

#3083



Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS

09/08/2009 11:32 AM

To Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS

cc Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle

bcc

Subject Re: Schedule a Conference Call

All,

I think that in addition to Desired Future Conditions for PIPL and sea turtles, we need to articulate some practical DFCs for AMOY, CWB, and Seabeach Amaranth, although I don't know what the number(s) should be. Pete Benjamin suggested something for SBA in his written comments submitted during RegNeg (see below from his comments submitted for inclusion in the final report). When we re-consult FWS this winter, I want to ask Pete if FWS or anyone else has taken any steps to re-introduce SBA in appropriate habitat. If the answer is "yes," what is involved, is there an approved seed supply, etc. to see whether it would be practical to pursue at CAHA.

Seabeach amaranth:

The NPS should embrace their obligations under Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA and establish an explicit goal of contributing to the recovery of federally listed seabeach amaranth. The recovery criteria identified in the Recovery Plan for Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), Rafinesque (1996), state that a "minimum of 75 percent of the sites with suitable habitat be occupied by seabeach amaranth populations for 10 consecutive years." Cape Hatteras National Seashore has at least four seabeach amaranth sites – Bodie Island spit, Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet spits (Hatteras Island spit and North Ocracoke spit) and Ocracoke Inlet spits (Southern Ocracoke Island spit). Based on the stated recovery criteria, an appropriate goal would be to implement management control to promote and protect the occurrence of seabeach amaranth, at a minimum, at three of the four identified sites. As with the goals and objectives for the other species, a set of testable assumptions are either inherent in or can be derived from this objective.

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Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS

Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS

09/08/2009 11:53 AM

To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Re: Schedule a Conference Call

Hi Thayer,

It would be good to at least address AMOY where we have better data.

One way might be to use the information from Ted Simons reports, the historical high for nesting pairs for the park (41 in 1989) and the AMOY conservation plan, predator mgmt plan, and professional judgment. Another way would be to ask Ted Simons if his demographic model could be used to generate desired conditions for CAHA, if we assume they are at a minimum to reach and maintain a sustainable population in the park (i.e. from reproduction, not as a sink through in-migration) and to contribute to statewide numbers.

Possibly relevant Notes from AMOY documents for thought:

1999 number of nesting pairs at CAHA was 41 (Simons et al 2006)*, declining to a low of 22 in 2006.

*Simons, T.R., S.A. Schulte, C.P. McGowan, J. Cordes, M. Lyons, W. Golder. 2006. American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) research and monitoring in North Carolina. 2005 annual report to the national Park service. lift table 1

A Conservation Plan for AMOY p. 11 "We do not have adequate information about the former population status of American Oystercatchers on which to base rigorous populations goals. However, it is clear that the population declined dramatically in historical times. In addition, the current population is isolated on a small ribbon of habitat along the coast which is highly vulnerable to development and loss from sea level rise. Therefore it is prudent to set a goal of increasing the current population size to offset expected future decreases from habitat loss. We recommend that the population be stabilized and then gradually increased from its current level to at least 1.5 times its current size.....p. 18 Agencies and organizations that manage oystercatcher habitat should set an objective of maintaining or increasing current oystercatcher populations on their managed lands. The specific management goals will vary by site, but should include maintaining an annual fecundity equal to or exceeding the critical level identified through demographic modeling. ...p. 25 lists CAHA as an important site, breeding about 30 pair, non-breeding 20-30 pair.

2004 breeding season survey estimated NC's breeding pairs at 327 (Cameron and Allen 2004 Cameron, S. and d. Allen. 2004. American Oystercatcher breeding distribution and population estimate in North Carolina. Unpublished report, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (is this published now?). CAHA total for 2004 was ???

Productivity monitoring began at CAHA in 1999 (American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) research and monitoring in North Carolina. 2005 Annual report. Ted Simons, Shiloh Schulte, and Conor McGowan. J. Cordes, M. Lyons, W. Golder

Oystercater pairs on CAHA have declined by 42% since 1999. p. 35 Simons and Shulte 2007. 1.4 chicks/pair fledging success (north core banks 2004, highest of any site or year previously recorded. 1.31 in 2001 for Ocracoke Island highest for CAHA. Highest all CAHA ?? (means Ocracoke .52, Hatteras Island .32, Bodie Island .20, Green Island .75) in NC Simons, T.R. and S. Schulte. American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) research and monitoring in North Carolina, 2007 annual report, CAHA 0.5 chicks/pair fledge rate.

Sandy

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Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS

Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS

09/08/2009 09:02 AM

To Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS

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Subject Re: Schedule a Conference Call 

I won't be available for the call; however, I did read Tim's suggestions. They look fine to me. I guess my question is are we going to project desired future conditions for AMOY, CWB, and Beach Amaranth? With respect to Amaranth, we haven't seen any since I've been here. Without a planting program, it may be futile. A planting program would be an independent initiative that would have it's own set of problems.

Thayer Broili
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Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS



Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS

09/04/2009 11:17 AM

To Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Schedule a Conference Call

Good Morning All!
Thank Goodness its FRIDAY!!!

Mike Murray would like to schedule a conference call with all of you on **Wednesday, Sept. 9th at 10:00 am (ET) 8:00 am (MT for Sandy)** to discuss and consolidate feedback on the desired conditions for sea turtles and PIPLs.

Please advise me of your availability and on Wednesday, utilize the following dial in phone numbers for this call:

1-877-507-1324

3680185#

Thank you!

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