

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Fw: Sea turtle stranding response
Date: 12/03/2010 11:46 AM

Darrell,

See below. Let's be sure we continue to support this effort.

Thanks,

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 12/03/2010 11:45 AM -----

Larisa Avens
<Larisa.Avens@noaa.gov> To thayer_broili@nps.gov
cc mike_murray@nps.gov
12/03/2010 10:59 AM Subject Sea turtle stranding response

Dear Mr. Broili:

I am writing on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service's National Sea Turtle Aging Laboratory to support continuation of monitoring for and collecting samples from stranded sea turtles in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Age-related data are essential for understanding sea turtle population dynamics and informing management strategies. However, this information is typically difficult to obtain from live turtles due to slow and highly variable growth rates, lack of external age-related characteristics, and the incredibly migratory life history exhibited by most sea turtle species. The focus of our laboratory's work is to refine and apply histological techniques to analyze growth marks in sea turtle bones to obtain information regarding growth rates, stage durations, and age at maturation for as many sea turtle species (and ideally, populations) as possible. This type of research would not be possible without access to large numbers of bones for analysis and samples obtained from Cape Hatteras National Seashore have contributed significantly to the laboratory's work. As a result, I want to take the opportunity to thank you and your staff for all of your efforts to date and express the hope that the monitoring and sample collection will continue.

If you have any additional questions regarding the samples collected for the Aging

Laboratory or the research we do, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 252-728-8747 or by e-mail at Larisa.Avens@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,
Larisa Avens, Ph.D.



Research Fishery Biologist
Protected Resources Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
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