

**From:** [Doug McGee](#)  
**To:** [Cyndy Holda](#)  
**Cc:** [Britta Muiznieks](#); [kmbythesea@charter.net](mailto:kmbythesea@charter.net); [Mike Murray](#); [Thayer Broili](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions regarding ramp 43 turtle nest  
**Date:** 09/20/2010 12:23 PM  
**Signed by:** CN=Doug McGee/OU=CAHA/O=NPS

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Cyndy,  
NH74, the nest S of Ramp 44 was laid 8/6, above the average high tide line, so was left in situ as required. It was over washed during Earl, but early enough in the incubation period not to be too badly effected. Prior to the storm surge from Igor, the nest was examined, determined to be still viable and relocated. Per the resource division's consultation with the state sea turtle biologist, a nest 35 days or older may be relocated in advance of a storm, but only as "straight back" as is permissible, based on the terrain. NH74's in situ location was ~.18 mi S of Ramp 44 and it was relocated to ~.13 mi S of Ramp 44.  
The corresponding way points are in situ site: 35.22738, -75.52763 ; relocation site:35.22860, -75.52801.

The nest at Ramp 43 has only been relocated once - in advance of Earl. From 35.23547,-75.52645 to 35.23555, -75.52740 If it had been left in place, it would still be a full beach closure and closed Ramp 43 per the Consent Decree for nests in the ground after 9/15. The same is true for the nest S of Ramp 44.

Doug McGee  
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▼ [Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Cyndy  
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

09/20/2010 11:40 AM

To: [kmbythesea@charter.net](mailto:kmbythesea@charter.net)  
cc: [Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS](mailto:Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS), [Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS](mailto:Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS), [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS](mailto:Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS), [Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS](mailto:Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS)  
Subject: Questions regarding ramp 43 turtle nest

Kevin,  
As a reminder, NPS continues to manage sea turtle nests under the Interim Strategy, as modified by the Consent Decree. Our procedures are based on the North Carolina sea turtle handbook, reviewed and concurred with by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and implemented in coordination with NC Wildlife Resource Commission sea turtle staff. After discussing your questions with the Seashore's Resources Management staff, I found that there are several turtle nests located between Ramp 43 and Ramp 44:

1) Nest #48 hatched on September 6. It was the initial reason for the current buffer

expansion in the area between Ramp 43 and 44.

2) Nest #67 hatched on Sunday, September 19th.

3) Nest #50 is also located in the same closure area. It was laid on July 19 and is now 62 days old and expected to hatch soon. #50 was originally laid in "the narrows" (the area located several tenths of a mile south of Ramp 44), but was relocated to its current location. The relocation policy is to move the nests in close proximity to where the original nest was laid, to the extent possible, but to an area that is relatively less prone to overwash. For nest # 50, the area between Ramp 43 and Ramp 44 provided a place to move the nest in proximity to its original site.

4) Nest #80 is also in the same area between Ramp 43 and Ramp 44. If it survives, it is expected to be a late season hatch....mid-October.

▼ [Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS](mailto:Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov)

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▼ ["Kim Mosher" <kmbythesea@charter.net>](mailto:kmbythesea@charter.net)

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cc

09/19/2010 09:07 AM

Subject ramp 43 turtle nest

Hello Cyndy, Kevin here. Yesterday, September 18th, I took a representative from CNN out to the salt pond to show him what a piping plover looked like. We saw two since they are usually there. On the way back I noticed a sign at ramp 43 that said it was closed. I thought it would be pretty late in the season for a new turtle nest. I then went over the dune and saw that the a turtle nest was relocated within 40 feet of the ramp essentially shutting it down. They were also putting up the "runway" which should be gone by tonight with the 15 ft swell that most everyone saw coming. I called Mike and asked him about it but got no answer. The fellow I was with could not believe it either and asked lots of questions about other issues in the Park. My question is why did Damien relocate a nest right there? Why, like the others was it not moved from day one? There was another nest south of ramp 44 that was also moved. It already went underwater once. It seems to me that the operations in Manteo are way out of touch with what is going on down here. On a daily basis I see less and less common sense within my National Park. A very large majority of people feel the same way. I'm also beginning to wonder about the integrity of some of the bio-tecs and I feel there should be outside observance monitoring some of their operations. Please don't get me wrong, I know quite a few Parks employees and have been friends with lots of them for many years. Sadly, several feel just like I do. I hope somebody can come with some answers to my questions. Tomorrow I will ask the

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same questions to correspondences in Atlanta. Remember, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational area belongs to the American people and it needs to be managed correctly for the enjoyment of people. Thanks, Kevin. [attachment "Relocated Turtle Nest Sept 18, 2010 012.jpg" deleted by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS]