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12/4/08

Natural Resources call

- ~~David Palan~~ ✓ Judy
- ✓ David Palan ✓ Bob Eakes ✓ Dwight
- ✓ Larry H ✓ Jason R. ✓ Bob Davis
- ✓ Carla ✓ Michelle ✓ Sandy
- ✓ David Allen ✓ Ona ✓ Britta Musnick
- ✓ Mike ✓ Thayer ✓ Dave Allen
- ✓ Walker

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25 Cape Pt, 10 @ Hatteras Inlet (wanted #)

- May 1 - Sept 15: special use permits for night fishing, park, 2 areas,
- Sept 15 - Nov 15: [decide on areas to be opened to dining when beach is clear of turtles. night dining allowed w/ ORY permit] special use permits in these 2 places

- working on this document
- Mike can refine

Next Mtg weds 12/10 2-5 OBVB

- A. Monitoring / baseline mgt for sea turtles
  - ① May 1 - Sept 15 (30 min)
  - ② Sept 15 - Nov 1 (30 min)
- ③ B. Adaptive Mgt (30 min)

Round Robin on Park's idea  
- good or concerns/questions

- ① like/don't
- ② questions

① May 1 - Sept 15

D Allen: like proposal

Carla: like proposal structure

don't like vehicle limit numbers, did research

wants to present + hear justification of the #s

walker: concern of implementation. LE officer

~~these areas are allowed by night~~ @ Cape Pt + Hatteras

all night? Cost? Doable?

These become camping areas by permit.

Larry H: where dates came from! esp Sept 15 date

need to hear from Ocracoke

# vehicles - need rationale

Dwight: all good

Jason R: agree w/ a lot, agree on dates,

question night fishing May 1 - Sept 15: hurt turtles?

wouldn't support #s higher

OK after Sept 15

Judy S: not in agreement. no evidence that night

dining hurts turtles

- David R
- Larry H
- Carla B
- Mike M NPS
- Thayer B NPS
- Jason R
- Michelle NPS
- Dwight R
- Bob Davis
- Sandy H NPS
- Britta NPS
- Dave Allen
- Walker G
- Judy S
- Bob Eakes

→ why justified?

- A # vehicles limit  
 B enforcement resources  
 C camping  
 D dates  
 E Ocaricoke  
 F lighting

Per MM:

- D-dates: May 15-Aug 1 dates selected in interim plan. Consultation process... → thought not miss turtles, so Δed to May 1 - Sept 15 (expand for monitoring), so we think those are appropriate dates for turtle nesting season

A cont: based on rangers' judgment. Open to negotiating, but want to know who has permits + to let us count

← A → # vehicles - don't have good data. Talked w/ rangers to come up w/ reasonable #. Hatteras Inlet has some spatial limitation. Having a limit is essential to our ability to manage, because... ↓ & b/c will know who is there, can spot check, count vehicles etc.

C. camping - manageable to allow night access, so can't say no napping. But this is limited opp'ty, so required toilet facility.

B. don't expect to have law enf there nightly, so w/ permit edc required, expect high compliance as seen elsewhere. Give users the benefit of doubt. They'll comply if have permit.

Night-to-night, vs widespread camping, so we can manage it.

F. lighting - pulled info from current night permits. Goal = minimize strong lanterns casting 360° lights.

<sup>Judy S.</sup> Q: why pets prohibited? MM: so consistent w/ daylight restrictions.

Suggestions for improving lighting?

<sup>Lamy</sup> Comment: limited area. Turtles don't go to those turtles anyway.  
 MM - that's why we chase them

<sup>Lamy H.</sup> (D) don't see Sept 15 capturing more turtles than Sept 1

David A: true, most of egg laying done end of Aug, but may not have some eggs from some years in September. MM: hard to know

walker: Sept 15 = standard for NC, couldn't be sooner

David R: NPS proposal is good. Don't have full data

time frame good. Through adaptive mgt could explore <sup>to dates</sup> alternative, need specific OS. studies design. + control

③

Q: Carla: why no permit for Ocracoke? MM: b/c under Alt E of NPR alternatives, high likelihood that area closed for bird reasons by May 1, when night diving would ~~kill~~ <sup>kill in</sup> <sup>South Pt</sup>

Q: Carla: but maybe include Bodie Island + Ocracoke since bird closure can always overlay? MM: anything is poss. The more sites for night fishing, the harder to manage. On BI + Ocracoke, might open a few wks early in fall

MM: ped access goal = no night use restrictions in places where people usually walk over (like villages), not to suggest they can get all way out to Cape Pt.

### Dates

① Aug ~~20~~<sup>24</sup> = last nest found in 2008  
per Michelle

walker - sea turtle experts Sept 15

D. Allen - dates in NC doc? need to look up. (state has dates on monitoring for new nests)  
L Hardham doesn't see date. Evidence from state? D. Allen will look. ↑

• Bob E: can't close @ May 1 if no turtle until June 3.

• sea turtle activity post Sept 1 in the area (Pea Island?) 2008 are recorded (Sept ~~Dec~~ 9 nest, not hatched)

Michelle: some nests can be viable, laid in Aug, may hatch in Dec.

debate abt what's a viable nest + what matters (B. Eakes/walker etc.)

Q from MM: are dates for monitoring <sup>necessarily</sup> ~~the~~ same as dates for night diving?

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### A. Number of Vehicles

Carla's approach: ① take geog area, determine distance among vehicles, & see could it fit more?

② how many vehicles fish beach in June @ those 2 locations typically?

want to be rational. If typically 50 vehicles on Cape Pt @ night + allowing 10, diff from if typically 100 & allowing 10.

③ ecological <sup>spectro</sup> carrying capacity in those 2 areas?  
know many turtles could that area support?

A. # of vehicles cont

MM: historic incidents of sea turtle nests in those locations is low.

Route = spur road (sound side - no nesting)

don't have data on # ppl fishing overnight

under consent decree don't have a 'park + stay' provision

now high rate of compliance w/ night driving restriction now  
traffic counters, spot checks,

need reasonable limit to manage to know who is out there each night

know # of vehicles there @ night

can count again in morning.

my Q: how many will do this if there is the opp'ty?  
(park all night to fish)

Bob E: Cape Pt, good drum night, 75 100 vehicles 100x50 yards max  
(nd be only 1-2 nights/wk) THIS REC tightly packed  
Hatteras - 30-40 vehicles away from shore.

area accessible by sound side, don't impact turtle

permits

Carla B: establishing higher # than 25 or 10 can alleviate  
other probs, like issuing it one night at a time. How work?

• locals could take all of them

but if no fish biting, stay out, but can't go out other nights...

Pat F: 1st come & reserve in advance?

Mike M: possible. On CACO, set aside daily + weekly permits.

slippery slope. want it to be simple to administer.

Probs like have permits they don't use.

want everyone to have a shot at getting a permit.

day to day permit goes to motivated people

Carla B: Could people who want passive recreation/ don't want to  
drive on beach take but not use the permits?

MM: I assume ppl will do the right thing + won't do that.

## D Dates:

- what is trigger start date by first turtle behavior rather than fixed date
- D Allen - could be April then
  - drivers don't know what to expect
- B Eaker - don't use 1 turtle as trigger, wait until we have 10 signs of turtle behavior, so avoid premature closures
- LH - 857 nests, 7 prior to May 20 < 1% walker - only 7 you know of, b/c monitoring hadn't started

## Pat summary: dates

(summer issues - need rationale)

#

enforcement / monitoring adequate?

• Sept 15 - Nov 15:

allow night driving if no impact

on places where impact, driving during day + park all night option possible

Response to Sept 15 - Nov 15

Larry H: no prob. Think Nov 15 date unrec (too late)

David Allen: OK for Sept 15 - Nov 15 section

for adaptive mgt, you are also evaluating known takes

Carla B: don't understand:

Sept 16, ~~allow permit system to work~~

need clarity on which points + splits + how it works

Walker: Dates good.

Why no lighting restrictions?

Know enough abt effectiveness of filter fences in shielding light from hatchlings

&amp; how manage if problems from light arise?

D Allen: filter fences block light from behind, but vehicles beside the nest

David A: need clarity on permit / edc for night driving / lighting

MM: want it in the <sup>gen</sup> permit.~~Why~~ Judy S: why nec? go around nests anyway. already protect nests

Bob Eaker: timing arbitrary. 7am = too late. Sun up ~ 5am!

Why nec? Too much fingerpointing. Too much abt making mgt easier rather than letting users enjoy it.



MM re: times of <sup>night</sup> dining: AM - start w/ turtle patrol before allowing people onto the beach. want predictable.

B takes cont - like concept of alt routes if needed

Dwight - no problems

very convinced Mike needs simple regs to enforce.

it will of course sometimes seem arbitrary, but lets just choose best dates, esp if used by other jurisdic

### Pat F wrap up

next: 2pm weds OBVB, call in # same

- turtles
- ~~bird~~ opening dates
- alternative E + spitz (points details)

Dwight: neither Rob nor he will be at dec mtg  
he'll submit any concerns via email