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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

February 8, 2008

Michael B. Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
National Park Service
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Dear Superintendent Murray:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's February 1, 2008 receipt of Cape Hatteras National Seashore's (Seashore) 2007 Annual Reports and your December 10, 2007 letter requesting initiation of formal section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The request for reinitiation of consultation was triggered because the Seashore failed to meet the performance measures implemented in conjunction with your Interim Protected Species Management Strategy as identified in our Biological Opinion (dated August 14, 2006, and amended April 24, 2007). The species identified in the Biological Opinion include the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles.

To expedite the consultation process, we request that you provide any changes proposed to your Interim Strategy and/or revisions to your performance measures on or before our meeting scheduled for February 20, 2008. Upon our review of your Annual Reports and any other information, we will revise our Biological Opinion accordingly. We expect to provide you with an amendment to our Biological Opinion no later than March 18, 2008.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or David Rabon of this office at (919) 856-4520, extensions 11 or 16, respectfully.

Sincerely yours,

Pete Benjamin
Field Supervisor