



Atlantic Beach, NC Harker's Island

Story of Harker's Island continued...

The creation of the National Seashore marked the end of a lifestyle practiced by many Harkers Island residents. Fishing and boat building remain important components of the community's economy, but are more and more augmented with tourism. Visitors arrive at Harkers Island seeking access to the National Seashore, for sport fishing opportunities, and to experience the local cultural heritage of the islands

According to the United States Census Bureau, the CDP has a total area of 3.8 square miles (10.0 km²), of which, 2.5 square miles (6.6 km²) of it is land and 1.3 square miles (3.4 km²) of it (33.77%) is water. At its highest point, the island is 16 feet (2 m) above mean sea level, in what is known as the area the "sand hole". The "sand hole" is an area on the western end of the island made up of mostly white sand on rolling dunes. Something you may see on the Outer Banks. Harkers Island is protected from the Atlantic Ocean by the barrier islands of the Shackleford Banks to the south and the Core

Banks to the east. The body of water directly south of the island is Back Sound. To the east is Core Sound, to the north is The Straits, and to the northeast is the mouth of the North River. The Straits are shallow but navigable by those with local experience.

There are two small bays on the north side of the island, Westmouth Bay and Eastmouth Bay. North of Eastmouth Bay is Browns Island, which is accessible only by boat. Harkers Island Road, designated as State Road 1335, connects the island to the mainland by the Earl C. Davis Memorial Bridge, a steel draw bridge built in 1968 to replace a wooden bridge built in 1941.

Next week – government and services

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