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From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Fw: Sea turtle nest management
Date: 08/26/2009 10:36 AM

After talking to Britta, I am assured that we did carry out turtle actions appropriately during the recent storm event and that our actions were in no way contradictory to our basic approach to turtle management and in concert with NCWRC guidance.

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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 08/26/2009 10:22 AM -----

Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS
To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS
08/26/2009 09:24 AM Subject Fw: Sea turtle nest management

Thayer-

Do we need something more formal from Mathew regarding management of our sea turtle nests prior to the arrival of tropical storms and hurricanes? In any case our actions prior to the storm were supported by Mathew Godfrey, the NCWRC's turtle biologist.

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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"Matthew H. Godfrey"
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To "Michelle_Baker@nps.gov"
<Michelle_Baker@nps.gov>
cc
08/25/2009 05:05 PM Subject Sea turtle nest management

Hi Michelle,

Thanks for calling before the large swells from Hurricane Bill arrived, to talk about what to do about sea turtle nests in the face of tropical storms or hurricanes. As stated in the guidelines for sea turtle volunteers in NC, there are exceptional circumstances that warrant specific actions, and we encourage our collaborators to call us in when

they face these circumstances. When confronted with high swells and swash from tropical storms in NC during the sea turtle nesting season, we try to work with individual beaches or projects to reduce mortality associated with inundation by allowing excavation of recently emerged nests or those nests that are believed to be within a day of emergence (as indicated by a depression forming in the sand over the nest). This allows already hatched turtles that remain in the nest cavity to successfully reach the water, rather than be subjected to hours of inundation from high swash, which usually results in drowning.

Thanks again for keeping in touch about this. I hope we avoid any other tropical systems for the rest of the season.

best,
Matthew

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