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From: [Britta Muiznieks](mailto:Britta_Muiznieks@fws.gov)
To: [Howard Hall@fws.gov](mailto:Howard_Hall@fws.gov); [Pete Benjamin@fws.gov](mailto:Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov); [Sandra Allred](mailto:Sandra_Allred@fws.gov); [Sandy MacPherson](mailto:Sandy_MacPherson@fws.gov); [Mike Murray](mailto:Mike_Murray@fws.gov)
Cc: matt.godfrey@ncwildlife.org; shsmith@louisberger.com; [Thayer Brolli](mailto:Thayer_Brolli@fws.gov); [Paul Stevens](mailto:Paul_Stevens@fws.gov); [Michelle Bogardus](mailto:Michelle_Bogardus@fws.gov); [Kenny Ballance](mailto:Kenny_Ballance@fws.gov)
Subject: Turtle death at Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Date: 06/24/2010 05:17 PM

In addition to the phone calls that have already been made, Mike Murray wanted me to make sure that there was a paper trail of our notification of the Loggerhead "take" on Ocracoke Island in accordance with the Reporting Requirements of our Biological Opinion. The following paragraphs and pictures are going to appear in our Weekly Resource Management Report (06232010 CAHA Resource Mgmt Summary for June 17-June 23, 2010).

In the night-time hours between 6/23 and 6/24 a loggerhead sea turtle crawled out of the ocean and attempted to lay a nest between Ramp 70 and 72 on Ocracoke Island. While heading up the beach, the turtle was hit by an ORV and dragged approximately 12 feet. The animal was found dead with extreme injuries to the carapace and plastron by turtle patrol at 6:10 am on 6/24. LE was notified and has investigated the incident. This incident is believed to have occurred during the early morning hours of 6/24 during the time when night-driving regulations are in place. Eggs from the turtle were deemed to be potentially viable and were moved to a nest location at the toe of the dune. The turtle will be necropsied by NPS staff on 6/25.



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At 6:52 am on the same day as the above documented “take” of the nesting loggerhead, a nest that was laid just south of Ramp 70 on Ocracoke Island was found to have been driven over by an ORV (or possibly multiple ORVs). Twelve eggs were crushed. The nest was relocated to a new location due to the impacts of the ORV(s). It is unknown when this incident occurred or whether or not the ORV that hit it was in violation of night-driving regulations.

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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▼ Howard_Hall@fws.gov

Howard_Hall@fws.gov

06/24/2010 03:50 PM

To: britta_muiznieks@nps.gov
cc: Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov, matt.godfrey@ncwildlife.org
Subject: Fw: Turtle death at Hatteras

Britta,

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I appreciate your call this morning about the sea turtle death and nest damage on Ocracoke. Shortly after your call, I saw Sandra Allred, our LE officer, and passed along your information. She had not heard about these incidents. However, she was preparing to leave for the Gulf Coast this morning. I'm not sure how long she will be gone, but deployments generally range from two weeks to a month.

She may be able to coordinate appropriate actions while on deployment, but I wanted you to know that she is now on travel and may be out-of-state for some time.

Best regards,

Howard

Howard F. Hall
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Ecological Services
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----- Forwarded by Howard Hall/R4/FWS/DOI on 06/24/2010 03:39 PM -----

**Pete
Benjamin/R4/FWS/DOI**

06/24/2010 12:33 PM To "Godfrey, Matthew H" <matt.godfrey@ncwildlife.org>
cc Sandra Allred/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS, Sandy MacPherson/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS, Howard
Hall/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS
Subject Re: Turtle death at Hatteras [Link](#)

Thank you Matthew. By copy of this, I am also notifying our law enforcement agent Sandra Allred.

Pete Benjamin
Field Supervisor
Raleigh Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(919) 856-4520 x 11

"Godfrey, Matthew H" <matt.godfrey@ncwildlife.org>

06/24/2010 09:47 AM

To "Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov" <Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov>
cc
Subject Turtle death at Hatteras

Hi Pete,

I had a call from Michelle Bogardus from Cape Hatteras NPS this morning (6:30am) that during their morning patrol, they found a dead adult female on the beach that had been hit by a vehicle. It was not a stranded turtle because there were tracks of the turtle crawling out of the water, up the beach to the spot where she was hit. They found it at 6:10am, but it probably happened before then (i.e. prior to the official start time for ORV driving on Hatteras). The turtle was dead when they found her, and she had not nested yet – there were shelled eggs still in her body cavity (plus unshelled eggs that would have been a subsequent clutch). I encouraged them to put the shelled eggs in an artificial nest – chances are fairly good that they eggs are still viable. Apparently, the tracks from the vehicle that hit the turtle also went over a separate freshly laid nest and crushed several eggs in that nest.

Anyway, I wanted to let you know about this. I also notified Sandy MacPherson in Jacksonville.

Best,

Matthew

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