

**Draft Document for Discussion Purposes Only
Does not Represent Agreement**

**Adaptive Management Proposal during Sea Turtle Nesting and
Hatching Season
Morning Beach Access Reopening**

1. Early morning monitoring will be done in the most effective and efficient fashion possible. This may include: an initial sweep for marking of new nests and false crawls followed by a second sweep for detailed fencing, more permanent protections, etc.; beginning patrols at first twilight; and so forth.
2. Areas of beach shall be cleared by a turtle patrol prior to allowing ORV morning access during night driving restriction periods.
3. The beach shall be cleared as early as possible by the turtle patrol -- which may be as early as sunrise -- in order to allow natural resource protection, monitoring and ORV access.
4. The turtle patrols will prioritize for first patrols those areas that are currently open to ORV access, and as necessary, further prioritize those open areas within the spits and points.
5. Signaling of some kind shall be established at ORV access ramps to indicate if the beach is closed. This may be signage, traffic-light lights, or so forth.
6. The Park shall seek, in partnership with the NCWC, Dare County, and a volunteers program to provide for at least 8 separate turtle patrols per day during the turtle-nesting season.
7. Over time, the extensive data collected through this intensive monitoring program may help establish more consistent and predictable times for opening beach to ORV access via times of day or specific relationships to sunrise, twilight, or other natural limits.
8. The NPS will seek to implement this approach in the 2009 season.
9. For the period night driving restrictions are driven primarily by hatching rather than nesting (DATE TO BE DETERMINED, but some time on or after 31 August), monitoring shall include .