

Species Conclusions Table

Project Manager: Melissa Nash	Project Name: Sandbridge Road/Nimmo VII-A
Date: 11-9-2015	Project Number: NAO-2015-00151

Project Description: City of Virginia Beach safety improvements to Sandbridge Rd from McClanan's Curve to one mile east of intersection with Sandpiper R

Species Under the Jurisdiction of FWS:

Species/Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Species Info / Habitat Description	Notes / Determination
Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis)	Suitable habitat present, species not present	Not likely to adversely affect	<p>"Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances; constant temperatures; and high humidity with no air currents. Specific areas where they hibernate have very high humidity, so much so that droplets of water are often seen on their fur. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.</p> <p>During summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. It has also been found, rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds."</p>	The City is willing to abide by time of year restrictions on tree clearing from April 15 through September 15 of any given year.

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Piping plover (Charadrius melodus)	Species not present	No effect	"Piping plovers occur in three disjunct populations in North America: Northern Great Plains, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Coast. The piping plover is a 5 ½ inch long" The piping plover nesting season is from late April to late July with one brood raised per year. If there is a disturbance or the nest is lost, the birds may reneest. Plovers nest on beaches, dunes, and washover areas. They also nest on areas where suitable dredged material is deposited."	No habitat present. The project will be within nontidal wetlands. No beach habitat present in project area.
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Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Species not present	No effect	<p>"Red knots migrate long distances between nesting areas in mid- and high arctic latitudes and southern nonbreeding habitats as far north as the coastal United States (low numbers) and southward to southern South America. Populations including subspecies <i>rufa</i> migrate in large flocks northward through the contiguous United States mainly March-early June, southward July-August (Harrington 2001). Arrival in breeding areas occurs in late May or early June; most have departed breeding areas by mid-August. The migration stops of red knots that spend the boreal winter in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonian Argentina (subspecies <i>rufa</i>) are mainly along the Atlantic coast of South America (mainly Chile, Argentina, and Brazil) and the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of North America (González et al. 2006), including staging areas on the coasts of Hudson and James bays (Harrington 2001). Knots that visit Delaware Bay in spring come mostly from South America, and these have strong fidelity to migration stopover sites; those that winter in Florida (subspecies?) are underrepresented during migration in New Jersey and Massachusetts. This species typically makes long flights between stops (Hayman et al. 1986). See Piersma and Davidson (1992) for information on knot migration."*</p> <p>(NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://explorer.natureserve.org. (Accessed: September 29, 2014).)</p>	No habitat present. The project will be within nontidal wetlands. No beach habitat present in project area.

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Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>)	Species not present	No effect	"Roseate terns breed in colonies almost exclusively on small offshore islands, rarely on large islands. The northeastern colonies are on rocky offshore islands, barrier beaches, or salt marsh islands. Most colonies are close to shallow water fishing sites with sandy bottoms, bars, or shoals. The Caribbean birds nest in relatively open areas, often with no cover nearby. They breed on a variety of small cays or islands with rocky, grassy, coral rubble, or sand substrate. There is little information on the habitat of the wintering range. Some birds have been found roosting on sandbars or beaches at river mouths, estuaries, or ocean front. "	No habitat present. The project will be within nontidal wetlands. No beach habitat present in project area.
Green sea turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	Species not present	No effect	"Green turtles are generally found in fairly shallow waters (except when migrating) inside reefs, bays, and inlets. The turtles are attracted to lagoons and shoals with an abundance of marine grass and algae. Open beaches with a sloping platform and minimal disturbance are required for nesting. Green turtles have strong nesting site fidelity and often make long distance migrations between feeding grounds and nesting beaches. Hatchlings have been observed to seek refuge and food in Sargassum rafts."	No impacts to tidal waters are proposed.
Hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	Species not present	No effect	"Hawksbills frequent rocky areas, coral reefs, shallow coastal areas, lagoons or oceanic islands, and narrow creeks and passes. They are seldom seen in water deeper than 65 feet. Hatchlings are often found floating in masses of sea plants, and nesting may occur on almost any undisturbed deep-sand beach in the tropics. Adult females are able to climb over reefs and rocks to nest in beach vegetation"	No impacts to tidal waters are proposed.
(<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	Species not present	No effect	ridleys is the nearshore and inshore waters of the	No impacts to tidal waters are proposed.

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(Dermochelys coriacea)	Species not present	No effect	turtles. Adult females require sandy nesting	No impacts to tidal waters are proposed.
(Caretta caretta)	Species not present	No effect	Indian and Pacific Oceans; the Gulf of Mexico; and	No impacts to tidal waters are proposed.
Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)				
Eagle Nests	Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles	No Eagle Act permit required		
Eagle Concentration Areas	Does not intersect with bald eagle concentration area	No Eagle Act permit required		
Critical Habitat				
N/A				
Other (species not listed above)				

Species Under the Jurisdiction of NOAA/NMFS				
Essential Fish Habitat	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present
Anadromous Fish Use Area	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present
Subaquatic Vegetation	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present
HAPC Sandbar Shark	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present
Atlantic Sturgeon	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present
Sea turtles	Not present			Nontidal wetland areas; no habitat present

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