functioning. This project is several years old and will have changed in appearance with shifting sands.



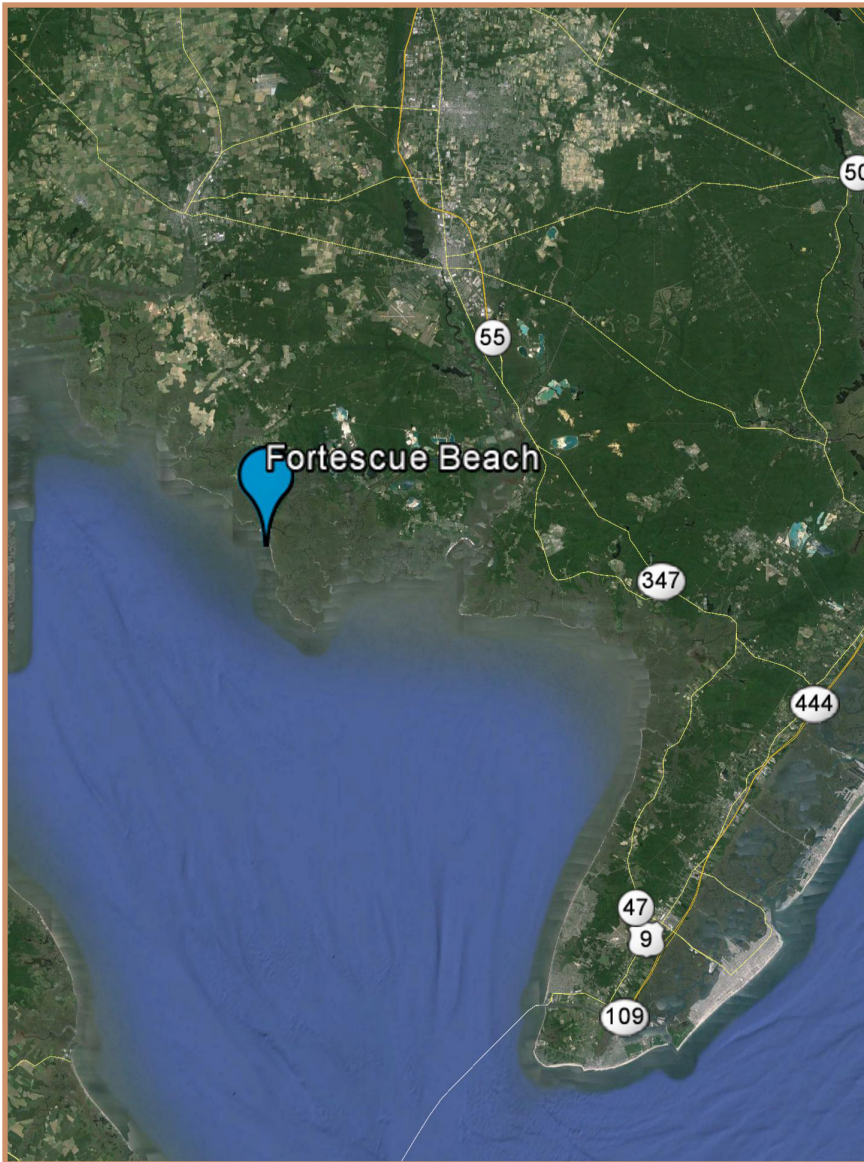
Property 1



Property 2







### Directions:

**From South:** While heading North on Rt 553/ Main St, turn Left on to 732/Methodist Rd just after the Downe Township Municipal Building. Where Rt. 732 meets Landing Rd and Baptist Rd, turn left. Make a quick left onto Fortescue Rd/Rt. 637 at the blinker.

**From North:** Follow 553 South from Cedarville to Rt. 629. Turn right onto Rt. 629. Turn right at the T onto Rt. 656/Baptist Rd. Travel one long block to turn left onto Fortescue Rd/Rt. 637 at the blinker.

**From Millville/Rt. 55/Rt 49:** Turn off Rt. 49 onto Cedarville Rd (Cedar St) at the blinker just west of the Maurice River Bridge in Millville. Follow Cedarville Rd past the airport across Buckshutem Rd and shortly after take the left fork at the 'big oak tree' onto Newport-Centre Grove Rd/Rt. 629. Continue on this road, crossing over Rt. 553. When the road ends at Rt. 656/Baptist Rd, turn right. Travel one long block to turn left onto Fortescue Rd/Rt. 637 at the blinker.

**From the blinker for Fortescue Rd:** Once on Fortescue Rd/Rt. 637, travel to the split at Rt. 643/ Newport Rd and Fortescue Rd/Rt. 637, continue to follow Fortescue Rd until you cross over the bridge at Higbees marina.

### Getting around Fortescue:

**Section 1 and boat ramp:** Make an immediate right onto Creek Ave. To get to the boat ramp you will drive through the parking lot at the end of the road on the creek side. The best place to access Section 1 is to park along Delaware Ave and use one of the beach entrance ramps. For accessing Section 2 contact a beach coordinator.

**Section 3-5:** From the bridge, continue onto Downe Ave until you reach New Jersey Ave which parallels the Bay. Turn left onto New Jersey Ave.

- **Section 3:** There is a large parking lot immediately behind it. Park anywhere to access this beach.
- **Section 4:** Begins at the end of the parking lot.
- **Section 5:** You will need to park at the turnout that it is just before the final houses and the small bridge. You will then walk across the bridge to the end of the road. Then use the foot path through the marsh to the beach. Be sure not to trespass on private property.

**Sponsoring Organization:** reTURN the Favor

**Ownership:** State, Natural Lands Trust, Downe Township

**Other activities:** Horseshoe crab spawning surveys and tagging, large-scale restoration project, shorebird research, Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary with ERDG, small scale bulkhead repairs to reduce impingements, horseshoe crab egg density surveys, 2024 beach restoration: sand replenishment and breakwaters

**Safety and other Issues:** In some sections of the beach you will be passing near private homes. Please be quiet and respectful of their privacy. Be careful when scrambling on rocks.

### Contact Information:

reTURN the Favor

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### Beach Captain

Sandy Anderson

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