

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
Resource Management Field Summary for March 15– March 31, 2010  
(Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)**

**Piping Plover (PIPL) Observations:**

| <b>Observations</b>      | <b>Thurs<br/>3/11</b> | <b>Fri<br/>3/12</b> | <b>Sat<br/>3/13</b> | <b>Sun<br/>3/14</b> | <b>Mon<br/>3/15</b> | <b>Tues<br/>3/16</b> | <b>Weds<br/>3/17</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Oregon Inlet</b>      | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 0                   | 6                    | 3                    |
| <b>Cape Point</b>        | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 3                   | 3                    | 2                    |
| <b>South Beach</b>       | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Inlet</b>    | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Overwash</b> | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>N. Ocracoke</b>       | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 7                   | 0                    | 4                    |
| <b>S. Ocracoke</b>       | NA                    | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 0                   | 2                    | 0                    |
| <b>Observations</b>      | <b>Thurs<br/>3/18</b> | <b>Fri<br/>3/19</b> | <b>Sat<br/>3/20</b> | <b>Sun<br/>3/21</b> | <b>Mon<br/>3/22</b> | <b>Tues<br/>3/23</b> | <b>Weds<br/>3/24</b> |
| <b>Oregon Inlet</b>      | 3                     | 9                   | 8                   | 0                   | 0                   | 3                    | 4                    |
| <b>Cape Point</b>        | 2                     | 5                   | 5                   | 1                   | 2                   | 5                    | 3                    |
| <b>South Beach</b>       | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Inlet</b>    | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Overwash</b> | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>N. Ocracoke</b>       | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | NA                   |
| <b>S. Ocracoke</b>       | 0                     | 6                   | 5                   | 3                   | 0                   | 1                    | NA                   |
| <b>Observations</b>      | <b>Thurs<br/>3/25</b> | <b>Fri<br/>3/26</b> | <b>Sat<br/>3/27</b> | <b>Sun<br/>3/28</b> | <b>Mon<br/>3/29</b> | <b>Tues<br/>3/30</b> | <b>Weds<br/>3/31</b> |
| <b>Oregon Inlet</b>      | 4                     | 0                   | 0                   | 4                   | 0                   | 0                    | 4                    |
| <b>Cape Point</b>        | 1                     | 4                   | 1                   | 4                   | 0                   | 8                    | 7                    |
| <b>South Beach</b>       | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 2                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Inlet</b>    | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>Hatteras Overwash</b> | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    |
| <b>N. Ocracoke</b>       | 2                     | 2                   | 1                   | 7                   | 0                   | 0                    | 2                    |
| <b>S. Ocracoke</b>       | 5                     | 4                   | 0                   | 2                   | 0                   | 2                    | 2                    |

## **PIPL Breeding Summary:**

### **Bodie District:**

Bodie Island: Up to nine PIPLs have been observed. Most have been observed foraging near the NE corner of the Bait Pond within the Bodie Spit pre-nesting closure. On 3/17 three PIPL were observed foraging outside of the pre-nesting closure on the NE side of spit in the tidal area. No breeding activity was observed.

Bodie/Hatteras: No PIPLs have been observed.

### **Hatteras District:**

Cape Point: Up to eight PIPLs have been observed. Multiple instances of territorial behavior have been observed and on 3/31 more than ten scrapes were discovered in the interior of the pre-nesting closure. The number of breeding pairs cannot currently be determined.

South Beach: Two PIPLs have been observed (roosting near an ephemeral pool at the end of R45).

Hatteras Overwash/Hatteras Inlet: No PIPLs have been observed.

Other Beaches: On 3/17 a single PIPL was observed on Avon beach 0.2 mi N of the pier. On 3/31 a single PIPL was observed 0.1 mi S of R55. No breeding activity was observed.

### **Ocracoke District:**

North Ocracoke: Up to seven PIPLs have been observed foraging and/or roosting.

South Point: Up to six PIPLs have been observed along the oceanside and inlet shorelines. Some territorial displays witnessed on 3/25 along the soundside shoreline of the spit.

## **WIPL Update:**

**Ocracoke District:** On 3/15 and 3/16 a single WIPL was observed foraging on the north end of Ocracoke.

## **American Oystercatchers (AMOY):**

### **2010 Breeding Pairs:**

#### **Bodie District-**

- Green Island – 1 of 2 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. A scrape was found on 3/19 in the UNB/UNB 2009 territory.
- Bodie Island – 1 of 4 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned.
- Bodie/Hatteras District– 3 of 4 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned.

Hatteras District – 6 of 9 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. Two of these pairs have been observed copulating (between Ramps 43 and 44 and 0.2 mi W of Ramp 45). Three individual AMOYs with recent nesting histories have returned, but their mates have not. These AMOYs have been observed with birds (banded and unbanded) with unknown breeding histories.

Ocracoke District – 3 of 4 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. Breeding behavior from one pair has been observed. One individual AMOY from a known nesting pair in 2009 has returned, but its mate has not. This AMOY has been observed with a new potential mate. Another pair (Gr49, UNB) has also been observed, although this pair has not nested on Ocracoke since 2006.

### **Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):**

Bodie District: No activity observed.

Hatteras District: No activity observed.

Ocracoke District: No activity observed.

**Sea turtle nests:** None

### **Sea Turtle Strandings:**

3/19- A green sea turtle was found severely decomposed on the soundside in Frisco (Hatteras District).

### **Marine Mammals:**

Numerous seals have been observed on all three districts of the Seashore. Most of these animals have been juvenile harbor seals in moderate to good health. Signs have been installed around some seals to ensure that the public is aware of the regulations regarding the protection of marine mammal species and to warn them of the health hazards that touching a seal can present. Between 3/15 and 3/31, more than 32 individual animals have been observed.

#### **Bodie District:**

- 3/18: A male common dolphin was found fresh dead 0.4 mi S of R1 on Bodie Island Spit. Animal was frozen for later examination and necropsy.
- 3/26: A female bottlenose dolphin was found severely decomposed 0.2 mi S of R4 on Bodie Island Spit. Biological samples were collected.

#### **Hatteras District:**

- 3/16: An adult female Gervais' Beaked Whale, a very uncommon species, was found fresh dead 1.0 mi S of R38. Abrasions on the animal's fluke indicate the animal may have originally stranded alive. The animal was necropsied with the assistance from team members at the University of NC (UNCW), Wilmington and the NC State Veterinary School.
- 3/29 A male juvenile humpback whale was found severely decomposed just N of R55 in Hatteras Village. The animal was necropsied with the assistance from team members at UNCW and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

**Ocracoke District:**

- 3/16: A female neonate bottlenose dolphin was found severely decomposed at South Point Ocracoke. Biological samples were collected.
- 3/30: Another neonate bottlenose dolphin was found severely decomposed 0.5 mi S of R70. Biological samples were collected.

**Closures – additions/modifications/removals:**

| <b>Closure #</b>         | <b>Location</b>         | <b>Species</b> | <b>Date Installed/Removed</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bodie District</b>    |                         |                |                               |
| BI10-001                 | Bodie Island Spit       | PIPL           | 3/9/2010                      |
| BH10-001                 | 0.1mi S of Ramp 27      | AMOY           | 3/30/2010                     |
| <b>Hatteras District</b> |                         |                |                               |
| HI10-001                 | Cape Point              | PIPL           | 3/10/2010                     |
| HI10-002                 | South Beach             | PIPL           | 3/9/2010                      |
| HI10-002-A               | 0.2 mi SW of Ramp 45    | AMOY           | 3/29/2010                     |
| HI10-003                 | Hatteras Overwash Fan   | PIPL           | 3/10/2010                     |
| HI10-004                 | Hatteras Inlet Spit     | PIPL           | 3/10/2010                     |
| HI10-005                 | Between Ramps 43 and 44 | AMOY           | 3/30/2010                     |
| <b>Ocracoke District</b> |                         |                |                               |
| OI10-001                 | North Ocracoke          | PIPL           | 3/11/2010                     |
| OI10-002                 | South Point             | PIPL           | 3/11/2010                     |
| OI10-003                 | 1.7 mi NE of Ramp 70    | AMOY           | 3/28/2010                     |

Note: The PIPL closures listed above were pre-nesting closures rather than responses to breeding activity.

**Closure intrusions**

**Bodie District:** None

**Hatteras District:**

3/22 – A woman was observed shelling in the Cape Point closure during an overflight and was asked to leave the closure by a law enforcement ranger.

3/30 – A woman entered the Cape Point closure and commenced to shell. She was asked to leave the closure by a monitor who observed the intrusion. There were three PIPLs in the immediate area.

**Ocracoke District:** None