

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: COTE DFC's
Date: 10/05/2010 05:07 PM

Mike-

I've been struggling with the DFCs for CWBs for a while. In my opinion whatever numbers we come up with for short/long term targets is a WAG. As long as we show an increasing number in our short-term vs long term goal I think people will understand that we are trying to increase the number of nesting CWBs at the seashore. I understand that Tim Pinion wanted to create more optimistic recovery goals which is why he came up with the higher numbers based on historical counts. The lower goals you came up with below seem more realistic but they are not that different from what we had in the DEIS, at least for the short-term target. Did we receive comments that the targets were not ambitious enough? If there is not a specific reason as to why we need to change the DFCs, my vote is to stay with what we had in the DEIS.

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Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS

10/04/2010 10:32 AM

To: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: COTE DFC's

Britta,

Please take one last look at the CWB DFC's (from Chapter 1). The only one that seems totally unrealistic to me is the one for Common Terns (783), which is 200+ more than the annual total number of COTE nesting in ALL of NC since 2004! Would it make sense, be more realistic, adequately "ambitious", and scientifically defensible, if we were to keep the DFC as proposed for LETE, but revise the DFCs for COTE, GUTE and BLSK, so that we use the CAHA long-term average (1977 - 2009) from FEIS Table 30, instead of the currently proposed all-time high average (1977-1983) as the long-term goal, and the short-term goal would be halfway between the 2009 total and the long-term goal? The resulting numbers (see below) still seem ambitious, particularly the short-term goals, but the long-term goals seem more realistic to me. **Your thoughts? If you think "421" and "783" for COTE is possible, I can live with the rest as drafted. If you think the revised goals shown immediately below, based on the 1977-2009 average, would be better, then let's**

go with that.

Proposed New DFCs for CWBs

Species Short-term Long-term

LETE	455	577
COTE	246*	438**
GUTE	16*	32**
BLSK	130*	200**

*** Half-way between 2009 total and long-term average for CAHA**

**** Long-term avg for CAHA 1977-2009**

(current draft of FEIS) Table 5. Desired Future Conditions for Colonial Waterbirds

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 (NCWRC 2007).
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 (NCWRC 2007).
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 (NCWRC 2007).

FEIS Table 30. Numbers of Colonial Waterbird Nests at Cape Hatteras National

Black skimmer	976	797	743	1,084	819	570	681	594	623	555	744.2
Total	5,930	4,930	5,050	5,549	4,760	2,541	2,994	3,725	3,700	3,970	N/A

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