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**Cc:** [Darrell Echols](#); [Thayer Broili](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Summary of ad hoc Outer Banks Waterbird Tech Committee conf call  
**Date:** 12/11/2009 02:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [JamieColonialNestingPROPOSAL09.doc](#)

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Hi Britta,

The research proposal sounds like a good idea to me. Is there any reason why black skimmers are not included and do you have any concerns that not including BLSK would that create an information "gap" that we would need to address later? (My thinking is that if we decide to come up with funding to mobilize a CWB research project, then let's not leave any big "gaps" in scope that will require another, similar research project later.)

Thanks,

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 12/11/2009 02:16 PM -----

**John\_Stanton@fws.gov**

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cc Britta\_Muiznieks@nps.gov, Dennis\_Stewart@fws.gov, Michael\_Rikard@nps.gov, david.h.allen@ncwildlife.org

Subject Summary of ad hoc Outer Banks Waterbird Tech Committee conf call

On November 2, 2009 I hosted a conf call with the ad hoc Outer Banks Waterbird Technical Committee ( David Allen[NCWRC] and Britta Muiznieks[NPS] and myself) participated in the conf. call.

**Summary**

**Purpose:** To review current colonial waterbird surveys and explore new opportunities to collaborate on surveys to better inform resource managers that need these data to make resource management decisions.

Review of on-going surveys-

NCWRC coordinates and completes a coast-wide colonial waterbird survey every three years. This survey effort started in 1977.

Cape Hatteras/ Cape Lookout NPS conduct annual colonial waterbird surveys and some productivity surveys annually. A more intensive survey effort has been in place since the recent regulation negotiation process was completed.

The coast-wide NCWRC Colonial Waterbird Survey provides a coast-wide snapshot of nesting colonial once every three years. This long-term survey has noted waterbird species abundance and distribution changes coast-wide, but may not be able to capture year-to-year distribution and nesting effort by waterbirds for specific areas along the coast.

**Need:** NPS has a need for a comprehensive annual survey of colonial waterbirds on and off NPS lands to address resource management concerns on NPS lands.

Possible new opportunities to collaborate on surveys to better inform resource managers-

1. During completion of the coast-wide Colonial Waterbird Survey, NCWRC and NPS staff will coordinate closely on survey dates on NPS lands and NPS will assist NCWRC with surveys on lands near or adjacent NPS lands.
2. A need may exist to reconcile past coast-wide survey results with NPS specific survey data.
3. Specific research is needed to document colonial waterbird movements during the breeding season on and off NPS lands and on and off spoil islands adjacent to NPS lands.

Based on my own research, I offer:

4. Consider fully funding Dr. Jaime Collazo's proposal entitled Integrated Monitoring and Management of Colonial Nesters at Cape Hatteras National Seashores.

Objectives:

- 1) Estimate colony site dynamics (extinction and colonization rates) of gulls and terns based on monitoring data collected by Cape Hatteras National Seashores over the last 11 years.
- 2) Estimate nest survival of Least, Common and Gull-billed Terns, and chick survival of Least Terns in Cape Hatteras National Seashores,
- 3) Estimate persistence of the local Least Tern population (CAHA) and evaluate the relative importance of factors influencing persistence and the trade-offs (risk/benefits) of selected management scenarios aimed at fostering persistence,
- 4) Develop a Structured-decision/Adaptive Management framework to enable managers to determine how and when to allocate financial resources aimed at monitoring colonial nesters and enhance populations.

*(See attached file: JamieColonialNestingPROPOSAL09.doc)*

**Next steps:**

Convene the ad hoc Technical Committee again within the next 2 weeks to further develop ideas and opportunities and report back to the full Outer Banks Waterbird Group in early January 2010.

**John**

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JamieColonialNestingPROPOSAL09.doc

