

From: [Michelle Baker](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
Subject: Re: Revised Turtle Nests by Lay Date Document
Date: 02/04/2009 10:42 AM
Attachments: [CAHA turtle nests by lay date.97-08.rev020309.doc](#)

Mike,

That is too bad about NCWRC, but regardless of their involvement, we will try and implement some actions this year that will make any transitions in subsequent years less drastic. We are already looking into ways to expand our volunteer basis to accomplish goals that will benefit the turtle program, particularly for nest sitting.

I agree that setting a double standard makes us vulnerable to criticism. Resource Management staff, volunteers, and LE are instructed during training to not approach nesting females closer than 20ft (this measurement come from the NCWRC Sea Turtle Handbook) unless instructed to do so by me for the purpose of obtaining data. When visitors contact us regarding nesting turtles on the beach at night, we inform them of the 20 ft rule. Other guidelines include no pets within a 100 ft area, no flash photography, minimization of noise, and no flashlights, headlamps, or lanterns. As we are not on the beach at night, it is difficult to enforce this, but sometimes we try and attend these events when reported for visitor education purposes.

Hope this helps,

Michelle

-----Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS wrote: -----

To: Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS
From: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS
Date: 02/04/2009 09:36AM
cc: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Thayer Broilli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Revised Turtle Nests by Lay Date Document

Michelle,

Thanks. I'll save the attached version as a PDF and forward it to the subcommittee ("revised" means I added a Header to your version and renamed the document).

Couple of other turtle issues:

1) I talked with Gordon Myers about WRC's offer to provide two staff and vehicles to assist NPS with completing morning turtles patrols more quickly. Some ORV advocates are encouraging us to start that this summer. I think it makes sense to gear up and start doing it before 2001, but don't know if we can adequately organize and supervise it that quickly. In any case, Gordon indicated that with the State budget freeze that is in effect it is unlikely he could provide that assistance this year. He thinks he will be able to provide it beginning next year, which may be a good target date to implement the more expeditious patrols (even though it is not required under the consent decree). In other words, it looks like we will not be able or need to pursue it this year

2) Is there a recommended buffer for people to keep away from nesting sea turtles on the beach? One of the ORV advocates had pictures (taken by an "intern") of a NPS ranger and volunteers and/or public circled around a full-grown turtle that was in a

depression (nest cavity?) on the beach in broad daylight. Some of the pictures showed the ranger a short distance (a few feet) from the turtle, laying on the sand between the turtle and the water, taking close-up pictures of the turtle. We were criticized for a having double-standard in wanting to restrict the public from disturbing "nesting" turtles, but then having our own folks crowd around a turtle that appeared to be leaving a nest site. In any case, is there a recommended buffer around a nesting or beach sea turtle? My last park had a buffer for seals on the beach, so I was thinking there must be one for sea turtles.) If there isn't one, should we establish one in our resource protection measures? (And comply with it, except if RM staff need to approach the turtle for management purposes).

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 Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS

**Michelle
Baker/CAHA/NPS**

ToMike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
ccBritta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
SubjectRevised Turtle Nests by Lay Date
Document

02/03/2009 02:16
PM

Mike,

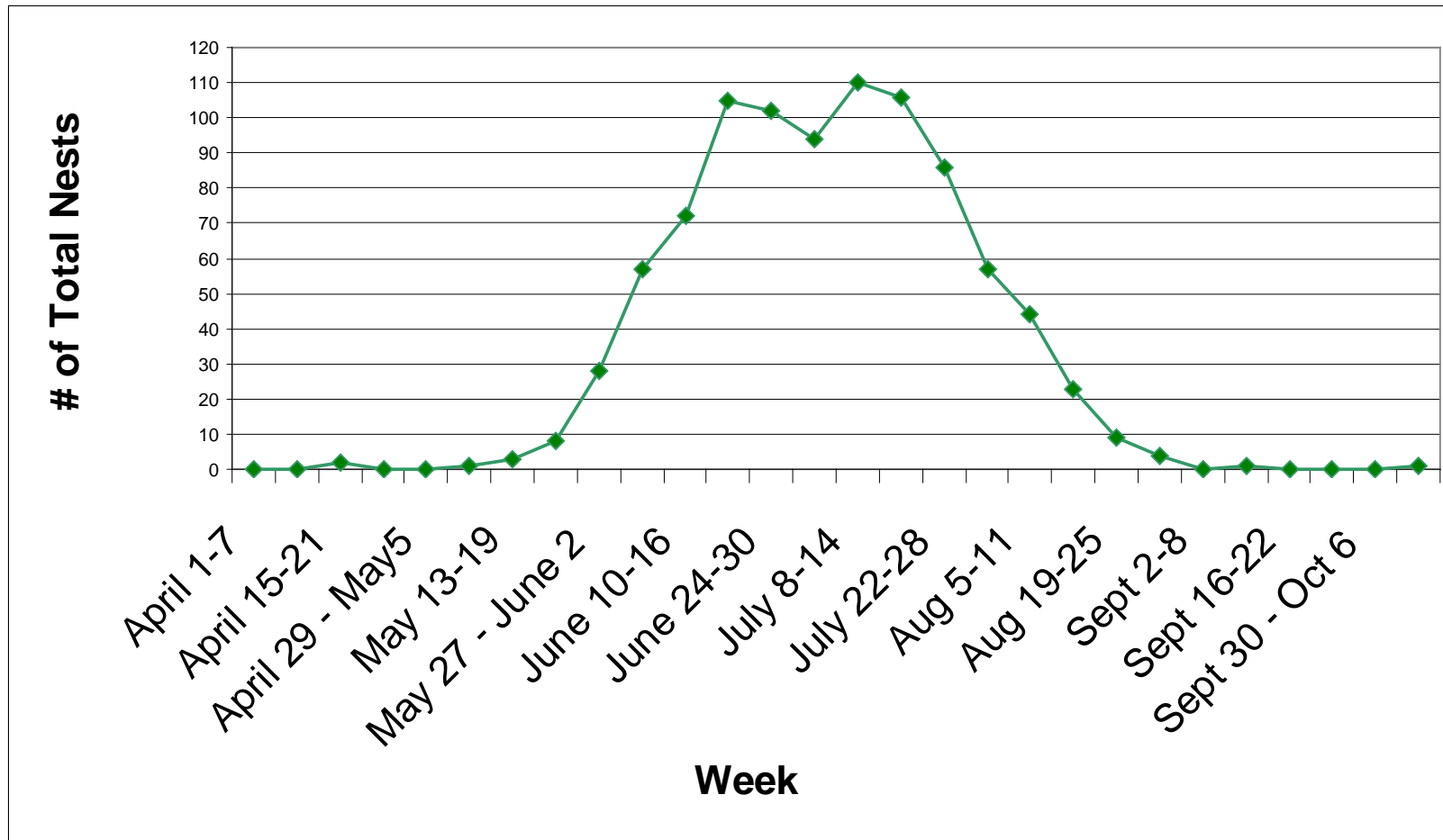
I have revised the Turtle Nests by Lay Date document that was given to the NR sub-committee based on a suggestion by Larry. The changes to the document are highlighted in yellow. I was not sure if you wanted me to send this to the sub-committee, or if you felt that it was inappropriate or unnecessary.

Thank you,

Michelle [attachment "Turtle Nests by Lay Date Doc.doc" deleted by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS]

Natural Resources Subcommittee Sea Turtle Information, February 2008

The below graph indicates the lay dates for the 913 nests laid on CAHA between 2007 and 2008. Nests that did not have know lay dates (i.e. were found only when hatchlings emerged) are not included in these totals. The number of nests by year may differ slightly than what was reported during that time, but these numbers represent the most accurate information known and are reported as such in the 2008 Sea Turtle Annual Report. Sea turtle activity prior to 1998 is not referenced in this graph or chart, as the data before this time is inconsistent and un-reliable. It is important to note that these numbers are misleading. Prior to 2007, turtle patrols were conducted between May 15 – Sept 1. In some years, patrols did not begin until June 1. Any nests found before the start date or end date of turtle patrol were found by chance (i.e. visitor reporting, staff on the beach, etc.) since no coordinated, scheduled patrols were conducted. It is unknown how many nests were missed during these times. Beginning in 2007, FWS requires CAHA to begin patrols May 1 and continue until Sept. 15th in order to reduce the chance of missed nests.



CAHA turtle nests by lay date.97-08.rev020309.doc

Table 1. Nests by lay date week and year (1997-2008) Please note that those fields highlighted in yellow indicates a change from the last version of this handout.

Week	1998	1999	2000	2001 (1 UNK)	2002 (2 UNK)	2003 (1 UNK)	2004	2005 (1 UNK)	2006 (1 UNK)	2007	2008 (1 UNK)	TOTAL
April 1-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 8-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 15-21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
April 22-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 29 - May5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 6-12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
May 13-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
May 20-26	1	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8
May 27 - June 2	1	1	4	2	9	2	2	0	2	2	3	28
June 3-9	4	8	3	9	6	10	1	1	3	2	10	57
June 10-16	8	9	5	8	7	7	3	9	6	1	9	72
June 17-23	14	7	8	8	17	11	6	4	8	10	12	105
June 24-30	9	10	14	14	10	12	1	5	9	5	13	102
July 1-7	11	8	13	5	15	3	6	7	7	11	8	94
July 8-14	18	13	9	9	8	11	6	8	8	6	14	110
July 15-21	6	11	9	8	5	6	5	11	8	18	19	106
July 22-28	12	11	4	1	9	9	5	9	9	9	8	86
July 29 - Aug 4	9	4	1	6	8	9	3	5	3	6	3	57
Aug 5-11	2	7	5	1	2	2	2	5	5	7	6	44
Aug 12-18	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	6	3	3	2	23
Aug 19-25	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	9
Aug 26 - Sept 1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Sept 2-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sept 9-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sept 16-22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sept 23-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sept 30 - Oct 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 7-13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Nests	98	91	84	74	97	86	43	72	75	82	111	913