

Massachusetts Habitat Conservation Plan for Piping Plover
Emergency Request for Additional Take Exposure

Town of Plymouth - Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs
May 20, 2018

The Town of Plymouth has a current Certificate of Inclusion (COI) in the statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Piping Plover that authorizes up to two take exposures. Two take exposures were requested for use in up to two covered activities: Use of Roads and Parking Lots in the Vicinity of Unfledged Piping Plover Chicks and Oversand Vehicle (OSV) Use in Vicinity of Unfledged Chicks. Since receiving a COI in 2016, only one take exposure has been used during each of the last two seasons.

This season, there are two pairs that have already nested along Ryder Way, and on May 15, the Natural Resources staff observed a pair of plovers in the least tern sub-colony along Ryder Way (see attached map). The plovers were displaying territorial behavior and chased a least tern from the area. This behavior indicates that this pair may nest in this sub-colony bringing the number of plovers nesting along the roadway to three.

The Town would like to request an additional emergency take exposure in the event that a third nest is laid along Ryder Way. Adding a third take exposure would not exceed 15% of the number of breeding pairs during the prior year. During the 2017 season, 24 pairs nested a Long Beach, which would allow up to 3.6 pairs to be impacted by covered activities during the 2018 season.

The additional take exposure will be used to implement the covered activity Use of Roads and Parking Lots in the Vicinity of Unfledged Piping Plover Chicks as described in the Town of Plymouth's Request for Certificate of Inclusion submitted in December 2016. The Town is not proposing any changes to the impact minimization measures or monitoring and reporting requirements.

Additional staff will be needed to carry out the required monitoring. Approximately \$9,000 will be needed to fund the additional shorebird monitors. These positions will be funded as necessary through the contingencies line item in Plymouth Long Beach Revolving Fund.

Implementation of the covered activity Use of Roads and Parking Lots in the Vicinity of Unfledged Piping Plover Chicks requires that 3 pairs of plovers benefit from mitigation. Use of a third take exposure for this covered activity would bring the mitigation requirement for the season to 9 pairs of plovers. Carrying out additional mitigation would not be necessary since the Town carried forward a mitigation credit of 24.4 pairs from the 2017 season. In addition, the mitigation being conducted this season is benefiting 22 pairs that already have nests at Long Beach and several more pairs that are expected to nest soon.



Piping plover activity observed

Day Parking Area

- Piping Plover Nests
- 2017 Least Tern Sub-Colony
- Ryder Way

0 200 400 Feet

Plymouth Long Beach Request for Addtional Take Exposure May 2018



USGS 2013-14 aerial provided for representational purposes only