

Governor Christopher Christie
State House
P. O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Deal Beach Access

Dear Governor Christie:

I am one of a great many fishermen who have fished from the beach in Deal, New Jersey. In recent years, due to pressure by oceanfront property owners, the Borough has imposed increasing numbers of restrictions on beach access against fishermen and other members of the public. These included imposing a 30 minute parking restriction on streets bordering the ocean and in some instances giving back to the property owners at the end of streets which terminated at a jetty, title to those streets. The streets were thereupon closed, the street torn up and walls built across their east ends thereby eliminating the public's access to the jetty below. Several environmental and fishing groups met, over a period of time, with representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection and ultimately the Department acquired a fishing access on Roosevelt Avenue. The access was named in memory of Sig Kislowksi, a long time beach access advocate and President of the Asbury Park Fishing Club. The access included a short boardwalk and a staircase down to the jetty below. On the day of the ceremony of the access a number of officials including Russ Cookingham, then the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, appeared for the dedication. Fishermen since that time enjoyed the use of this access route until last year when the Borough of Deal closed the gate and placed a chain and lock on it thereby cutting off public access. Fishermen are now obliged to climb down a boulder strewn cliff in order to access the beach and the jetty below. This is extremely dangerous. The Borough has also removed a staircase down to the jetty at Phillips Avenue.

Hopefully you will look into this matter to protect public access. Since Deal property owners are members of the governing body protection of the public's right to access the beach cannot be left up to the Borough. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,
