

Moores Beach



2024 By the Numbers

Overtaken Crabs: 2,151

Man-made Impingement: 5

Natural Impingement: 154

Natural Overwashed: 1,045

Total Rescued Crabs: 3,355

Rescue Walks: 8

Total Crabs per Walk: 419.4



Beach Information

Closed: Closed from May 7-June 7

Sponsoring Organization: reTURN the Favor

Ownership: State

Other activities: Horseshoe crab spawning surveys and tagging, shorebird research, large-scale restoration project, oyster reef project to reduce beach erosion, horseshoe crab egg density

Safety: This road will flood on full and new moon high tides. If you visit the beach within one hour of the high tide you may not be able to pass the road, in either direction. The road has deteriorated in recent years, please make your first visit is during the day to understand the situation.

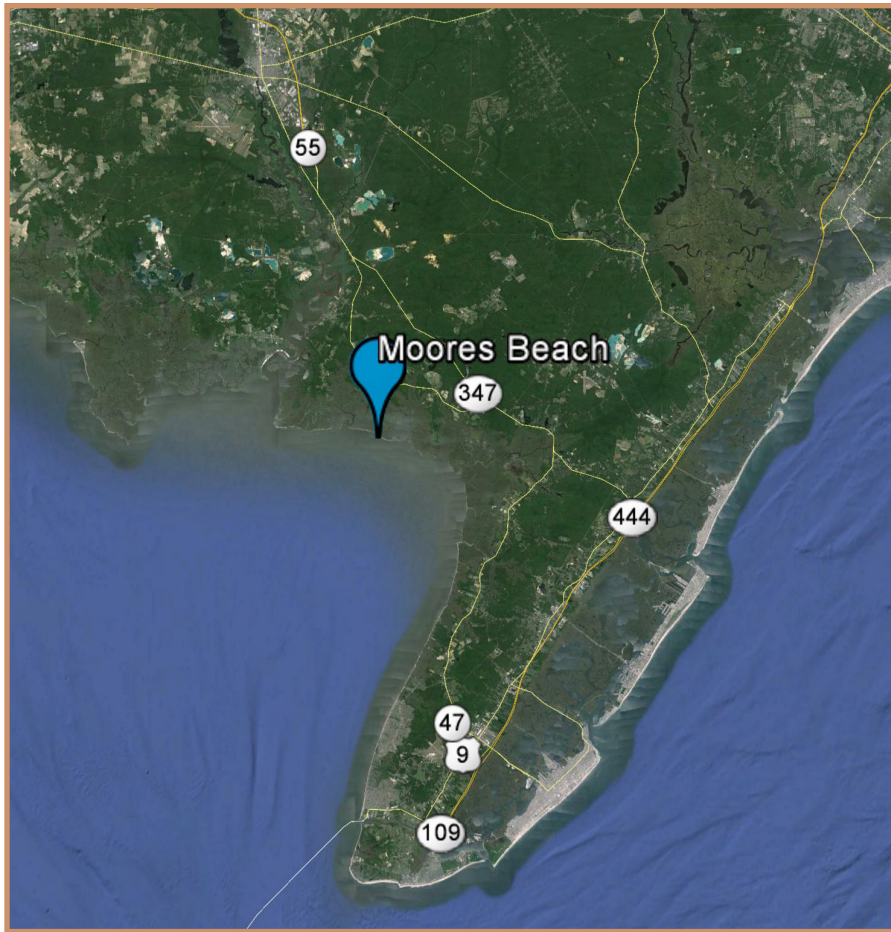
During the closure period, the gate will be locked. Please speak to beach coordinator for access information.

We do not recommend using the road past the gate as it has continued to deteriorate and is dangerous even for high clearance 4WD vehicles.

Total Distance – 1.30 km

- Section 1 (North)- 0.26 km:** Section of beach to the north of the parking lot. This wide area at the creek mouth frequently has crabs that have been stranded at a very high tide line where the tide is no longer reaching them. They will dig into the sand, but eventually will die if not rescued.
- Section 2 (South)- 0.29 km:** Main section of beach that includes the rubble pile. It has received sand replenishment, but there is still some exposed rubble. Crabs rescued in rubble near parking lot are in this section.
- Section 3- 0.36 km:** Part of the main section of beach, but after the rubble pile.
- Section 4- 0.39 km:** Southeastern section of beach. Likely only a few crabs.

- Key Hazards**
- Oyster Reef:** During very low tide this artificial oyster reef will be exposed. The reef is designed to



Directions:

From South: Take NJ-47 N. When NJ-347 N splits with NJ-47 N, turn left to follow NJ-47-N. From the split, travel 5.2 miles to Moores Beach Rd. Turn left onto Moores Beach Rd.

From North: Follow NJ-55 S to NJ-47 S in Maurice River. Stay on NJ-47 S where road splits into NJ-347 S and NJ-47 S. From the split, travel 7.7 miles to Moores Beach Rd. Turn right onto Moores Beach Rd.

Travel all the way to the end of the road until you reach the water. Road will change from pavement to gravel. 4-wheel drive and high clearance is recommended.

Known impingement hazards: This beach has had large amounts of debris removed and sand replenishment. This has lead to a significant reduction in impingement hazards. However, there are still sections of old concrete blocks and other remnants of the former homes that may trap crabs. Crabs can also be trapped in natural hazards in the peat outcrops at either end of the beach.

Watch for nesting American Oystercatchers in the dune and wrack line, all sections.

There may be symbolic fencing (post and string) marking some of the nests to reduce disturbance to the eggs and the chicks.

Contact Information:

reTURN the Favor
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Pre-photo removal of rubble impingements on the beach in 2015



Post-photo of removal of rubble impingements from work in 2016-2017