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CATA # 2940
Buffer Table



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Subject Bird Buffer Distances

Hi Sandy,

Apologies. I thought I had sent this to you last week and just realized that I had failed to hit send. Oye! John Walsh pulled together information from a variety of sources on bird buffer distances recommended/enforced by a variety of agencies and scientific literature. Please see attached and let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Thanks so much. Hope all is well.

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bird buffers_draft_050808.doc

Foresters tern
sooty tern

Buffer Distances (meters)

	AMOY	BLSK	COTE	GBTE	FOTE	LETE	PIPL	REKN	SOTE	WIPL
USFWS recovery plan							50 ¹			
USGS	150 ²	200 ³	200 ³	200 ³	200 ³	100 ³	50 ⁴		200 ³	
State of DE							50 ¹¹			
State of ME	30,76 ⁵						60, 90 ⁵	30,76 ⁵		
State of NH							1 -50 ^{1,9}			
State of RI							30 ¹⁰			
Scientific Literature	103 ⁶	178 ⁷			140 ⁶	140 ⁶		200 ⁸		100 ⁶
						154 ⁷				

USFWS Recovery Plan

¹Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Atlantic Coast Population Revised Recovery Plan Prepared by the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Recovery Team For the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region Five Hadley, Massachusetts

USGS Protocols

²Meyers, J. M. Management, monitoring, and protection protocols for American Oystercatchers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

³Erwin, R. M. Management, Monitoring, and protection protocols for colonially nesting waterbirds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina.

⁴Cohen, J. B. Management and Protection Protocols for the Threatened Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina.

State of Delaware, Division of Fish & Wildlife

¹¹Holly Niederriter, staff, pers. comm.

State of Maine, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Plovers - Municipalities are required to buffer identified plover nests with at least a 200 foot radius surrounding the nest. Municipal beaches are required to place trash receptacles and not beach clean with equipment within 300 foot radius of plover nests.

Other species – Buffer consist of the actual feeding habitat and a 100 foot upland buffer surrounding the feeding area. Roosting habitats have a 250 foot buffer (Lindsay Tudor pers. comm., Biologist, Dept. of Env. Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality).

State of New Hampshire, Fish and Game Department

⁹The State of New Hampshire follows the USFWS Piping Plover recovery plan. Plovers are buffered by way of plover enclosure fencing. However, plovers will occasionally nest adjacent to the fence (John Kanter pers. comm; Non-game and Endangered Wildlife Program Coordinator New Hampshire Fish and Game Department 2 Hazen Drive; Concord, NH 03301; Phone: 603.271.3017).

State of Rhode Island, Fish and Wildlife Department

¹⁰Buffer distance given in above table (30 m) is an approximation. Human protection fencing is constructed prior to breeding season. Fence placement is variable according to site topography. Plovers place nests at variable distances in relation to fence (Christopher Raitel pers. comm).

Scientific Literature

⁶Rodgers and Schwikert 2002. Buffer-zone distances to protect foraging and loafing waterbirds from disturbance by personal watercraft and outboard-powered boats. *Conservation Biology* 16: 216-224

⁷Rodgers and Smith. 1995. Set-back distances to protect nesting bird colonies from human disturbance in Florida. *Conservation Biology* 9: 89-99

⁸Peters and Otis. 2007. Shorebird roost-site selection at two temporal scales: is human disturbance a factor. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 44: 196-209.