



Alligator Management Plan Addendum 1

Hyde County officials reviewed information on the agency website about the Alligator Management Plan (AMP) and expressed interest by email to the Commission in the “targeted take to reduce numbers in areas with frequent alligator conflicts.” However, no municipalities (i.e., areas that fit the definition of “cities” according to [NCGS § 160A-1\(2\)](#)) exist in Hyde County and so allowing such a hunt would not be consistent with the AMP. Based on this request, the Commission, at their May 18, 2018 telephonic meeting, charged the Executive Director to work with Hyde County to determine what, if any, changes should be made to the Plan and bring that information back to the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species (HNGES) Committee.

Staff met with the Acting County Manager of Hyde County on June 1, 2018 to discuss Hyde County’s request, concerns and potential options. Based on that meeting, staff evaluated options to expand the application of population reduction hunts in counties in Alligator Management Unit 1 (AMU 1) to include unincorporated populated areas, where human-alligator conflicts may occur, and brought that evaluation back to the HNGES Committee on June 20, 2018.

Unincorporated areas do not have boundaries, which are beneficial for effective administration of managed hunts. Hunt boundaries must be recognizable to hunters and enforcement officers on the ground. As population reduction hunts are designed to promote public safety by reducing the number of alligators in human-populated areas, alligator home range information can guide the setting of boundaries within which alligator removals would be most effective. This can be accomplished by drawing a circle with a center point in the center of the highest density of human development, as evidenced by aerial imagery, with a radius that is based on the estimated maximum home range of an alligator. Commission and local government staff and others with knowledge of alligator activity in the region can then use this circle as general guidance to help identify appropriate landmarks (e.g., roads, canals, etc.) to utilize as a population reduction hunt boundary. This same methodology may also be utilized for defining population reduction hunt boundaries for municipalities.

This addendum modifies the existing language in the AMP and allows county governments in AMU 1 to apply for population reduction hunts in unincorporated, populated, areas within their boundaries to promote public safety and specifies a methodology for general guidance on establishing a population reduction hunt boundary. Any decision regarding requests for population reduction hunts will be made by the Commission on a case-by-case basis.