

0031973

From: [Cyndy Holda](mailto:Cyndy_Holda)
To: kmybythesea@charter.net
Bcc: [Mike Murray](mailto:Mike_Murray)
Subject: Turtle nest north of ramp 34
Date: 01/04/2012 08:41 AM

Kevin,

Mike asked me to respond to your message. After checking with Hatteras Island resource management staff I have the following information for you regarding the sea turtle nest north of Ramp 34.

For the past few months resources management staff have been checking late season turtle nests regularly (approximately weekly) for viable eggs and if viable eggs are found the nest protection is left in place to give the eggs a chance to hatch. As one might expect, hatch success for such nests is often less than 100%, but the hatching results can be better than you might expect. For example, the second-to-last remaining nest of the season, which was located 0.5 miles south of Ramp 38, was excavated on 11/28/2011. Even though no hatchlings had emerged from the nest cavity, 15 live hatchlings were found inside the nest cavity and were released into the water.

The nest 1.4 miles north of Ramp 34 has had viable eggs each time it was checked in December, including as recently as December 27. The nest was checked again yesterday morning (Jan 3), but no longer had viable eggs, so the nest was excavated and the closure removed. The results are not surprising given the late date, but the policy is to give the nest a chance to hatch as long as there are viable eggs present.

The nest has indeed been an anomaly and has sparked interest from many folks.

Cyndy M. Holda
Public Affairs Specialist
Cape Hatteras NS/Fort Raleigh NHS/Wright Brothers NM
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----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 01/04/2012 08:26 AM -----

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To: Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc

01/03/2012 04:27 PM

Subject: Fw: turtle nest north of ramp 34

Cyndy,

Please respond to Kevin.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 01/03/2012 04:26 PM -----

"Kim Mosher"
<kmbythesea@charter.net>

To <Mike_Murray@nps.gov>
cc

01/02/2012 11:03 AM

Subject turtle nest north of ramp 34

January 2, 2012

Hello Mike,

Kevin Mc Cabe here. Hope you had a good Christmas and a Happy 2012. I'm writing in regards to the turtle nest north of ramp 34. Yesterday I met an elderly gentleman on the beach by the nest. He asked me several questions about the nest and the Park. He said he worked for Dupont as a biologist and at a state park in NJ. One statement that he said stuck into my mind. He said "It's embarrassing that my National Park would think a turtle nest would hatch in January. With air temperatures in the 30's and the water temperatures at 55, does somebody really think there's a chance a hatchling would make it?" Mike, I went out of my way years ago to study sea turtles in Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Indonesia. I also find this absolutely embarrassing. I suggest dig it up before someone puts this in national headlines. Thanks for your help in the past.

Sincerely, Kevin Mc Cabe

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