

The Readers Write

To the Editor:

This past October, our able Congressional Representative, Honorable David N. Henderson, introduced a bill of tremendous significance to the people of Carteret County. It will come up for consideration in the current session of Congress. This bill, H.R. 8855, was conceived as a measure to aid our county and other coastal areas, and we are grateful for Mr. Henderson's concern for our section of the Third District. (Ed. note: The bill creates Cape Lookout Seashore Park.)

Therefore, it is in a spirit of appreciative cooperation that I call attention to a few minor imperfections inadvertently (no doubt) included in this otherwise excellent legislation.

1. It would limit, restrict, and in some instances even forbid commercial and pleasure fishing (including shellfish) in a vast area of Core Sound and Back Sound and Cape Lookout Bight.

These areas are traditional and valuable commercial and sports fishing grounds. To close off this source of fishery produce would practically eliminate food fish production in Carteret county. The economic cost to the people of Carteret County is inestimable, but there should be little doubt that it would be crippling.

Add to this cost, the loss of

tourists attracted by the excellent sports fishing available from Beaufort Inlet to Portsmouth (which is the area primarily affected by H. R. 8855). There can be no doubt, then, that this feature of H. R. 8855 is not in the best interests of coastal North Carolina people.

2. The same provisions which would hobble the commercial and sports fishermen apply also to hunting. This, however, is of less — though substantial — economic importance.

3. H.R. 8855 also provides for the "collecting of user fees" to be charged citizens for the privilege of swimming, boating, fishing, camping or otherwise enjoying Core and Shackleford Banks and the adjacent waters and marshlands. I cannot help wondering that fees for breathing the salt air were not also included.

It is urgent that the people of Carteret county contact Congressman Henderson urging the amendment of H.R. 8855 to omit these devastating provisions. They may either write their own letters or merely clip this one from the paper and mail to:

Honorable David N. Henderson
U. S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Yours truly,
Josiah W. Bailey