

0074279

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: tarwathie@clis.com
Cc: rcmheritage3@yahoo.com; [Cyndy Holda](#)
Subject: Fw: REG/NEG Team Membership
Date: 05/25/2007 05:20 PM

Good question Dwight. I checked with the neutral team, who did the feasibility assessment, on whether there was consideration for a "turtle group." The response was that, although there are some volunteer "turtle watch" groups in other parts of NC that help monitor turtle nests, no group emerged with a policy perspective solely on sea turtle management. Sea turtles are well represented by a variety of the stakeholders. NC Wildlife Resources Commission have expertise and authority over sea turtle management (CAHA follows their "handbook for sea turtle volunteers" as our guidance), Fish & Wildlife Service has regulatory oversight authority for sea turtles once they come ashore (e.g., to nest), Defenders of Wildlife has consistently included sea turtle concerns in their comments (e.g., on the interim strategy), and the two Anglers Club representatives have been or are devoted sea turtle volunteers.

As a practical matter, protecting sea turtle nests is relatively straightforward and noncontroversial (the closures are small and rarely restrict access, and then only briefly if they do), which may be why it hasn't come up for much discussion yet. The sea turtle-related issue that will generate the most debate will be "light management" (light from structures both in the Seashore and in the villages; and from night driving). Some areas that have sea turtle nesting establish special light standards and/or prohibit night driving on the beach to minimize light disorientation of females laying eggs and/or of hatchlings when they emerge. It is believed that turtles orient and find the water based on the relatively lighter contrast of the surf line compared to the sky or horizon, and can be confused if/when artificial lights are prevalent (i.e., they will head toward the lightest horizon, which could be the light from a building, a campfire, a vehicle, etc.).

Hope this answers your question. Have a good weekend!

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 05/25/2007 03:57 PM -----

**Cyndy
Holda**

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
CC:
Subject: Fw: REG/NEG Team Membership

05/24/2007
12:17 PM
EDT

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----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 05/24/2007 12:16 PM -----

**Karen & Dwight
Rettie**
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To: CAHA_Superintendent@nps.gov
cc: Rob Milne <rcmheritage3@yahoo.com>
Subject: REG/NEG Team Membership

05/24/2007 12:03 PM
AST

Mike:

As I was reflecting on our sessions the last two days, it dawned on me that there is one set of interests that received almost no mention whatever, during either of the two two-day sessions: turtles.

As best I understand the membership of the 28-member group, there is no group or representative specifically representing turtles among the range of interests. I may be mistaken, in which case, please correct me.

If that resource is under- or not represented, I think something needs to be done to plug that gap. If some other broader group is intended to include turtles, that's fine. The materials put together identifying the participants needs to make that explicit, I think. I would hope there might be someone locally or familiar with the CAHA situation.

Segue.

I found the session just completed both interesting and useful. I particularly found the time in the field helpful because it was my first experience seeing the shore bird habitat. Later on Tuesday, both Rob and I had an opportunity to see an Oystercatcher nest and a Piping Plover on the beach, thanks to Sidney Maddock. Wonderful!

Thank you and to all your people who helped make the session productive!

Dwight