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Green Sea Turtles at Panama City

Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE <jered.jackson@navy.mil>

Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 2:40 PM

To: AnnMarie Lauritsen <annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov>, "Jennifer.Schultz@noaa.gov" <Jennifer.Schultz@noaa.gov>

Ann Marie and Jenny,

Regarding NSA Panama City,

1. Are there any actions that benefit nesting and hatchling green turtles at Beach Site 4- page 6-49 and 6-50? Lighting Plan, predation control, education, or consistent nesting surveys? Do they follow the Statewide Beaches Survey Protocol and the Index Nesting Beach Survey Protocol? Site 4 is a property that is leased from the State (it's within the St Andrews State Park) and only has a few meters of beachfront. The electrical cords for the lights are cut, so there is no light at that small facility. The State Park handles all predation control, education, and nesting surveys at Beach Site 4 and the Navy installation's Natural Resources Manager, who is active in the sea turtle volunteer efforts at Panama City Beach, is certain that they do follow the two Protocols you asked about.

2. Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles in St. Andrews Bay adjacent to the installation? Does the Navy do seagrass protection and/or green turtle in-water project? I already answered this question for all the installations in the e-mail below from Aug 30, but please let me know if you'd like further information or clarification about it.

By my count, I still owe you answers for Mayport and will get those as soon as I can (my POC there is currently out-of-pocket).

Thank you!
Jered
904-542-6308

—Original Message—

From: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 10:23 AM
To: 'AnnMarie Lauritsen'; Jennifer.Schultz@noaa.gov
Subject: Green Sea Turtles

Ann Marie and Jenny,

It may take a couple of days for me to track down all the answers at each installation, but I did want to get a little clarity on the following question, which you asked for all the installations:

Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles adjacent to the installation? The answer to this one will pretty consistently be no except in occasions when NEPA analysis for a particular project or action requires knowledge of sea turtle occurrences and nesting across the broader area. Which databases do FWS and NMFS most often rely on for that information? Would you like us to include it in the INRMPs? We update most of the INRMPs every year, so any necessary additions in any of these installations' INRMPs can be included by the end of FY17.

Additionally, I'll go ahead and give a blanket answer for this other recurring question:

Does the Navy do seagrass protection and/or green turtle in-water project? INRMP projects are usually written in general language which allows for maximum flexibility in seeking funds on a regular basis. So, while there may not be specific in-water green turtle projects, a specific project for green sea turtles could be accomplished under a broader project such as "Benthic Survey" or "Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Survey" or "Species Protection and Habitat Enhancement". Each time such projects are executed, the Statement of Work will specify the exact work we want done under that broader INRMP Project Title. The other part of the question - seagrass protection - can also occur under a broader INRMP project such as "Species Protection and Habitat Enhancement", but seagrass protection is more likely to be done as a mitigation for a planned action that might potentially adversely affect seagrass and would therefore be funded as the result of something like EFH mitigation resulting from our NEPA analyses. Those funds would be separate from what is allocated for an INRMP project. That said, we sit down with State, FWS, and NMFS partners every year at our Annual INRMP Reviews and discuss the INRMP project accomplishments and future project plans during those

meetings. At those reviews, if seagrass protection or some sort of green sea turtle in-water work is deemed necessary, it would be scheduled under the INRMP project that is the best fit for it.

This answer turned out to be a little longer than I thought it would. I am happy to clarify further if needed.

Jered
904-542-6308

—Original Message—

From: AnnMarie Lauritsen [mailto:annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE
Cc: Jennifer.Schultz@noaa.gov
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: NAS Pensacola

Hello Jered,

Thank you for the additional information on NAS Pensacola. I have a couple of questions on the INRMPs that I hope you can help answer as Jenny and I review the INRMPs:

Mayport INRMP:

The INRMP states " Projects described in this INRMP that benefit and conserve sea turtles and their habitat include Light Management to Benefit Sea Turtles, Control Invasive, Exotic, and Noxious Species, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Survey, INRMP Update, Nuisance Animal Control, GIS Database, and Species Protection and Habitat Development (see Chapter 6 for descriptions)."

1. How is the Light Management Plan incorporated into Mayport operations to ensure that the lights are being retrofitted to effectively reduce the artificial lighting that is directly and indirectly visible from the adjacent areas? Is there an opportunity to comment on the Light Management Plan to then incorporate into the INRMP? On page 2-5 it states the following" The inspections resulted in a determination that the lights associated with the nighttime mechanical dredging of NS Mayport were in compliance with the USFWS consultation conditions with respect to the beaches contiguous to NS Mayport that support nesting and hatchling sea turtles. The inspections also determined that the lighting associated with the nighttime mechanical dredging operations of NS Mayport was not in compliance with the USFWS consultation conditions with respect to sections of beach contiguous to Huguenot Park (USFWS 2012)." Were these lights found to be out of compliance? If so, what was the remediation?

2. How are actions listed above completed to benefit green turtles?

Panama City INRMP

1. Are there any actions that benefit nesting and hatchling green turtles at Beach Site 4- page 6-49 and 6-50? Lighting Plan, predation control, education, or consistent nesting surveys? Do they follow the Statewide Beaches Survey Protocol and the Index Nesting Beach Survey Protocol?

2. Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles in St. Andrews Bay adjacent to the installation? Does the Navy do seagrass protection and/or green turtle inwater project?

Pensacola Complex INRMP

1. How is the lighting information provided incorporated into the INRMP to benefit nesting and hatchling green turtles? How is the artificial lighting minimized and these measures incorporated into the INRMP?

2. Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles in Pensacola Bay adjacent to the installation? Does the Navy do seagrass protection and/or green turtle inwater project?

Key West INRMP

1. Provide information on the consistency of sea turtle nesting surveys on these beaches? Do they follow the Statewide Beaches Survey Protocol and the Index Nesting Beach Survey Protocol?

2. Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles in Key West adjacent to the installation? Does the Navy do any seagrass protection and/or green turtle inwater project?

Corpus Christi INRMP

1. Does the Navy have any additional information on green turtles in Corpus Christi adjacent to the installation? Does the Navy do any seagrass protection and/or green turtle inwater project?

Thank you for your help,

Ann Marie

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Ann Marie Lauritsen
SE Sea Turtle Coordinator
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—Original Message—

From: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE [mailto:jered.jackson@navy.mil]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 3:37 PM
To: annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov; Jennifer Schultz - NOAA Federal
Subject: NAS Pensacola

Ann Marie and Jenny,

It turns out that the language I said was in the NAS Pensacola energy design guide is not actually in there. The language is, however, applied during the Environmental Department's review of construction projects at NAS Pensacola and the Natural Resources Manager tells me they intend to insert it into the energy guide. I just wanted to make sure to correct that bit of mis-information for you.

Jered

—Original Message—

From: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 1:35 PM
To: annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov; 'Jennifer Schultz - NOAA Federal'
Subject: RE: green sea turtles

Ann Marie and Jenny,

I will post the Key West and Corpus INRMPs, as well as the Mayport light assessment, to AMRDEC.

The Gulfport INRMP actually pertains exclusively to the property at the Stennis Western Maneuver Area and has no beachfront property, so I am withdrawing that property from the list and will not include its INRMP in the download package.

The small property at Dania Beach does not have an INRMP. The plan there will be to request a CH obviation based on National Security. I think either our region or Navy HQ will prepare a formal letter to address all the national security concerns. There are also a few navigational channels in the SE that are vital to Navy operations, so they would be included in that as well.

As far as your question about Pensacola, the NAS Pensacola energy design guide states that all exterior lighting shall be low pressure sodium (full cutoff / shielded design) to accommodate environmental concerns of light trespass and sky glow. Parking lot and other exterior lighting shall not exceed IESNA 2004 power density standards (lighting levels of 10-20 lux or 1-2 foot-candles). All exterior lighting in direct sight of and within 500 feet of the shoreline shall be low pressure sodium (full cutoff / shielded design).

Pensacola and Mayport have both agreed with FWS that those Bases will expend all necessary efforts to mitigate their contributions to the glow by

installing turtle friendly lighting and shielding other lights whenever feasible to do so. They have both been actively doing this for the past several years.

I will try to get you the link to the NAS Pensacola energy design guide.

Jered
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—Original Message—

From: AnnMarie Lauritsen [mailto:annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE
Cc: Jennifer.Schultz@noaa.gov
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: green sea turtles

Hello Jered,

I am in the process of reviewing the INRMPs but I must not have downloaded all of them as I am still missing Dania Beach, Key West, Gulfport, and Corpus Christi from the list you provided below. I apologize for the inconvenience but can you send those INRMPs to me?

Also in the Mayport INRMP it refers to "Light Management to Benefit Sea Turtles". Is there an internal document that describes this light management? Or is there a Light Management Plan that you can send to me?

Also, in the Pensacola Complex INRMP, it includes the following condition on minimizing sea turtle lighting "Work with adjacent land-owning agencies (e.g., Gulf Islands National Seashore) to minimize impacts to nesting and hatchling sea turtles caused by outdoor lighting at the NASP Complex"

Is there also an internal document that describes how the lighting is minimized to not be visible from GINS? Is there a Light Management Plan available that you can send?

Thank you for your help!

Ann Marie

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—Original Message—

From: Jackson, Jered CIV NAVFAC SE [mailto:jered.jackson@navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 10:33 AM
To: jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov; annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov
Subject: green sea turtles

Ms. Schultz and Ms. Lauritsen,

I track the Federal Register notices for all the Navy installations in Navy Region Southeast and saw that you were the two POC's for the recent Final Rule for green sea turtle DPS's. The FR notice stated that Critical Habitat would be proposed in a future rulemaking, so I wanted to make sure you have my contact information in case you have questions about the INRMPs and sea turtle management strategies at the various Navy properties across the Southeast (i.e., Kings Bay, GA; Mayport, FL; Dania Beach, FL; Key West, FL;

6/18/2020

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Mail - Green Sea Turtles at Panama City

Panama City, FL; Pensacola, FL; Gulfport, FL; and Corpus Christi, TX).

Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail as questions arise.

Thank you,
Jered

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