

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Michelle Baker](#)
Cc: david_rabon@fws.gov; Sandy_MacPherson@fws.gov; [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Thayer Broili](#); [Darrell Echols](#); [Sandra Hamilton](#)
Subject: Re: Sea turtle information
Date: 11/21/2008 08:50 AM

Thanks Michelle.

In the past the Committee has had a negative reaction to websites that are perceived as "advocacy" oriented (e.g., the AMOY working group website, etc.), which is what www.seaturtle.org appears to be to me. Ideally, I'd like to identify just one site with the best reference library of scientific literature on sea turtles. The Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at University of Florida seemed to fit that bill, but I didn't know if the sea turtle community considered some other site to be the best source of reference material.

With regard to what we can do to help some of the Committee members better understand the night driving concerns, conceptually I think it would be worthwhile if the park could pull together an executive 5-year summary of CAHA sea turtle report data that includes a trend analysis of Nesting, Hatching, False Crawls (with break down of false crawls in areas open vs closed to ORVs, etc.), Closure Violations, and Take Incidents (also with a list or summary of the latter).

Most of this information is already in the annual sea turtle reports, but it might help shed some light on the trends if there were a more deliberate analysis of data over time. Five years may be a manageable number of years to analyze and could help inform decisions about key management questions (e.g., do we have significantly more false crawls in areas open to ORVs?). We have annual information, which seems to vary year-to-year (e.g., false crawls in the Cape Point prenesting areas in 2007), but we cannot really draw any conclusions from one year's worth of data. I don't know enough about the subject to give you precise advice on exactly how to do this. Obviously, most of this information is already in the annual reports and we will still need to do the annual reports (BO requirement and a good practice regardless). However, I think it would be better for us to try to identify the mid-to-longer term trends that are not quite revealed by annual report data listed in a table, rather than have to solely react to stakeholders' analysis and interpretation of our own data (e.g., the assertions about locations where nests are frequently lost).

I am not suggesting a massive data analysis effort, but a very selective efficient effort to highlight the key issues. I am suggesting that we copy and paste information and data from the past 5 years of reports and do some basic graphing of data over time to show what the trends are (e.g., Are false crawls increasing or decreasing? Is the percentage of false crawls in ORV areas vs. non-ORV areas different and statistically predictable or not?). Perhaps we could simply add a section to this year's (2008) sea turtle report - call it "5-year Trend Analysis" and plot out 5-years worth of data (or whatever time period the experts recommend) for each of the topics identified above, rather than just having the usual tables showing the data. My suggestion would be to talk with Britta and David Rabon about what data categories would be most worthwhile to do this for (some is biologically important to know, some is important for sociological or public information reasons); and how this might be done in a labor efficient manor. If it were a regular part of the annual report (e.g., updated each year based on the most recent 5-year period), rather than a 1-time executive summary in response to the Committee's interests,

then it would help inform future management decisions, especially if we end up with some form of adaptive management program based on longer-term trends.

I would appreciate being kept informed about the discussion as it evolves (i.e., how will we approach this?), since the Committee clearly has an appetite for more information about sea turtles at CAHA. I'd rather be proactive and provide what we think is the most relevant information, rather than rely on stakeholders to do it.

Thanks again,

Mike Murray
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▼ Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS

**Michelle
Baker/CAHA/NPS**

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Sandy_MacPherson@fws.gov, david_rabon@fws.gov

11/20/2008 07:11 PM

Subject Re: Sea turtle information 

Mike,

I am sorry for the delay in response - I have been in a training all week. I think you have identified two very good sites that can help the reg-neg committee. I have used both sites myself and found them very helpful. The one site that I would add is www.seaturtle.org. This site is a bit harder to navigate, but is an excellent source of information in all aspects of sea turtle biology and management. CAHA also contributes to the data on the site so members can see information that is specific to North Carolina and Cape Hatteras.

If you think that it would help, I certainly do not mind having a more structured sit down with the committee so that they can get a better understanding of our current management practices. I cannot address some of the large concepts that FWS presented, but I may be able to give the group a better understanding of exactly what we do (and why we do it) at CAHA. Whatever you think is best.

Thanks,

Michelle

-----Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS wrote: -----

To: Sandy_MacPherson@fws.gov
From: Mike Murray/CACO/NPS
Sent by: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS
Date: 11/19/2008 01:56PM
cc: david_rabon@fws.gov, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Sea turtle information

Hi Sandy,

Thank you again for your help at the regulatory negotiation committee meeting last week. The Committee is interested in additional information on sea turtles. I've identified the following websites as sources of information. Could you please advise if these are good sources of information to provide to the Committee, or do you recommend some other source(s)?

Searchable on-line bibliography on sea turtle literature, maintained by the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at University of Florida:

<http://st.cits.fcla.edu/cgi-bin/wlv4/DBST>

State of Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission website on sea turtle lighting:

<http://myfwc.com/seaturtle>

Thanks,

Mike