

----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 01/08/2009 12:47 PM -----

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01/08/2009 10:34 AM

To: mike murray <mike_murray@nps.gov>, Jim Fraser
<fraser@vt.edu>
cc
Subject: FW: Waterbirds, vol 31(3) September 2008: Winter
Ecology of Piping Plovers at Oregon Inlet, North
Carolina, pp472-479

Greetings. Article file attached. PD

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From: leasttern@hotmail.com
To: mike_murray@nps.gov; fraser@vt.edu
Subject: Waterbirds, vol 31(3) September 2008: Winter Ecology of Piping Plovers at Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, pp472-479
Date: Thu, 8 Jan 2009 10:28:46 -0500

Greetings, Mr. Murray.
Thank you for my "four minutes" yesterday at the NegReg committee meeting. As promised, attached is the Virginia Tech article written by the lab of Dr. Jim Fraser. Waterbirds is the international, peer-reviewed journal of waterbird biology. The Oregon Inlet project was funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers and was originally intended to include PIPL use of Hatteras Inlet and Ocracoke Inlet. I trust that the article will be posted among the Committee's materials for each member to read.

Over the next few days I will attempt to write down and forward other germane points about my winter at Oregon Inlet which time yesterday did not allow. I would like to emphasize that I came to the meeting on my initiative alone and not at the request or urging of any individual, institution or group.

Populations of many waterbirds are declining around the world. Along the Atlantic coast of the US, CAHA Nat'l Seashore is a critical link in the annual cycle of declining, threatened and endangered species each day of each year. I urge you to manage the Seashore in a comprehensive manner which at all times conserves these fragile resources now and in the future. I further urge the NPS to fund research such as took place at Oregon Inlet during 2005-06 winter in order to understand better the critical importance of the Seashore.

Breeding season research is logistically simple and the dynamics are largely understood for many species. The importance of wintering grounds, staging areas, stop-over sites and migratory corridors is acknowledged, but research is difficult and sparse, at least before electronic tagging. Absent good research management outside of the breeding season is difficult, but still critical. [I would assert that absent good research, prudent management should be more protective or conservative lest errors critical to declining or imperiled resources be made.]

Kindly advise if you have any questions or concerns that I might address. I have copied Jim Fraser and suspect that I can say that he also would be interested in answering any questions which you or your staff may have about the Oregon Inlet study or other issues.

Best regards, Peter

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