



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

12/23/2025

Mr. Larrry Carlile,

RE: Interim report to GOS grant entitled **Enhancing Shell Rakes for Oystercatcher and Monitoring Restoration projects for beach nesting birds**

I wanted to update GOS as the progress of spending on the 2025 GOS grant award. We worked with Birds Georgia to assist with the monitoring of Cumberland Dividings Island. They have submitted a report highlighting their excellent work at that site.

Georgia DNR continued to monitor the nesting platforms that we constructed with assistance from GOS on Stafford Island and Satilla Marsh Island. During the winter of 2025 we attached new anchors to the timbers which form the base of the platforms and added additional shell. All of the 5 platforms were used in 2025 and produced a remarkable batch of 9 fledges, producing 34% of the entire coastal productivity.

Site visits in the fall of 2025 showed that the Stafford platforms have eroded significantly. We are currently working on a contract with ZuluMarine to revisit these sites and place more shell, and the Flex-a-mat top that will hopefully hold shell in place better, reducing the annual loss of shell.

This work will be conducted in February, so sites will be completed before nesting season in 2026.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. I would like to present a poster re: the oyster rake restoration projects at the next GOS meeting.

Sincerely,

Timothy Keyes
Program Manager
Wildlife Conservation Section
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