

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Cape Hatteras Business Allies](#)
Cc: [Myers, Gordon S.](#); [Patrick Field](#)
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Emailing: spring2008reknnc]
Date: 02/13/2009 08:03 AM
Attachments: [NCWRC Survey - Ocracoke.pdf](#)
[NCWRC Survey - Hatteras.pdf](#)

Judy,

NPS plotted the coordinates of the red knot observations. See attached maps. The way it was described in the spreadsheet, the coordinates correspond to the "center of the area" of observation, but gives no specific distances regarding how far on either side of the coordinates the observations occurred. For example, the location on Ocracoke is approximately mid-island. I don't know if there were multiple observations all over Ocracoke and the one set of coordinates is the center point of a large area, or if all the observations were concentrated in that one area.

I not complaining, just explaining that the survey provides a snapshot of information that needs to be taken for what it is: a snapshot of information that is not precise in its level of detail (i.e., it doesn't show two sets of coordinates for each area of observation, one at either end to indicate the size of the area where the birds were observed). Note: The coordinates are on the ocean beach, not the soundside.



NCWRC Survey - Ocracoke.pdf



NCWRC Survey - Hatteras.pdf

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02/12/2009 10:37 PM

To "Myers, Gordon S." <gordon.myers@ncwildlife.org>
 cc 'Mike Murray' <Mike_Murray@nps.gov>, Patrick Field <pfield@cbuilding.org>
 Subject Re: [Fwd: Emailing: spring2008reknnc]

Gordon,
Thank you for getting back to me on this.

The area commonly known and referred to as South Beach by the residents, the visitors and NPS, is the area located between ORV Ramps 45, in Buxton and Ramp 49 in Frisco. Point 24 falls between the villages of Frisco and Hatteras, not Frisco and Buxton! I do not consider the description reasonable, no matter which direction the plane was flying, because in the future when ever this survey is cited, the location of point 24 will forever be South Beach, with or without the adjective of south placed in front of it.

I completely understand what you are saying about flying in a north/south direction, I tend to refer to the villages and beaches as running north and south myself, since Highway 12 runs the length of the entire island and parallel to the beaches. Highway 12 remains, Highway 12 North or South even when the compass direction actually shifts to the West. It tends to add confusion to everything when folks speak of the "west facing beaches". I was not asking for the compass direction to be corrected, I am not concerned with compass direction, I am concerned with the description for the location of point 24! In fact the words South Beach need to be completely removed from the description of point 24!

Furthermore, it is information that has been provided to the National Park Service, during the Negotiated Rulemaking process and become public and part of the record and will no doubt be touted as "science"! This will come back to haunt us after it is repeated and quoted numerous times, in numerous documents, in numerous studies and nobody will ever bother to track down the original survey and look at it and realize that point 24 is not located on South Beach!

Since it appears that the survey was conducted starting at Onslow Beach, Ocracoke would have had to be surveyed before Hatteras Island. (However Ocracoke was referred to as Ocracoke, not as south of south of South Beach) They obviously identified the Island of Ocracoke, after that they would have flown over Hatteras Inlet in order to survey Hatteras Island. What I don't understand is how they didn't notice the Village of Hatteras before they saw those 90 Red Knots or how they didn't notice the Village of Frisco after they saw them? According to Sue Cameron, they fly extremely low, 150-200 ft! (Which by the way is against FAA regulations, I assume they have clearance to fly this low? The USCG isn't even allowed to fly that low unless they are involved in a search and rescue operation!)

So if they are flying at an altitude of 150-200 ft. how could they miss Frisco and yet identify South Beach? South Beach, by the way, is not designated on any map, it is purely a "local" designation. If they are familiar enough with the area to know where South Beach is located, surely they must be aware of the Villages of Hatteras and Frisco and surely were aware that these 90 Red Knots were between those two villages! As I stated, between Hatteras and Frisco Village would have been a much more accurate description of the area! Even "beach north of Hatteras Village" would have been acceptable, or beach south of Frisco Village, but NOT south of South Beach!

Furthermore, directly past South Beach is the Village of Buxton, it isn't easily missed, not from the air, it has a large point that sticks well out into the Atlantic Ocean, it also has a 200ft tall lighthouse! (I guess we should be grateful they didn't slice the top of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse off while flying that low! :-)) So surely it was obvious that the first Red Knots spotted could not have been on the South Beach, so why are they using the words South Beach at all when referencing an area located between Frisco and Hatteras Villages? If the best interest of the Red Knot is indeed at stake here, wouldn't it be prudent for your staff to depict their location as accurately as possible?

In the interest of my community as well as your birds, I again am requesting that the true and proper location for point 24 be put on the spreadsheet and that your agency notify National Park Service in writing by sending them a corrected spreadsheet explaining that the location of point 24 has been corrected. This may not seem all that important to you, but it is very important from where I sit, and I don't think it is too much to ask.

Also Sue mentioned that they had taken photos to verify their info. I

would like a copy of those photos if it is at all possible. It is amazing that they can count birds on the ground from 150 feet in the air, when I assume they would have to be going 100mph (a minimum safe speed) because in a small plane, a minimum airspeed of at least 85 mph is required just to remain airborne, any slower than that, they would be in landing mode!

Thank you,
Judy Swartwood
Cape Hatteras Business Allies
252-996-0896

Myers, Gordon S. wrote:

>Judy,
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>I apologize that I did not reply to you sooner. I did not have an opportunity to look over the spreadsheet until this evening. After reviewing the spreadsheet, I inserted the coordinates into Google Earth and I found them to be accurately depicted. I have attached an image that shows points 22 and 24 superimposed on an aerial photograph. You will see that point 24 falls squarely on South Beach and although point 22 is technically west/southwest of South Beach, so the south of South Beach description is reasonable if you consider the flights were probably flown in a north/south direction. Consequently, I do not agree that the description is misleading. Please let me know if you think I have misinterpreted the data or your request and I would be happy to take another look.
>
>Also, I am copying our Wildlife Management Division Chief, Dr. David Cobb, and asking him to forward your questions to appropriate management staff to compile answers to your other questions.
>
>Thank you,
>Gordon
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>_____

>From: Cape Hatteras Business Allies
[mailto:cahabusinessallies@embarqmail.com]
>Sent: Wed 2/11/2009 8:45 PM
>To: Myers, Gordon S.
>Cc: Patrick Field; 'Mike Murray'
>Subject: [Fwd: Emailing: spring2008reknnc]

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>Gordon,
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>I have never received a response from you concerning this Red Knot survey and my request to have (south of south beach) removed and have the proper location inserted! While waiting for a response, I have had more time to think about this and I have a few other questions....
>
>Who funded this Red Knot survey, was it NCWRC or National and/or NC Audubon? Whose plane was used, does your agency have its own plane and pilot or was a private plane and pilot hired? Was it Audubons plane and pilot?
>
>I just can't figure out what the connection is here! Does Walker Golder work for NCWRC or does Sue Cameron work for Audubon? How exactly did Walker and Sue Cameron end up sharing this Red Knot survey? Walker Golder using North Carolina tax dollars to try and justify closing even more areas of our North Carolina beaches by either tagging along with NCWRC or by borrowing one of NCWRC paid employees?
>
>I'm also starting to wonder exactly why this survey that was done in May of 2008 was not mentioned until January of 2009, and then there was a delay of at least a week if not longer, between the time that the National Park Service, CBI and the natural resources subcommittee requested a copy of the survey and it was actually handed over! When

>these fly over surveys are done, is the GPS coordinate and bird count
>hand written on field notes and then later entered into a data base or
>is the info entered directly into a computer while conducting the survey?
>
>If there were field notes I strongly urge you to review them! While
>south of south beach is technically true, the same could be said for
>Miami Florida! I have a feeling that the delay in sharing this Red Knot
>survey with NPS and the committee in a timely fashion, may have been due
>to a change of location from the original location to south of south
>beach, after all it is technically true, no matter how misleading!
>
>Looking forward to a response from you,
>Thank you,
>Judy Swartwood
>Cape Hatteras Business Allies
>252-996-0896
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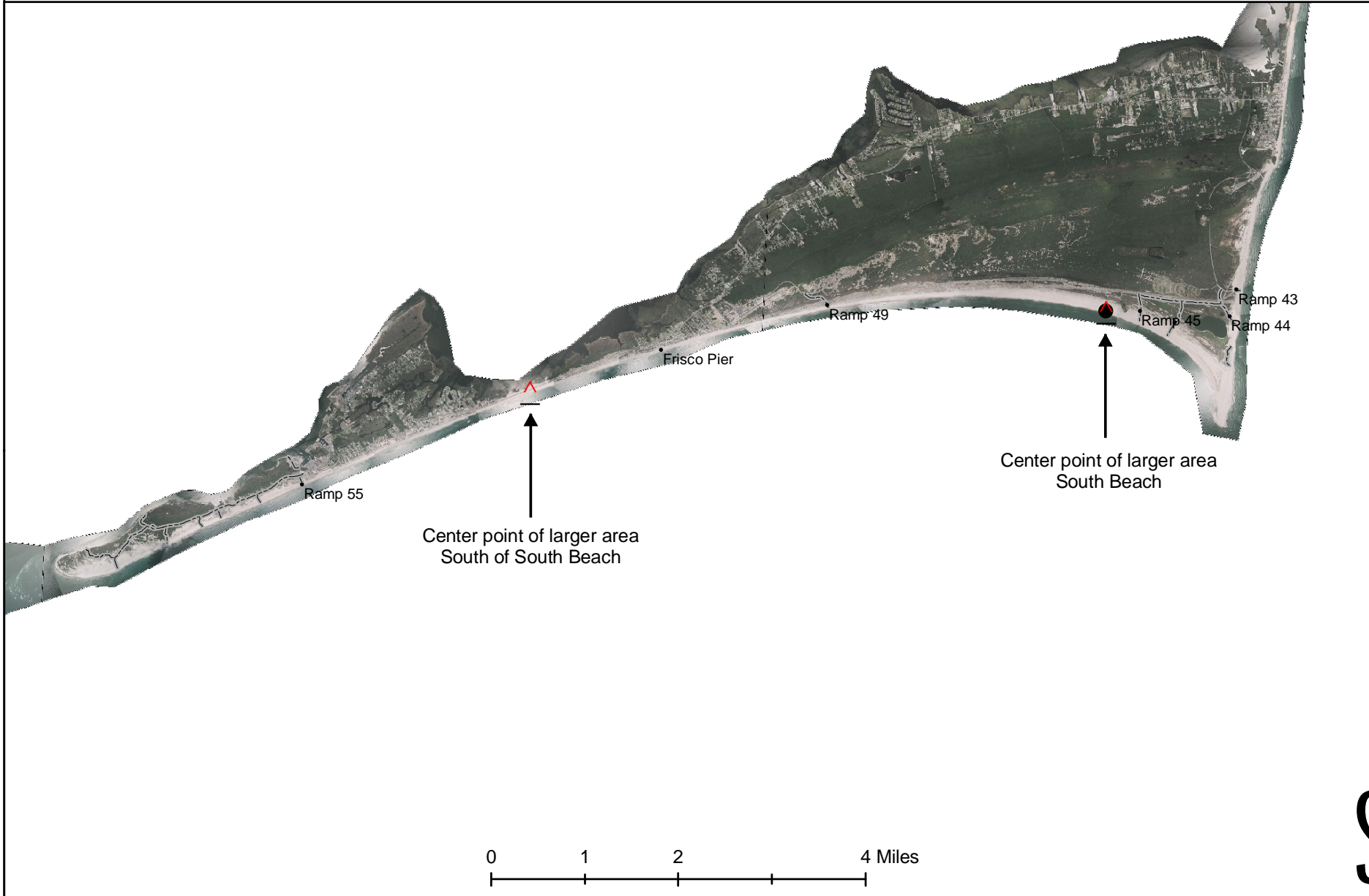
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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
North Carolina

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U.S. Department of the Interior



NCWRC Red Knot Survey Results



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North Carolina

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NCWRC Red Knot Survey Results

