

Beach Driving Permit Rules and Regulations (2025- 2026)

1. **ALL** North Carolina Motor Vehicle laws apply to vehicles operating on the beach strand.
2. Beach Driving stickers **are required** to be permanently affixed and displayed in the lower left-hand corner (driver's side) of the windshield. Loose or unattached stickers **will be confiscated** by the police department. All previous years' stickers **are required** to be removed from the windshield. Lost/stolen stickers will not be replaced. Sticker may **NOT** be transferred to another vehicle.
3. The speed limit on the beach strand is **20MPH**. Pedestrians have the right of way. Reduce speed and avoid driving near beachgoers.
4. Avoid sea turtle nests and other wildlife while operating your vehicle on the beach strand.
5. **Driving on the dunes and other vegetation is prohibited.** Vehicles should stay a minimum of 10 feet away from the primary dunes.
6. Beach driving hours are:
 - September 15th to November 2nd – 5:00am to 9:00pm
 - November 3rd to March 9th – 5:00am to 7:00pm
 - March 10th to April 30th – 5:00am to 9:00pm (except April 3rd through April 12th, 2026, when beach driving is not allowed)All vehicles must be off the beach by the closing time. Vehicles not off the beach may be cited by the police department.
7. Authorized beach access ramps for entry and exit are located at the following locations:
 - Ocean Drive Ramp - dog leg (near mile marker 15 on NC 58)
 - Black Skimmer Ramp – Black Skimmer Drive (across from the police department)
 - Point Ramp – at the terminus of Inlet Drive and Bogue Ct.
8. The Town Manager has the right under EITO Section 5-63 to close all or certain portions of the beach strand to beach driving. **By purchasing a 2025/2026 beach driving permit, the holder understands that there will be no refunds or discounts issued due to beach closures of any kind.** Closures may be caused by nourishment activities, beach conditions and/or any other unavoidable events. Vehicles shall not enter any area posted as **CLOSED**.
9. **Permit holders must notify the Emerald Isle Police Dept. of any changes to the information provided for this permit. If you sell, trade in or otherwise dispose of your vehicle, you must remove the permit sticker and bring it in to receive a replacement sticker.**
10. Permit holders acknowledge that the Town of Emerald Isle is not responsible for any damage or loss to vehicles or property