

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Sam Rauch
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

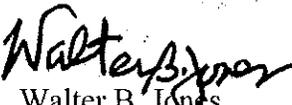
Dear Administrator Rauch:

We are writing to request an additional public hearing in Dare County, North Carolina regarding the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Loggerhead Sea Turtles (50 CFR Part 226).

We were pleased to see the agency hold public hearings in Wilmington and Morehead City, North Carolina, on September 9th and 10th respectively. However, the proposed rule would significantly impact Dare County, North Carolina as well. Because of the geographic distance between Dare County and the closest public hearing site in Morehead City, it is extremely unlikely that the vast majority of Dare County residents who wished to comment on the proposal were able to do so.

Given the significance of the proposal, we respectfully urge you to schedule another public hearing in Dare County in the near future. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Richard Burr
Senator


Kay Hagan
Senator