

**Draft Subcommittee Document for Discussion Purposes Only
Does not Represent Agreement
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Reducing or Removing Natural Resource Bird Breeding Closures prior to August 31

Summary

- Natural resource closures for breeding birds within specific areas of the Park can be opened for recreational activities prior to August 31 and as early as 31 July as long as breeding and nesting activities have ended for the season.

Details

- Natural resource closures for bird breeding and nesting protections may be reduced or removed as early as July 31 in the locations designated below where they are already designated as ORV routes and areas.
- Areas designated include Cape Point, Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Inlet, North Ocracoke, South Ocracoke, and [South Beach?].
- These designated areas will be periodically reviewed due to the dynamic nature of the beach and the possibility that such areas may increase or decrease in habitat value over time.
- The area shall be open if no breeding activity, unfledged chicks (i.e. definition of fledged chicks as determined by NPS policy), or black skimmer breeding and nesting activity is identified within the previous two weeks. Breeding and nesting activity is further defined in the NPS alternatives Resource Tables.
- Monitoring shall occur daily for the seven (7) days prior to reducing or removing closures to detect the presence of unfledged chicks or other nesting activity.
- Interior areas suitable for breeding and nesting habitat may remain closed until August 31 (i.e. part of the route or area will be open, but not necessarily the full extent of that route or area).
- Surveys for seabeach amaranth from the high tide line to the toe of the dune must be conducted prior to reopening these areas to ORV use. A general Park-wide seabeach amaranth survey may also be conducted at a later date.
- Migratory bird foraging, resting, and roosting closures will be addressed as a related but separate document (i.e., some geographic areas and dates may overlap).