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From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: WGOLDER@audubon.org
Cc: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#); [Britta Muiznieks](#)
Subject: Fw: Protection for non-breeding shorebirds on E. Ocracoke
Date: 08/08/2008 10:33 AM

I found out a short time ago that yesterday while I was gone we instituted a wintering closure on E. Ocracoke that should coincide with part or all of the area you expressed concerns about.

Thayer Broili
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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 08/08/2008 10:26 AM -----

Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS
To "GOLDER, Walker" <WGOLDER@audubon.org>
cc
08/08/2008 09:37 AM Subject Re: Protection for non-breeding shorebirds on E. Ocracoke 

We've been looking at this, but haven't made a final decision yet (I just got back in town this AM so I don't have the latest). I forwarded this to Mike Murray and Britta and I'll try to get back to you with disposition in the next few days.

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▼ ["GOLDER, Walker" <WGOLDER@audubon.org>](mailto:WGOLDER@audubon.org)

"GOLDER, Walker" <WGOLDER@audubon.org>
To "Thayer_Broili@nps.gov" <Thayer_Broili@nps.gov>
cc
08/07/2008 09:26 PM Subject Protection for non-breeding shorebirds on E. Ocracoke

Thayer,
I would like to ask for the Seashore to implement protective measures as soon as possible for non-breeding piping plovers and other shorebirds on the eastern end of Ocracoke Island. This week, there have been at least 10-14 piping plovers using the area along with red knots,

Wilson's plovers, marbled godwits, American oystercatchers, least terns, black skimmers, gull-billed terns, sanderlings, short-billed dowitchers, semipalmated plovers, spotted sandpipers, willets, and others. The spit has an extensive area of high quality intertidal feeding habitat. Piping Plovers have been seen using both the sound and inlet sides of the spit as well as the interior of the spit, and one bird using the ocean. Most of the use is on the interior/sound areas of the spit. Having a corridor that allows ORV use on the ocean and part of the inlet shoreline would allow recreational activity to continue while increasing protection for non-breeding shorebirds using the interior flats and soundside habitats. Shorebird, including piping plover, migration is well underway and this area will likely see heavy use by non-breeding shorebirds. In addition, we know from banded individuals that wintering piping plovers can arrive in NC as early as late July. I feel protective measures in this area are consistent with the Interim Plan and FONSI (see below).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Walker Golder

Alternative D, Preferred Alternative in the Interim Plan, states (page 59):

"Like alternative A, closures and buffers would be removed once all chicks are fledged or are lost. Suitable interior habitats at the spits and Cape Point would be closed year-round to provide for resting and foraging for all species. At present, such suitable habitat includes ephemeral ponds and moist flats at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, and Ocracoke. The actual locations of suitable foraging and resting habitat may change periodically due to natural processes (i.e., overwashes)."

The FONSI (pages 12-13) states:

"Closures and buffers will be removed once all of the chicks have fledged or are lost. Monitoring reports will include the fate (e.g., survived, fledged, lost to predators, etc.) of each brood relative to the management measures implemented. Suitable interior habitats at the spits and Cape Point will be closed year round to provide for resting and foraging for piping plover. At present, such suitable habitat includes ephemeral ponds and moist flats at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, and Ocracoke. The actual locations of suitable foraging and resting habitat may change periodically due to natural processes (i.e., overwashes)."

The FONSI also states:

"Performance Measure 4, Monitoring Procedures: For wintering piping plovers, the NPS and USFWS will jointly develop a systematic monitoring protocol to help establish where the wintering enclosure should be placed."

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