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From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Michelle Baker](#)
Subject: Re: Sea Turtle Information
Date: 12/09/2008 04:04 PM
Attachments: [CAHA Sea Turtle Take Incidents.1998-2002.doc](#)

Thanks Michelle.

Attached is a document I started but never finished (made it as far as 1998-2002) that list possible take incidents and storm impacts from old annual reports. I am not that confident in the accuracy of the information. Don't know if it is worth finishing (2003-2008) or not. I think your version for 2007 and 2008 is a more articulate and "crisp" listing of possible take incidents than what I was able to do for the earlier years. Frankly, I had difficulty interpreting and summarizing the descriptions of incidents, since the references in those old reports were often vague or confusing. In any case, here is a summary of some of the earlier years, if it is of any use to you.



CAHA Sea Turtle Take Incidents.1998-2002.doc

Thanks again,

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▼ [Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Michelle
Baker/CAHA/NPS**

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc

12/09/2008 03:35 PM Subject: Sea Turtle Information

Mike,

Here is the information you requested on sea turtles. I was only able to get 2008 and 2007 done for potential incidental take. All of that information is either in the 2007 Annual Report, or will be in the 2008

Annual Report. I will have more years with me tomorrow.

For the nests and false crawls by beach type I tried to be as specific as possible so that we cannot be accused of withholding any information or trying to mis-represent any information. Unfortunately, this makes the chart look cluttered. I will explain it to people tomorrow.

thanks!

Michelle[attachment "2008 Potential Incidental Take of sea turtles at CAHA.doc" deleted by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS] [attachment "Nest and False Crawls per Beach Type on CAHA in 2008.doc" deleted by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS]

Draft: MBM: 12/09/08

**Draft List of Potential “Take” Incidents and Storm Impacts
Information Taken from CAHA Annual Sea Turtle Reports**

Summary of Sea Turtle Incidents and Weather Impacts from Annual Reports

1998

Incidents:

- 2 cases of holes dug into nest site near Salvo
- Holes were dug in posted nest the day after it hatched
- 2 cases of ORVs driving into posted nest relocation sites
- 3 crawls obscured by ORV tracks; could not locate body pits or nest cavity
- 3 cases of ORVs driving into posted nest relocation site between ramps 30 and 34
- 3 cases of ORVs driving through posted nighttime nest closure near Ramp 49
- Hatchlings crawled toward lights from the lighthouse parking lot, but eventually entered surf
- 12 misoriented hatchling tracks (some east, some west) on South Beach
- Hatchling tracks led into dunes near Hatteras Inlet

Weather: Hurricanes Bonnie, Danielle and Georges: 5 nests lost; 11 more had low productivity

1999

Incidents:

- 3 cases of intentional disturbance of posted nests (digging into nest)
- 2 cases markers used to locate nest cavities were vandalized
- Canadian Hole relocation site - moderate foot traffic (repeated violations) in closed area
- Canadian Hole relocation site – footprints and dog tracks on possible nest site
- Ocracoke – human tracks on top of a nest that had hatched the previous night
- 2 crawls obscured by ORV tracks; could not find body pits or nest cavity
- 3 hatchling misorientation incidents (nests # 10, 20, and 21)

Weather: Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd, Gert and Irene. Total: 27 nests and 6 digs lost

2000

Incidents:

- 4 nests missed that were later discovered when exposed by erosion or when egg hatched
- People in ORV got out of vehicle and approached turtle on beach; turtle retreated to the ocean without laying eggs
- Hatteras Island – 4 nests disturbed and eggs broken
- Previously undiscovered nest found by visitors and reported
- Previously undiscovered nest reported when hatchling were observed by visitors near Ramp 49
- Avon – visitors observed turtle laying eggs; when staff responded, found 4 eggs damaged or disturbed
- Visitor marked a nest with fishing pole holder and broke eggs
- 2 cases of people digging in sand within nest closures on Rodanthe and Avon beaches
- Ocracoke – humans disturbed sand covering nest

Draft: MBM: 12/09/08

**Draft List of Potential “Take” Incidents and Storm Impacts
Information Taken from CAHA Annual Sea Turtle Reports**

- 2 cases nest signs vandalized
- 130 vehicle tracks within posted closures; 5 cases of ORVs driving directly over nests within posted closures
- South Beach (nest # 7A) 10 hatchlings rescued as they crawled the wrong way toward Frisco and Hatteras Villages
- Hatchlings from nest # 42 went in all directions except toward the ocean. 1 dead hatchling found in tire track 200 feet north of nest
- Dog digging in nest exposed eggs
- Dog attempted to dig into nest cavity

Weather: No hurricanes. Three low pressure systems. Total: 9 nests lost to erosion; 10 nests buried with 30-50 inches of sand

2001

Incidents:

- Between Ramps 23 and 38 - 4 cases of ORVs driving through closures and nest site
- Avon – visitors with flashlights surround turtle on beach; turtle retreated to ocean without laying eggs
- 2 cases of people attempting to dig into egg chambers
- 4 cases of nest protection signs being vandalized
- 4 cases of nest markers being pulled out
- 102 sets of ORV tracks within nest closures, including 6 cases of breaking through signs on upper beach and 4 cases of driving over nests
- one crawl obscured by vehicle tracks within 1 foot of nest cavity
- Ocracoke – dogs tracks along side sea turtle tracks on an aborted nesting attempt

Weather: Low pressure systems and Hurricane Aaron. Total: 8 nests completely washed out and most nests that were overwashed did not hatch

2002

Incidents:

- 2 cases of unrecorded nests being discovered later, including one which fox had dug into cavity and one that was discovered upon hatching
- one visitor report of hatchling emergence from unreported nest; nest site could not be located by staff
- one case of visitors disturbing nest before turtle patrol arrived
- one case of nest being tampered with during incubation period
- 3 cases of nest protection signs being vandalized
- 6 cases of nest markers being removed
- 7 cases of ORV damage to closure signs
- 1 case of hatching tracks obscured by ORV tracks within closure; unable to confirm fate of hatchlings
- one crawl obscured by ORV tracks; could not locate body pits or nest cavity

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**Draft List of Potential “Take” Incidents and Storm Impacts
Information Taken from CAHA Annual Sea Turtle Reports**

- Hatchlings from several nests between Cape Hatteras Light and Ramp 43 crawled away from ocean toward light sources
- Once case of dog digging into nest

Weather: TS Gustav and various low pressure systems. Total: 1 nest washed out; many nests did not hatch; others hatched with low emergence rate