

October 30, 2015

Dr. Megan Tyrell
North Atlantic LCC Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

**Re: Performance Report – 10/30/2015
F14AP00174**

Dear Megan:

Below is a detailed report highlighting the progress we have made on the above-referenced project as of October 30, 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any of the material provided here.

Sincerely,



Brooke Maslo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL BEACH-NESTING BIRD HABITATS IN THE WAKE OF SEVER COASTAL STORMS

Interim Progress Report

October 30, 2015

Tasks Completed This Period

Task 2: Quantify Changes in Habitat Resulting from Superstorm Sandy (April 2014 – August 2014)

Completed. After reporting preliminary findings to stakeholders, we noted a few points in our model that needed refinements. We made the necessary amendments to our input data, and we have run the models a final time. While the overall patterns and trends are consistent with our former models, there have been minor quantitative changes to the amount of habitat lost or gained in different areas of New Jersey. We have evaluated these changes, and we feel satisfied in using the current model results moving forward.

Task 3: Evaluation of Storm Recovery Impacts on BNB Habitat (April – September 2015)

80% Completed. We have not addressed this task during the interim project period.

New Applicatiosn of Work:

1. We have completed a draft report entitled *Identification of Potential Beach-nesting Bird Habitat to Be Set Aside in Municipal Beach Management Plans*. The purpose of the document is to provide a decision support tool for the USFWS NJ Field Office and the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program to provide evidence-based justification for the inclusion of beach-nesting bird habitat management into municipal beach management plans, particularly in areas where beach-nesting birds are not present. The report provides detailed information on the purpose of the document, the methods used in identifying suitable habitat, and the total amount of potential habitat existing within each municipality. We also provide a map of each municipality that illustrates where potential habitat occurs. We feel that this document will be a valuable tool for state and federal agencies in helping to secure additional beach-nesting bird habitat.
2. We are currently formulating a guidance document to be used when incorporating beach-nesting bird habitat into a range of beach management practices, including daily maintenance, small-scale restoration projects, and beach nourishment projects. The guidance document will incorporate the landscape level habitat criteria identified during this project with existing beach-nesting bird habitat selection criteria at the microhabitat scale (e.g., Maslo et al. 2011, *Restoration Ecology*). This information can be disseminated during the beach-nesting bird management workshops proposed in this study.

Youth and Veteran Involvement

We are continuing to employ part-time a female, minority youth, who is assisting PI-Maslo in the generation of models and maps.