

0019261

From: [Michael B Edwards](#)
To: [Melissa Behrent](#)
Subject: Fw: resting seals at CAHA
Date: 02/06/2008 08:21 AM

----- Forwarded by Michael B Edwards/DENVER/NPS on 02/06/2008 08:21 AM -----

Jeff Cobb/CAHA/NPS

04/25/2005 09:26 AM To Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Michael B Edwards/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Sarah Bransom/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Jami Hammond/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Sherri Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Dann Trexler/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Steve Harrison/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Igutman@loiusberger.com, Melissa Behrent/Partner/NPS@NPS
cc Marcia Lyons/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject Fw: resting seals at CAHA

FYI

Jeff Cobb
Management Assistant
Outer Banks Group

Email, to and from me, in the transaction of public business, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded by Jeff Cobb/CAHA/NPS on 04/25/2005 11:22 AM -----

Mary Doll

To: Jeff Cobb/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc:
Subject: Fw: resting seals at CAHA

04/25/2005 08:35 AM EDT

Jeff,

Please forward to ORV Planning Team.

Thanks!

----- Forwarded by Mary Doll/CAHA/NPS on 04/25/2005 08:34 AM -----

Marcia Lyons

To: Steve Harrison, Mary Doll, jeff cobb
cc:
Subject: Fw: resting seals at CAHA

04/25/2005 07:51 AM EDT

This is an ongoing concern that the ORV planning needs to be mindful of
Marcia Lyons
Natural Resource Management Specialist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
252 473 2111 ext 132 - phone
252 473 2595 - fax

-----Forwarded by Marcia Lyons/CAHA/NPS on 04/25/2005 07:48AM -----

To: Marcia Lyons/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Jim Ebert/CAHA/NPS@NPS
From: Mark Hardgrove/CAHA/NPS
Date: 04/22/2005 02:12PM
Subject: Fw: resting seals at CAHA

forgot you on this message.

sorry!

Mark Hardgrove
Deputy Superintendent
Outer Banks Group

Phone 252-473-2111 ext. 151
Fax 252-473-2595

----- Forwarded by Mark Hardgrove/CAHA/NPS on 04/22/2005 02:11 PM -----

Mark Hardgrove To: "Karen Sayles" <karen@aginet.com>, Maggie Tyler/
CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Steve_Harrison@NPS.gov
04/22/2005 02:11 PM EDT Subject: Re: resting seals at CAHA

Karen lets organize our VIP rescue squad and get some photos so we can followup with a wonderful story of our park visitors assisting with our protection efforts.

Great suggestions. Next time call it will save time!

thanks!

Mark Hardgrove
Deputy Superintendent
Outer Banks Group

Phone 252-473-2111 ext. 151
Fax 252-473-2595

"Karen Sayles" <karen@aginet.com>

"Karen Sayles" <karen@aginet.com>

04/22/2005 12:32 PM AST

To: <Steve_Harrison@NPS.gov>
cc: <Mark_Hardgrove@NPS.gov>
Subject: resting seals at CAHA

Just a heads up to a situation that is currently underway on the beaches at CAHA that raises some legitimate concerns for our visiting protected species. There has been a grey seal pup (4-6 weeks old) that has come to CAHA beaches to get some rest. These animals are weaned at a very young age and left by their mothers to fend for themselves. Because they are so young

and getting a hang of the whole feeding thing, they get tired out quickly and need plenty of rest. If they do not get the rest they need they become susceptible to a variety of illnesses and predation (lethargic seal pups in the water = shark bait).

This seal hauled out originally to the south of Cape Point on Monday. It is in perfectly healthy condition. It hung out there for a while, went back into the ocean, hauled back out a little while later. So, it stayed in this location for a couple of days and then moved north of the Point to ramp 44. I spent the last couple of daylight hours on the beach with it...talking to people to keep them from harrasing it. The next morning it was still at ramp 44 and people would not leave it alone. I was forced to make the decision to relocate the seal to a quieter beach where the ORV's would not be pulling up to it and dumping loads of people out to poke at it so it would look cute for thier pictures. This relocation went against all my better judgement as it is VERY stressful on the animals. I moved it from R44 to the north end of the bird closure that is north of Buxton (there are not many options for non-vehicle, quiet beaches at CAHA anymore). During the 15 minutes that the seal was kenneled, it had been banging on the kennel door enough to where it's front flippers were bleeding and it had gotten a bloody nose.

Once released it stayed on this beach for a little while and was back in the water during the heat of the day. It returned to the beach about a half mile south of R38...in yet another ORV area. So it once again was being harrassed by several individuals trying to force it back into the water and trying to feed it. These seals do not get scared off and will defend themselves and hold their ground. Fortunately this group of people didn't get any closer once it started barking at them and showing it's teeth. If someone were to get bit it means the end of life as the seal knows it. They can carry many diseases and would ultimately have to be put to sleep.

I got many distress calls last night from "concerned" people whom when I spoke to them were more concerned about the fact that there is an upcoming fishing tournament and they don't want the seal to be in thier way.

I've spoken to other seal experts from the northern states whom agree that the only thing this seal needs is undisturbed rest. I think it is sad that this is a National Park and these protected species that come to visit are put in danger of failing health or even death because many of the QUIET, closed beaches are now open to ORV users and the majority of the closed beaches are fronting village areas (not must quiet time there).

I know this is preaching to the choir, but it has to be said and docummented. I am spending hour and hours of my time protecting this one seal. I've spoken to Maggie and she does have some volunteers who will be willing to help "seal sit". It went back in the water at about 10 am and I have now recieved my first call that it is back on the beach (12:15). We don't have the man power to maintain a 24 hour watch...and I think it is silly that we even have to. But I wanted you to know this is a serious situation, I'm putting as much time into educating people and trying to keep the peace around the animal.

We've had a bunch of seals at the CAHA beaches this winter to rest. Fortunately there aren't as many people around in the winter, but we still had our share of problems with harrasment then too. Any suggestions as to how we may be able to make this situation better?

Karen