

From: [Doug McGee](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: please review
Date: 10/14/2010 11:08 AM
Signed by: CN=Doug McGee/OU=CAHA/O=NPS

Mike,

That looks good. I doubt that it's worth getting into with Larry, but we were unable to get any temp data for 2010 because the software we need to use with the data loggers isn't on an "approved software list". We hope to resume in 2011 and I am currently drafting an email to regional IT (Joycine Lowe) to see what steps are needed to get this scientific software added to the list.

Thanks

Doug McGee
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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

10/14/2010 10:44 AM Subject please review

Doug,

I've only recently had a chance to work on the response to Larry Hardham's letter. **Please look at latest version (see text below) and make any suggestions for changes.** As a reminder, the incoming letter commented negatively on the relocation of nests NH67 and NH74 because the new locations restricted ORV access, but the letter essentially asked two questions:

- Did the concept of moving only nests over 35 days (old) originate with NPS or was this initiated by NCWRC?
- What is the status of the temperature transect report?

(draft response)

Dear Larry,

This is in response to your September 22, 2010 letter concerning the relocation of several turtle nests (NH67 and NH74) in the vicinity of Ramps 43 and 44 prior to approaching storms. I regret that people were upset by our actions; however, the

staff was following established procedures in consultation with staff from the NC Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC).

As background, please remember that under the Interim Strategy, as enforced by the consent decree, NPS resources management staff follows the nest management guidance in the NCWRC sea turtle handbook and the FWS Loggerhead Sea Turtle Recovery Plan, which is to allow nests to incubate at their original location if there is any reasonable likelihood of survival. Relocation of a nest is considered only as an option of last resort.

NPS resources management staff consulted with NCWRC staff prior to relocating any late stage nests that were threatened with inundation during the recent storm events. The recommendation was to only move nests that were 35+ days into incubation and two reasons were given. First, nests with 35+ days of incubation are beyond the thermosensitive period for sexual differentiation (i.e., relocation after day 35 of incubation is unlikely to affect the sex ratio of the hatchlings). Second, 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.

I appreciate your continued interest in the management of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

(end of draft)

Thanks,

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