

**From:** [Michelle Baker](#)  
**To:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Cc:** [Thayer Broili](#); [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Night Driving at Spits  
**Date:** 02/10/2009 10:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [Nests and FC at spits and points, 2006-2008.doc](#)

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Mike,

I have pulled together data from the last three years to answer this question. Anything prior to 2006 we do not always have accurate GPS locations. Between 2006 and 2008, 33 nests and 63 false crawls have been found on the spits and points. These areas include Ramp 4 south to Bodie Spit, Ramp 44 to Salt Pond Rd., Ramp 55 south to Hatteras Spit, Ramp 59 north to N. Ocracoke, and Ramp 72 south to South Point. Overall, that means that 12% of nests over the three years were laid in these areas, and 22% of the total false crawls. While Cape Point makes up a good chunk of these activities, there have also been several nests at S. Ocracoke and Hatteras Spit. N Ocracoke generally sees the lowest amount of activity. Bodie Island Spit receives very little, but still has some. (See the charts I attached)

Two things to note about this data:

1) FWS and NCWRC are concerned that we miss sea turtle activity at the areas that we survey last. These areas include Hatteras Spit, N. Ocracoke and sometimes S. Ocracoke and Cape Point (if these areas are already closed for birds). Because of their concern, we are not exactly sure if our numbers are a good representation of the activity that we have in those spots.

2) The maps in the annual reports show the locations of nests where they were expanded (ie. not the locations that they were laid). Therefore, in order to find the locations of where relocated nests were laid you must look at the Appendix B and C rather than the maps.

I hope this helps. Call me if you need any clarification,

Michelle

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

To: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
From: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS  
Date: 02/09/2009 12:00PM  
cc: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Fw: Night Driving at Spits

See message below. Please have Michelle draft a brief response. May need to look at a longer-term context. Based on 2008 nest and false crawl data alone, one could make a reasonable argument that few nests would be jeopardized by allowing night access along the shortest access routes to BI Spit, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke and South Ocracoke respectively (one cannot make the case for Cape Point because of all the nesting and false crawl activity along the eastern shoreline south of Ramp 44). If more years worth of data were considered, would it show the same lack of nesting activity along the shortest access routes to the inlet?

Mike Murray

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 02/09/2009 11:52 AM -----

**Robert B davis**  
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Tomike\_murray  
<mike\_murray@nps.gov>

cc

Subject: Night Driving at Spits

02/08/2009 03:57 PM

Dear Mike,

After examination of the Turtle maps for the 2008 annual report, it is obvious that the NPS approach to ban night ORV driving is untenable for all the spits in CAHA.

Under the Consent Decree there was no night driving on any spit in 2008. The maps show that there were no turtle nests on these spits. In addition there were no turtle crawls on Bodie, Hatteras, and north Ocracoke spits. There were two crawls below Ramp 72. These crawls were certainly not the result of human activity forcing Mom turtle to go away to some less optional site.

In light of this best science (data from CAHA beaches) you should make changes to the NPS management "Alternatives" and "Adaptive Management Proposal for Night Hours". These changes should provide for recreational ORV access to the spits at night. For the NPS to continue advocating ORV bans without factual justification would appear capricious and punitive to the villagers and the other visitors to CAHA.

Respectfully,  
Bob Davis

0023046

Nests and False Crawls on CAHA Spits and Points, 2006-2008

Nests					
Year	Bodie Spit	Cape Point	Hatteras Spit	N. Ocracoke	S. Ocracoke
2006	0	1 (NH24)	2 (NH06, NH33)	0	2 (NO02, NO08)
2007	0	5 (NH14, NH22, NH27, NH34, NH37)	1 (NH30)	0	3 (NO13, NO20, NO26)
2008	1 (NBH07)	15 (NH01, NH03, NH05, NH09, NH12, NH15, NH24, NH35, NH37, NH46, NH49, NH52, NH58, NH60, NH66)	2 (NH27, NH33)	0	1 (NO20)

False Crawls					
Year	Bodie Spit	Cape Point	Hatteras Spit	N. Ocracoke	S. Ocracoke
2006	0	11 (CH01, CH02, CH05, CH07, CH08, CH09, CH10, CH11, CH14, CH15, CH23)	0	0	2 (CO05, CO23)
2007	0	29 (CH04, CH05, CH06, CH10, CH14, CH16, CH18, CH19, CH20, CH21, CH22, CH25, CH26, CH27, CH28, CH29, CH30, CH31, CH32, CH37, CH43, CH44, CH45, CH46, CH47, CH54, CH55, CH56, CH09)	2 (CH08, CH52)	1 (CO14)	3 (CO28, CO36, CO37)
2008	0	13 (CH04, CH09, CH10, CH11, CH13, CH16, CH17, CH18, CH19, CH40, CH50, CH51, CH52)	0	0	2 (CO04, CO31)

Bodie Spit = Ramp 4 south  
 Cape Point = Ramp 44 to Salt Pond Rd.  
 Hatteras Spit = Ramp 55 south

N. Ocracoke = Ramp 59 north  
 S. Ocracoke = Ramp 72 south