

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: Please review!
Date: 08/04/2008 04:43 PM
Attachments: [Draft Beach Segments & mileages-rev.doc](#)

Mike-

I like the idea of having SRAs but am concerned about birds that nest outside of the SRAs. What sort of protection will they receive? Will we still be able to have full beach closures outside of the SRAs?

See my responses in **RED** below.



Draft Beach Segments & mileages-rev.doc

Britta

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**
252-475-8348-**Cell**
252-995-6998-**FAX**

▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

07/31/2008 02:19 PM

Subject Please review!

Hi Britta,

Please review the attached "DRAFT Beach Segments & Mileages" that comes from a draft ORV Areas alternatives table. I took Sandy Hamilton's table and have tried to add/isolate segments (indicated in BLUE) that correspond to the Resource Hotspots that you had previously identified.

Please review the draft segments and comment on:

- Have I situated the "Sensitive Resource Areas" (SRAs) correctly in the table relative to your "hotspot" description (i.e., is the mileage from nearby ramps, etc. put the SRA at the right place? Can you think of a better term than

SRA? SRA works for me. My only concern is that some of these areas may change over time. Will there be any discretion to move or change the SRAs over time? Will we be able to reevaluate the SRAs after major hurricanes or changes to habitat?

- Have I missed any key areas? I'm a little concerned about Ramp 59-67 on Ocracoke especially if it gets opened to ORVs (currently most of it is considered a safety closure). What sort of protection will AMOYs receive if they nest in this area? I believe the thought is to get away from required minimum buffer distances (are we?) but with this beach being as narrow as it is, I doubt an AMOY could successfully fledge young without closing this area to ORVs (and possibly pedestrians).
- As drafted, we end up having a number of disconnected segments (e.g., the alternating SRA vs. non-SRA in the (new) Ramp 24 to Ramp 34 area). I realize the hotspots are where they are based on what has been happening with recent breeding and current habitat conditions. I think the long-term plan may be better served if we could consolidate or connect several adjacent SRAs segments into one SRA (such as at Cape Point - South Beach) and not have the hodgepodge effect. Sounds good! From my perspective it would be better to close a larger area and then open up areas if they are not occupied. For example I would probably include the area between Ramp 26-27 in the SRA. Terns and AMOYs are just as likely to nest north of Ramp 27 as they are to the south of Ramp 27. People also might be happier if they had 2-3 consecutive miles of beach to drive on rather than a mile here and a mile there. Based on your knowledge of the Ramp 23 - 34 area, do you think we are stuck with a hodgepodge effect of nest sites, or do you think it is possible to consolidate and prioritize several of the most productive nesting areas into one bigger SRA and still leave some beach areas open for ORV use (and expect the birds to adjust to nesting where there is less disturbance)? We need to be prepared for population growth/recruitment. I don't think we can expect birds to adjust to vehicle disturbance. Some birds are more affected by disturbance than others. Other factors (e.g. predators, food availability) may influence whether or not they occupy an area in any given year. Other birds are more tolerant of adjacent pairs than others. Territory size will vary depending on their tolerance. OR, if we protected a little less than all the segments you have identified, which would be the lowest priority to treat as an SRA? The areas with the least number of birds- North of Buxton currently only has one pair.
- Lastly, a few of the mileages are shown in RED font. For these, I simply could not figure out from Abra's latest mileage chart or from the Beach Access Report mileage information. **Would Abra please come up with an estimate of the**

miles involved in those particular segments. (At the moment, we are still trying to figure out where/what the segments are, so no need for her to reconfigure all her mileages into these (new) segments. Just need an estimate of the ones in RED.

- Not in this document, but also needed from you are your thoughts on the following issue: If we set aside SRAs for the length of the breeding season (e.g., March 15 - August 31), to what extent are we willing to allow pedestrian access along a designated shoreline corridor? **We might want to consider a minimum distance for the width of the beach (e.g. 150 feet).** I am willing to allow it to the key spits and points, subject to site specific resource closures if needed. I am ambivalent about whether to allow pedestrian access or not in SRAs that are more or less along narrow beaches away from the spits and points. Do you have any strong feelings about it either way? **There are just too many variables to be able to say that this is what we will do in all cases. The buffers we currently have were established for the least tolerant nesting pair or widest ranging brood of chicks (not the most tolerant of the species).**

I know you and staff are always busy. It would be a great help to me if you could take a quick look at this and send me your input in the next few days (by COB on Monday), or if it is easier to convey verbally, please call. In order to keep the ORV planning process on track, Sandy is eager to receive our draft alternatives, which are more or less ready to go once we have figured out the segment situation.

Thanks,

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

DRAFT Beach Segments & Mileages: mbm: 073108

Oceanside Location	Mileage
Ramp 1 to Coquina Beach	1.0
Coquina Beach	0.3
Coquina Beach (Ramp 2) to Oregon Inlet Campground	2.0
Oregon Inlet Campground	0.3
Ramp 4 to end of Bodie Island Spit (Sensitive Resource Area)	2.1
Rodanthe – Waves – Salvo village beaches	5.0
Southern boundary of Salvo village to Ramp 23	0.3
Ramp 23 – (new) Ramp 24	1.5
(new) Ramp 24 – (new) Ramp 26 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.9
(new) Ramp 26 – Ramp 27	1.0
Ramp 27 – Ramp 30 (Sensitive Resource Area)	2.1
Ramp 30 – (new) Ramp 32.5 (with parking)	2.8
(new) Ramp 32.5 – Ramp 34 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.5
Ramp 34 – Avon Village N. Boundary	0.3
Avon village beach	3.5

Comment [MSOffice1]: To avoid the hodge podge effect we could combine Ramp 24-Ramp 30 since we know birds are just as likely to nest N of R 27 as they are to the S of R 27.

DRAFT Beach Segments & Mileages: mbm: 073108

Oceanside Location	Mileage
Avon Village S. Boundary – Ramp 38	0.1
Ramp 38 to (new) Ramp 40 (approx. 2.0 miles south of Ramp 38)	2.0
(new) Ramp 40 (approx. 2.0 miles south of Ramp 38) to Buxton line (Sensitive Resource Area)	2.0 <u>1.7</u>
Buxton village beach	0.9 <u>0.7</u>
Buxton boundary to south end of Lighthouse Beach	0.8 <u>0.5</u>
(new) Ramp 42 at south end of Lighthouse Beach overflow parking to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43)	0.8 <u>0.7</u>
0.4 mile north of Ramp 43 to Ramp 43	0.4
Ramp 43 – Ramp 44	0.4
Ramp 44 – Cape Point (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.0
Cape Point – Ramp 45 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.4
Ramp 45 to (new) Ramp 47 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.5 <u>1.7</u>
(new) Ramp 47 to Frisco Campground	1.5
Frisco Campground to Ramp 49	0.4

DRAFT Beach Segments & Mileages: mbm: 073108

Oceanside Location	Mileage
Ramp 49 to Frisco Village Line	1.0
Frisco village beach	1.1
Frisco Day Use Area to Hatteras Village line	1.6
Hatteras Village Beach	2.1
Ramp 55 along ocean beach to southern ext of Pole Road	2.2
Southern exit of Pole Road to Hatteras Inlet along ocean shoreline (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.9
Pole Road from NC-12 to Spur Road	2.3
Spur Road to Hatteras Inlet (soundside)	0.4
Hatteras Inlet shoreline- <u>Spur Road to Pole Road</u> (Sensitive Resource Area)	0.4 <u>0.8</u>
North Ocracoke Spit to Ramp 59 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.4
Ramp 59 to (new) Ramp 64 @ 1.0 mile north of Pony Pens Area	1.8 <u>1.7</u>
(new) Ramp 64 @ 1.0 mile north of Pony Pen to Ramp 67	3.0 <u>3.1</u>
Ramp 67 to Ocracoke Campground	0.8
Ocracoke Campground to Ramp 68	0.4
Ramp 68 to 0.5 mile south of Ramp 68	0.5

Comment [MSOffice2]: Abra recommends combining this with Hatteras Inlet Shoreline for a total of 0.8

DRAFT Beach Segments & Mileages: mbm: 073108

Oceanside Location	Mileage
0.5 mile south Ramp 68 to 1.2 mile north of Ramp 70 (Sensitive Resource Area)	1.0
1.2 mile north of Ramp 70 to Ocracoke Day Use Area	0.8
Ocracoke Beach/Ocracoke Day Use Area to Ramp 70	0.4
Ramp 70 – Ramp 72	1.8
Ramp 72 to north end of South Point Ocracoke	0.9
South Point Ocracoke (Sensitive Resource Area)	2.6