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From: [Dennis Klemm](mailto:Dennis.Klemm@nps.gov)
To: thayer_brioli@nps.gov
Cc: mike_murray@nps.gov; [Matthew Godfrey](mailto:Matthew.Godfrey@nps.gov)
Subject: Sea turtle stranding monitoring at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Date: 12/13/2010 03:03 PM
Attachments: [Dennis_Klemm.vcf](#)

Hello Mr. Brioli,

On behalf of the Protected Resources Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, I would like to thank you and those in your agency for the valuable work you do to assist with monitoring North Carolina beaches for sea turtle strandings. The regular patrolling of Cape Hatteras National Seashore by the National Park Service (NPS) has provided important stranding information in areas adjacent to various fishery activities that are either known, or have the potential, to take sea turtles. Having consistent monitoring provides important information on stranding levels, as well as changes in stranding patterns as fishery seasons begin and end, thus allowing us to better understand the link between the prosecution of fisheries and sea turtle strandings. Likewise, regular monitoring of those areas is important both detecting the onset of cold stunning events as well as determining the scope of the events. Stranding data also provides valuable insights into the distribution of, and impacts to, different size classes between seasons and over time. Consistent and thorough stranding reports throughout the seasons comprise one of the most important data sources that we have in our tool set, and are used extensively in management decision making.

It is my understanding that there are discussions in your agency about potentially stopping or heavily curtailing the monitoring patrols through the fall season. With the acknowledgment that manpower and funding are issues that all of the federal agencies must consider when setting priorities, I would ask that NPS continue with the heightened level of monitoring that you have been conducting given the value and importance of the data obtained.

Thank you again for the important work you do in support of sea turtle conservation.

Sincerely,

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Dennis L. Klemm
Sea Turtle Coordinator
Protected Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office (SERO)
National Marine Fisheries Service- NOAA
Dennis.Klemm@noaa.gov
727 824-5312