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From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
Subject: Fw: Hardham response
Date: 10/05/2010 12:42 PM
Attachments: [Hardham Response.docx](#)

Here it is. The only potential change I would suggest is to not "lay off" the recreational access issue on FWS which seems to be done just a little bit in the first paragraph.

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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 10/05/2010 12:33 PM -----

Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS
To: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc
10/05/2010 12:14 PM Subject: Hardham response

Thayer-
I don't know why the first draft did not make it to you but I know I sent it out on Thursday evening. Since I wasn't sure if I was going to make it in to work on Friday I worked on it from home on Thursday evening. Anyhow, here it is, short and to the point.



Hardham Response.docx

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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Dear Larry,

While we understand that you do not agree with our relocation practices, we stand behind our actions in response to Hurricane Earl and Hurricane Igor. We believe that late stage nests should be relocated to the closest suitable habitat which in this case meant the nests were relocated immediately behind the original nest site location closer to the dunes. When drafting the interim protected species management strategy and environmental assessment we had contemplated the relocation of nests that interfered with recreational access, however the feedback from the Fish and Wildlife Service was negative and the statement was removed from the final document. In a park where many nests have the potential impede ORV access it would be difficult to biologically justify the relocation of nests to areas where they would be less disruptive to ORV traffic.

We did consult with Matthew Godfrey prior to relocating some of our late stage nests that were threatened with inundation during the recent storm events. He recommended only moving nests that were 35+ days into incubation. He gave two reasons for this recommendation. He recommended only relocating nests that were beyond the thermosensitive period for sexual differentiation (i.e. nests with 35+ days of incubation). Relocations after day 35 of incubation should not affect the sex ratio. Also, because there is a positive relationship between sensitivity to washover and incubation stage of embryos, the closer the embryos are to the end of incubation, the more likely they are to suffer mortality from excessive washover associated with tropical storms and hurricanes.

You also inquired about the temperature study which is still in progress. With the departure of Michelle Bogardus, analysis of some of the data has been delayed. We will let you know when the results of the study are published.