

Results of IPJI's ongoing survey regarding the question, "Should a motorized beach services business be allowed to operate on Jekyll Island's beach?"

Survey Responses – 1,121

Yes – 46 (4.1%)

No – 1,075 (95.9%)

The most often cited reasons why commercial vehicles should not be allowed on Jekyll's beach are:

- Daily commercial vehicular traffic on Jekyll's beach will cheapen and degrade the state park's most treasured natural asset.
- Commercial vehicular traffic along Jekyll's most popular beach will inconvenience beachgoers, particularly at high tide when the dry beach is narrow.
- No other hotel in the state park's history has been allowed to provide motorized beach services (MBS). Why has the Westin been given this right?
- If the Westin is allowed to have MBS, other hotels may want them too, the result being further degradation of Jekyll's public beach.
- Other hotels, including the Days Inn and newly opened Holiday Inn Resort, provide beach services without using a vehicle to deliver them to customers. Why can't the Westin do the same?
- The Westin's beach amenities should be stored on the hotel's property and transported to the beach by hand on the dune crossover ramp in front of the Westin.
- Beach critters of various types, especially small ones that dwell just beneath the sand's surface, could be disturbed, injured or crushed by the BS vehicle.

One person aptly summed up public concern by saying, *"I am disturbed that there is even a question or debate about whether driving a service truck on the beach is appropriate. It is an affront to conservation, sets a poor example for tourists, is visually disturbing, and is entirely unnecessary given that thousands of beach hotels worldwide perform this service without the use of motorized vehicles. Please do not allow this activity to continue."*

Representative comments among those who favor the Westin's MBS are:

- Beach services are a must for a resort hotel of the Westin's stature. High quality services are necessary in order to attract high quality people to the island.
- Use of the Westin's dune crossover ramp to transport beach equipment would inconvenience the hotel's guests who might want to use the ramp at the same time the beach amenities are being delivered.
- Vehicles operated by the JIA, Georgia Sea Turtle Patrol and the Georgia State Patrol are allowed on Jekyll's beach. Allowing the Westin to do the same will not have any impact on a beach that already experiences vehicular traffic.

Survey results and comments (137 pages) have been sent to the owners and general manager of the Westin hotel, the Jekyll Island Authority, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

(which issues beach driving permits), and State Legislators Alex Atwood and William Ligon, who are members of the Jekyll Island Authority Legislative Oversight Committee.

IPJI's beach driving survey will continue until this issue is resolved. To participate in the survey and for background information, please go to

<http://www.savejekyllisland.org/WestinBeachServicesIntro.html>