

Britta Muiznieks  
12/13/2007 11:16 AM  
EST

To: Cherry Green/Atlanta/NPS@NPS  
cc: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Re: Piping plover 📧

Cherry-

We have had some problems with kite boarders at Cape Hatteras NS and nesting birds. I know the question was about PIPLs but my response includes issues with kite boarders and other nesting shorebirds as well. In 2007 we had some kite boarders land and walk around in the middle of Cape Point bird closure during the middle of breeding season. Basically the beach was so full of ORVs the closure looked like a good place for them to land! After this incident I know that LE wanted resource management to start signing the shoreline which we currently don't do-too much sign loss and maintenance. We have another area on the soundside (Sandy Bay) that is a popular kite boarding area as well as an AMOY nesting area. Even though we sign this area from Hwy 12 all the way to the sound, we have never been able to fledge any chicks from this area. We suspect that disturbance by kiteboarders as well as predators (primarily cats) are to blame. We also have certain areas on the beach where we permit kite boarding lessons. We need to make sure that the permit gives us the flexibility to move the location of the lessons. This summer we had to modify the locations on some of the permits because we had oystercatchers that were attempting to/nesting in the area. People that are learning the sport have less control over their kites and may be more likely to inadvertently land in the middle of a closure.

In the IPSMS (pg. 99) it talks about kite flying (any type) being prohibited within 600 feet of nesting CWB. I vaguely recall a conversation I had with one of our District Rangers (I think it was Jon Anglin) who said that the prohibition is not enforceable unless we have signs posted 600 feet from the closure for the colony stating that no kites are allowed beyond this point. I think this is why we ended up with the wording that we have in the FONSI (Pg. 39), "Kite flying, kite boards, and ball and frisbee tossing prohibited within or above all bird closures." We believe that the closures have adequate buffer distances to protect the nesting species from disturbance.

Britta

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Cherry Green



Cherry Green  
12/11/2007 01:30 PM  
EST

To: Elsa Alvear/EVER/NPS@NPS, John Stiner/CANA/NPS@NPS, John Fry/CUIS/NPS@NPS, Craig S Smith/EVER/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michael Rikard/CALO/NPS@NPS, Rick Clark/GUIS/NPS@NPS, Riley Hoggard/GUIS/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Piping plover

I recently received the following message from the Chief of Natural Resources at Cape Cod National Seashore in regard to the issue of kite surfing and impacts to piping plovers: *Have any of the parks in your region been dealing with kite surfing as a threat to plovers ? It's a growing activity here and we're hoping to get ahead of it if possible . Our existing rules for regular kites aren't adequate given the size of the kite used for kite surfing and the way the kite surfers move up and down the beach . We're thinking about trying to put something in the compendium to ban it along one particular beach during the nesting season, but wanted to see what others are doing first .*

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I have not heard of this being a problem in the SER, however, just thought I would check to see if this is an issue at your park. If so, could you let me know how the park is dealing with the problem and what (if any) actions been taken to limit the beach/kite surfing area due to plovers nesting, feeding, resting?

Thanks,

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