

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Sandra Hamilton](#)
Cc: [Doug Wetmore](#)
Subject: Fw: Desired Future Conditions
Date: 08/30/2010 12:09 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT_Desired_conditions_CWB_20100603.docx](#)
[CWB_NC_CAHA_nest_counts.xlsx](#)

Sandy,

We were fine with Tim's suggested change for CWB DFCs (as he suggested in message below). We discussed it during the June 10-11 meeting and agreed to go with his numbers for CWB. We also agreed to stick with 15/30 prs for PIPL (not 60 prs as suggested by some comments).

(from the final meeting notes)

6. Desired future conditions (DFC) for CWB

Perceived as too low by environmental groups, since it is based on historically low nest results since 2007. DFC did not consider longer-term data including years with higher numbers of nests (only considered data from 2007 forward).

OBJECTIVE: Revisit the DFC for CWB. If possible, come up with a more ambitious DFC based on longer term data, provided the DFC is realistic.

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION:

Reconsider an earlier draft DFC that was based on the longer-term data (number of nests in the park as an average percentage of the number of nests in the state for same species); or

Consider a DFC based on incremental restoration of number of nests to a target based on the long-term data.

Correspondence ID 13438: DFC for PIPL should be 60 pairs.

Correspondence ID 13279: DFC for PIPL should be less than 30 pairs. Fourteen-year-old study is no longer valid.

Group Discussion: Tim responded to this Monday via email. Use revised numbers: ambitious, but offers more protection (CWB). Current habitat could support 60 pairs? Recovery Plan identifies population at 30 pairs. No good scientific basis for 60 or less than 30. Fifteen is the highest ever recorded, so possibly short-term target. The capacity is listed in appendix B as 30.

Decision: NPS is comfortable with the current numbers included in the plan.

Mike Murray
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 08/30/2010 12:59 PM -----

**Timothy
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS**

06/03/2010 09:16 AM

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug
Wetmore/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Thayer
Broilli/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject Re: Desired Future Conditions

Mike,

Here is an attempt to identify ambitious, and hopefully realistic, goals for CWB nests at CAHA. My approach was similar to the table proposed on 9/22/09, except that instead of basing the long-term targets on the percentage of CAHA nests relative to the NC total, I based the long-term targets on the 1977 and 1983 nest counts at CAHA. The 2007 NCWRC CWB report specifically identified this statewide goal: "to maintain breeding populations at or near 1977-1983 levels." The exception for this target is least terns, which are currently nesting in greater numbers than 1977 and 1983. For least terns, I propose a long-term target to maintain a 5-year average count equal to the 2009 peak count.

--Tim



DRAFT_Desired_conditions_CWB_20100603.docx CWB_NC_CAHA_nest counts.xlsx

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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
 Murray/CAHA/NPS**

05/21/2010 12:56 PM

To Sherri Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS
 cc Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Doug
 Wetmore/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Thayer
 Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta
 Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Timothy
 Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS
 Subject Desired Future Conditions

Sherri,

Among the comments we received about the DEIS was a concern that the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for colonial waterbirds (CWB) was too low because it was based on only data from 2007 forward, which have been historically low years for several of the CWB species. The commenters suggested it would be more appropriate to consider basing the DFCs on the longer term data for CWB (available in the DEIS and from NCWRC), even if there are concerns about data collection methodology and consistency over the years (it is still the best available information).

We would like to re-consider the DFC for CWB, come up with one that is more ambitious (but hopefully still realistic) and see if it would make sense to base it on the longer term data. We'd like to request Tim's assistance in reviewing the attached information and drafting a revised DFC for CWB based on the longer term data. Note: Tim's has also been invited to participate June 10-11 in a discussion (which now is likely to be a conference call, rather than a park visit) of possible changes that we may want to make to the preferred alternative in deciding upon a "selected alternative" for the FEIS. It would be very helpful if we could have the draft revision of the CWB DFC in time for those discussions (it is but one of a number of issues in which we are contemplating changes or fine tuning).

Attached are the following: 1) final version of DFC in the DEIS; 2) earlier version of CWB DFC based on CAHA's % of NC nest totals for each species; and 3) NC vs. CAHA totals. In essence, there are two questions for Tim: 1) Should we reconsider using the 9/22/09 version of CWB DFC (which we dismissed previously as being unrealistic)? or 2) Is there a better approach for establishing the DFC that would still

be based on the longer term nesting data, such as having short and long-term targets based on restoring the long-term average # nests for each species?

We would appreciate Tim reviewing the material, proposing a new CWB DFC that is based on the long term data (and is more ambitious than what we used in the DEIS), then participating in the June 10-11 discussion on a variety of DEIS issues.

[attachment "CWB DFC.final.doc" deleted by Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS]
[attachment "DRAFT_Desired_conditions_CWB_20090922.docx" deleted by Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS] [attachment "CWB_NC_CAHA_nest counts.xlsx" deleted by Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS]

Thank you in advance for any assistance Tim can provide. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

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20100830

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Desired Future Conditions for Colonial Waterbirds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Variable	Short-term ¹ target	Long-term ² target	Source
Annual peak number of least tern nests	5-year average of 455 nests	5-year average of 577 nests	Long-term target equals 2009 peak count. Short-term target is mid-point between current average and long-term target.
Annual peak number of common tern nests	5-year average of 421 nests	5-year average of 783 nests	Goals of North Carolina's Waterbird Program: to maintain breeding populations at or near 1977-1983 levels (2007 NC CWB report, NCWRC)
Annual peak number of gull-billed tern nests	5-year average of 10 nests	5-year average of 17 nests	Goals of North Carolina's Waterbird Program: to maintain breeding populations at or near 1977-1983 levels (2007 NC CWB report, NCWRC)
Annual peak number of black skimmer nests	5-year average of 158 nests	5-year average of 291 nests	Goals of North Carolina's Waterbird Program: to maintain breeding populations at or near 1977-1983 levels (2007 NC CWB report, NCWRC)

¹Short-term means 10 years (two 5-year periodic review cycles after implementation of plan)

²Long-term means 20 years (four 5-year periodic review cycles after implementation of plan)

Short-term target is to achieve the mid-way point between the long-term target and the average of the 3 most recent data points from CAHA (2007 - 2009 counts).

Except for least terns, long-term target is to achieve 1977 – 1983 level of nesting at CAHA (average of 1977 and 1983 nest counts). These years are consistent with the basis for statewide goals identified by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (2007 CWB report, NCWRC). Least terns are currently nesting in greater numbers than the 1977 and 1983 nest counts; therefore, the long-term target is to maintain a 5-year average count equal to the 2009 peak count.

Species		07-09 average	midway to 77-83 target	77-83 target
least tern	CAHA	334	324	315
common tern	CAHA	60	421	783
gull-billed tern	CAHA	2	10	17
black skimmer	CAHA	25	158	291