

0020858

**From:** [Doug McGee](#)  
**To:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**Cc:** [Michelle Baker](#); [Thayer Broili](#); [Mike Murray](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Section 7 consultation letter  
**Date:** 03/31/2008 08:29 AM

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Hi all,

I have major concerns about the consultation. While nests lost to weather events aren't included as impacting the performance measures, predation is. We won't really know what effect our current mammalian trapping efforts will have on our productivity until after the season. And while we're discussing methods to address ghost crab predation, which we know impacts both enclosed nests and chicks, we've yet to address avian predation - grackles, crows and gulls -or disturbance caused by our resident Canada goose population as well as other interspecies conflicts. For example, the abandonment of a nest in 2007 coincided with the arrival of least terns which were observed dive-bombing the plovers. But this area was also a popular roosting area for the geese - therefore it is difficult to assess the cause of abandonment. FWS doesn't consider or address complex species interactions in the consultation and tends to treat it as a dichotomous system - human-caused or weather-caused.

Grackles can be easily trapped, but the only control methods I am aware of for crows and gulls, which are also a problem for the Seashore's other nesting species, are to shoot them. The geese can be corralled when they are molting and flightless, and then destroyed.

All the methods would require depredation permits from FWS.

Doug McGee  
Lead Avian BioTech  
Resource Management Division  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
P.O. Box 190 Buxton, NC 27920  
(252) 475-8315

-----Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS wrote: -----

To: Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
From: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS  
Date: 03/28/2008 02:58PM  
Subject: Fw: Section 7 consultation letter

----- Forwarded by Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS on 03/28/2008 02:58 PM -----

**Pete\_Benjamin@fws.gov** To:  
Mike\_Murray@nps.gov,  
03/28/2008 09:27 AM AST <Thayer\_Broili@nps.gov>,  
<Britta\_Muiznieks@nps.gov>  
cc:  
David\_Rabon@fws.gov  
Subject: Section 7  
consultation letter

See attached. Hard copy will be in the mail today.

Pete Benjamin  
Field Supervisor

0020859

Raleigh Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
(919) 856-4520 x 11

(See attached file: 20080328\_CAHA\_Formal\_Amendment2.pdf)