

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERIOR REGIONS 6, 7 & 8 12795 W. Alameda Parkway Lakewood, CO 80228



## MEMORANDUM

To:	Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS)
From:	Regional Director Miller & Regula
Subject:	Report and Required Actions for the Sea Turtle Science and Recovery Program
Memo Type:	Action Required
Date:	06/08/2020
Contact:	Patrick Malone, Regional Chief, Natural Resources

## **Action Requested**

Implementation of the report recommendations and associated reporting described below.

## **Reason for Request**

Since last fall, a review team has worked to evaluate the park's sea turtle program and has developed numerous recommendations, covering program operations, policy, staffing, safety, and financial sustainability. We are requesting special attention and action on several recommendations. A schedule for required reporting and progress updates is included below:

• Finalize the beach access standard operating procedure (SOP) and ensure staff safety is paramount. SOP due: August 15, 2020.

• Implement an Incident Command System (ICS) for response to large cold stun events to ensure safety and improve accountability and management. Prepare a draft incident action plan due: September 30, 2020.

• Closely manage and monitor overtime spending, including eliminating the authorization and use of administratively uncontrollable overtime. Progress report on overtime spent and alternative administrative actions that will be implemented to reduce overtime due: October 31, 2020.

 $\cdot$  Develop a program staffing plan that includes hiring additional seasonals to accomplish critical work required within PAIS boundaries during the Kemp's ridley nesting season. This plan

should incorporate recommended work-rest ratios and also consider minimal beach patrols necessary to meet mission requirements, based on discussions with Recovery Team partners. Plan due: December 31, 2020.

• Engage personally, and directly, in the upcoming species status review (scheduled for 2020) for the Kemp's ridley. Initiate discussions with the Recovery Team, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), on the appropriate current and future role of PAIS and the above federal bureaus in Kemp's recovery. Progress report due: December 31, 2020.

• Develop a nesting beach management plan, identified in the 2011 Kemp's Bi-national Recovery Plan. This plan should identify long-term desired conditions and objectives for PAIS and include near-term strategies and actions. This plan should also evaluate opportunities for increasing shared resource stewardship among other federal agencies (FWS, NMFS) and conservation partners involved in Kemp's management and recovery. Progress report due: December 31, 2020.

Implementing the above actions and other recommendations included in the program review will provide for a sustainable sea turtle program and enable the park to fulfill its larger comprehensive mission.

<u>Next Steps</u> See schedule above.

## **Attachment**

Attachment (1) RSS Review of the Sea Turtle Science and Recovery Program

cc: Kris Kirby, Acting Deputy Regional Director, Protection, Partnerships and Interpretation Jennifer Carpenter, Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science Patrick Malone, Regional Chief, Natural Resources