

## Putting Their Foot Down

Most of the time it is the unfavorable actions of just a small group that bring about punishment for everyone; in this case it is the unfavorable actions of a vary large group that has effected everyone.

In the past Cummings Point on Morris Island has been a popular gathering spot for weekend boaters. Offering a large sandy beach even during high tide and easy access from Charleston Harbor this barrier island has been a good spot to take the family for a game of horse shoes on the beach and some burgers on the portable grill. During the spring and fall it has also been a poplar spot to build a small camp fire and pitch a tent for a long weekend

Over the past 4 to 5-years the summertime crowds at Cummings Point have started to grow significantly, especially during the popular summer holiday weekends. Combine the ever increased numbers of boat owners with the recent closing of several other barrier island beaches and gatherings on the still open beaches have exploded.

In years past Capers Inlet was once the primary destination for high school and college kids and young adults looking to party; but with the addition of the long no wake zones behind Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms and the crack down by local law enforcement in this area the young party crowd starting making their way to Cummings Point. Not wanting their children to be exposed to the excessive drinking, profanity, and at time downright wild partying that was going on during the big holiday weekends, most of the family crowd that at one time enjoyed relaxing at Cummings Point found other locations to relax or just stayed off the water all together.

With game wardens and police stretched thin on the holiday weekends, and since most of the responsible adults had vacated the area much of the Cummings Point activities have gone on with little to no regulation. This past 4<sup>th</sup> of July with over 1500 partiers present, activities at Cummings Point reached an all time low, with indecent exposure, public drunkenness, fights, underage drinking, and littering. Pictures, videos, and stories flooded the media and with several hundred pounds of litter left behind on the City of Charleston's property, the city stepped in and put their foot down.

Signs were posted this week on the northern tip of Morris Island that governs the area just like any other city park. The area is now only open from dusk to dawn; there is no camping, no loose dogs, and no alcohol to name a few of the regulations. As I said before actions of a large group in this case have adversely affected everyone.

As a lifetime resident of James Island I grew up going to Morris Island. I have camped there at least once a year for the past 8 to 10-years running. I have traversed just about the entire island with the exception of the dunes and part of the wetlands with my dogs without a leash, and yes I have enjoyed a few cold beers while hanging out on the island. I have engaged in these activities with a total respect of the island and other visitors. I have always left the island just as I found it if not nicer, occasionally bringing home someone else's trash. In my mid thirties I do not consider myself to be an old man by

any means. I enjoy a good party now just like I did in college. What I cannot understand is the total lack of respect from today's youth? Their disrespect of the environment and others has changed the rules for everyone!

Tight lines...

Captain Tim Pickett

[CharlestonFishing.com](http://CharlestonFishing.com)

## WELCOME TO MORRIS ISLAND

THIS HISTORICALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SIGNIFICANT PARK IS OPEN DAILY FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

PLEASE STAY ON THE BEACH ONLY.

SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK.

IN RESPECT TO ALL PARK USERS, THE FOLLOWING  
ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:

LITTERING AND VANDALISM  
USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS  
USE OF METAL DETECTORS AND/OR DIGGING  
FAILURE TO REMOVE ANIMAL WASTE  
MOTORIZED VEHICLES  
UNLEASHED ANIMALS  
FIREWORKS AND WEAPONS  
GOLFING  
PROFANITY  
CAMPING

THESE RULES ARE ENFORCED BY THE  
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

[CITY CODE: SECTION 14-2, SECTION 21-108, SECTION 22-33,34,35]

843-577-7434

*ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES REQUIRE A PERMIT.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

THE CITY OF CHARLESTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

843-724-7324