

Sundar, Danielle

CAHA #1735

From: Fox, Lori
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Sundar, Danielle
Subject: FW: REKN

Categories: Projects/ CAHA

Caha admin

Lori Fox
 Deputy Director, Denver Operations/Senior Planner

Direct 303-985-6602
 Main 303-985-6600
 Mobile 301-461-8772

Fax 303-984-4942

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-----Original Message-----

From: Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov [mailto:Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 1:50 PM
To: Wetmore, Doug
Cc: Fox, Lori; Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov
Subject: Re: REKN

I haven't really kept up with REKN literature since I barely have time to deal with all of our breeding birds. I'm sure I will have to in the near future. Sounds like you are more in the know than I am on this. Could we just leave in the last sentence of the excerpt-"The decline of the red knot closely corresponds...." and not discuss near-term extinction.

Britta Muiznieks
 Wildlife Biologist
 Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-Office
 252-475-8348-Cell
 252-995-6998-FAX

"Wetmore, Doug"

0024653

<dwetmore@louisberger.com>

11/12/2009 03:22 PM

<Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov>

"Fox, Lori" <lfox@louisberger.com>, <Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov>

To

cc

Subject

REKN

Hi Britta.

I would suggest removing/replacing this REKN paragraph in the DEIS. Seems to be a bit of a doomsday scenario. Also, it appears that some USFWS, USGS, and VaTech researchers have questioned some of Niles' data/research.

I've tracked down some recent work from Cohen that indicates large numbers of REKN feeding on Donax along VA/NC shores, and that the clams can provide a substitute for horseshoe crab eggs, at least until the crab numbers rebound.

Any suggestions?

Most disturbingly, 2004 research by Baker et al. (2004) indicates that if red knot populations continue to decline at their present rate, the bird will approach extremely low numbers by 2010, and the probability of near-term extinction will be correspondingly higher than it was in 2004.

Research by Niles et al. (2005) supports this extinction trajectory. The evidence strongly suggests that the decline of the red knot closely corresponds to the massive increase in the harvesting of the horseshoe crab on the Delaware Bay over the past decade.

Doug Wetmore

Environmental Planner

Direct 303-985-6611

Mobile 303-905-6128

Fax 303-984-4942

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www.louisberger.com

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