



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Wright Brothers National Memorial

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, NC 27954

252-473-2111



L76 (CAHA)

December 10, 2007

Mr. Pete Benjamin, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Field Office
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

The following is a summary of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore's 2007 breeding season results related to the performance measures identified in the amended Biological Opinion for the CAHA Interim Protected Species Management Strategy.

Piping Plovers

- 1.a. Six breeding pairs of piping plovers were found on the Seashore surpassing the minimum target of 4 breeding pairs per year.
- 1.b. All six breeding pairs produced eleven known nests surpassing the target of 4.5 nests per pair (75% of the six breeding pairs).
- 1.c. The eleven nests resulted in four chicks fledged, which is below the target of producing on average one fledged chick per nest per year. This result triggers the need to reinitiate consultation.

Sea Turtles

- 1.a. A total of 82 nests (73 loggerhead, 8 green, 1 leatherback) were found during early morning nest searches resulting in greater than 10% of the State's total annual nesting numbers (based on previous five years' State-wide nesting average of 680; 10% of 680=68).
- 1.b. In 2007 we documented 110 false crawls and 82 nests resulting in a 1.34: 1 false crawl to nest ratio, which exceeds the target ratio of 1.3: 1 annually. This result triggers the need to reinitiate consultation.

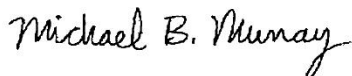


As discussed during our meeting on December 3, 2007, based on the above described performance measures we request the re-initiation of formal consultation on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's amended Biological and Conference Opinion, dated April 24, 2007. That document amended the original Biological Opinion (dated August 14, 2006) to include performance measures for the piping plover and sea turtles. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, re-initiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary NPS involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if the amount or extent of incidental take for breeding piping plovers or nesting sea turtles is exceeded.

As required under the reporting requirements of the biological opinion, the annual reports will be submitted to your office on or before January 31, 2007. These reports will contain detailed observations and data related to the breeding season and provide additional basis for evaluation of 2007 breeding season performance.

If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact Wildlife Biologist Britta Muiznieks at (252) 995-3740.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Murray
Superintendent

cc:
CAHA Chief Resource Management
CAHA Wildlife Biologist