



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Outer Banks Group:
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· Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
· Wright Brothers National Memorial

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Outer Banks Group News Release

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Protocols Document for Protected Species at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Now Available

Outer Banks Group Acting Superintendent Pat Reed has announced the completion and public release of the *Management, Monitoring, and Protection Protocols for Cape Hatteras National Seashore* (Protocols). The Protocols offer a scientific view of options in managing protected species at the Seashore.

The information provided in the Protocols can be used by park managers as a tool to assist in the development of management plans and conservation strategies for species protection and public use. In addition to science, many other factors such as federal laws and mandates, National Park Service (NPS) policies, public input, practical field experience, and other scientific information are also considered in the development of plans and strategies.

The public can use the Protocols as a source of information on protected species and protection options when formulating input during public scoping periods. This document will most immediately be useful to the public as they consider their comments during public scoping (Oct 17-Nov 17) for the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy.

The Protocols are currently available on the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha> under the *Documents & Links* link. Reading copies of this document, available to the public, will be delivered on Saturday, Oct. 29 to NPS visitor centers at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Bodie Island Lighthouse, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial; and the Dare County Libraries in Hatteras Village, Manteo, and Kill Devil Hills. Public reading copies will be delivered to the NPS Ocracoke Visitor Center and Ocracoke Library by Monday, Oct. 31.

There are six separate sections of the Protocols; an introductory Synthesis, followed by sections for the piping plover, sea turtles, seabeach amaranth, colonial waterbirds, and the American oystercatcher. Each of these species is provided special protection by such laws as the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The Protocols were produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the request of the NPS. The USGS is the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. The information and recommendations presented in the Protocols represent the professional opinions

of scientists that analyzed and interpreted the scientific data associated with protected species found at the Seashore.

About the USGS:

The USGS serves the Nation as an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The scientific nature of the USGS, its national perspective, and its non-regulatory role enable the USGS to provide information and understanding that are policy relevant and policy neutral. Diversity of scientific expertise enables the USGS to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations that build the base of knowledge about the Earth. In turn, decision makers at all levels of government--and citizens in all walks of life--have the information tools they need to address pressing societal issues.

-NPS-

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