

0022229

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: Please Review ASAP
Date: 11/25/2008 10:47 AM
Attachments: [July 31 vs Aug 31.doc](#)

See comments in red below.

Britta

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

11/25/2008 09:43 AM

Subject Please Review ASAP

Britta,

Please review the attached one page document (see attached file) and return comments ASAP, so we can provide a draft to the Natural resource Subcommittee. Especially check out the last section, which I copied and pasted below, where I have some questions/concerns as indicated in **BLUE** font below. Please suggests edits of the document to address any concerns you may have:

Requirements to remove bird closures prior to August 31:

Closure removed no earlier than July 31.

July 31 to Aug 31—Closure removed only if no breeding activity, unfledged chicks, broods, family groups, or breeding species present within previous two weeks.

Sites with history (2000-present) of nesting Black Skimmers excluded. **(I don't know where these are, so don't know whether this would cause any unreasonable requirements or results, such as an area which no longer has viable habitat remaining closed longer than necessary.) I know that we don't have nest locations (i.e.GPS points) for black skimmers. I would have to look through our data to see what kind of data is available. To the best of my knowledge we have had skimmers nesting on Green Island, Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet and South Point. I'm not sure if we have had**

0022230

skimmers on Bodie Spit or not.

Habitats for fall migrant shorebirds are protected at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, Cape Point South Beach, Hatteras Inlet, eastern end of Ocracoke, and Ocracoke South Point. Protected habitats must include areas of ocean intertidal zone with 50 buffer. **This is something completely new. They are asking us to close down the entire OCEAN shoreline for fall migrants.** **("all" is too absolute; could we suggest something less than "all" such as a minimum % of the habitat?)** soundside wet sand flats and other MOSH at inlets, and wet sand flats and other MOSH at Cape Point with 50m buffer. **(Can't tell if this would cause unreasonable requirements or results.) This would require us to shut down access from Ramp 45 to the Point where the "Pond" drains into the ocean.**

Only corridors to Cape Point and inlets opened, pre-nesting closures remain closed as delineated in Alternative E until 15 November. **This does seem late but it is probably included to cover the migrants.** **(Nov 15 seems unreasonably late. Not sure of the intent or benefit. Would suggest "31 August or two weeks after all chicks have fledged.")**

Monitored daily for 7 days prior to removing closure to detect the presence of unfledged chicks or other nesting activity.

Conduct a seabeach amaranth survey of an area before it is reopened to ORV use.

Mike Murray
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 11/25/2008 09:25 AM -----

Patrick Field
<pfield@cbuilding.org>

To Mike Murray <Mike_Murray@nps.gov>
cc

11/25/2008 09:00 AM Subject Bird dates before 8/31

MIKE

I received this draft suggestion on potentially opening areas prior to 8/31 from a stakeholder. Would you be willing to modify this as you see fit and then I can send it out to the NR Committee for consideration?

0022231

PAT



July 31 vs Aug 31.doc

July 31 vs. August 31

Question: Can the date for removal of bird closures be changed to an earlier date, such as July 31 vs. August 31.

Benefits:

- Selected areas within the Seashore might be opened for recreation activities prior to August 31 if all nesting activities have ended for the season.

Problems:

- Some species initiate nesting in late July and August; Black Skimmers, for example.
- Eliminates protection for migrant shorebirds; shorebird fall migration=1 July to 1 December, peak migration time is variable/species
- Requires more frequent and intensive monitoring
- Require additional staff time and resources for NPS

Requirements to remove bird closures prior to August 31:

- Closure removed no earlier than July 31.
- July 31 to Aug 31—Closure removed only if no breeding activity, unfledged chicks, broods, family groups, or breeding species present within previous two weeks.
- Sites with history (2000-present) of nesting Black Skimmers excluded.
- Habitats for fall migrant shorebirds are protected at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, Cape Point South Beach, Hatteras Inlet, eastern end of Ocracoke, and Ocracoke South Point. Protected habitats must include areas of ocean intertidal zone with 50 buffer, all soundside wet sand flats and other MOSH at inlets, and wet sand flats and other MOSH at Cape Point with 50m buffer.
- Only corridors to Cape Point and inlets opened, pre-nesting closures remain closed as delineated in Alternative E until 15 November.
- Monitored daily for 7 days prior to removing closure to detect the presence of unfledged chicks or other nesting activity.