Notes, Decisions and Action items (in red) from Space X Avian Monitoring Plan Call – 1 July 2024

Attending: Mary O, Chris P., Stephanie B, Kelli S and Mitch S.

Draft notes by Kelli – if other team members see errors or omissions, please add.

**Notes & Decisions**

* Action item: Before our next call on 23 July – this team review the “objectives” document provided by Mitch (via email on 1 or 2 July). Review and add to it for discussion on July 23. We can share comments to this document in Teams if necessary. Any work we can do via Teams on the document (i.e., objective setting) will increase what we can accomplish during 23 July call.
* Action Item: Stephanie – reach out to Reagan (sp?) in TPWD to schedule a meeting with us between July 24 and ~ August 5 to brainstorm about avian monitoring objectives; can both agencies collectively develop a list of sound objectives? Preferably a call before 30 July when Chris retires.
* Rescheduled our 18 July call to July 23 at 2:00 CT. Agenda: (1) discuss and finalize our draft objectives for avian monitoring plan.

**Discussion items:**

1. This team reviewed our recent activities/calls to get on track with next steps.
2. Amanda reminded FWS that we (FWS) have to be mindful of asking them to not monitor more species than what is called for in BO (i.e., red knot and piping plover). She has also commented that the take in habitat is not “valid” (?) or is not something that SpaceX has to be aware of.
3. In the BO – take of REKN and PIPL (T&E species) is defined by take in their habitat
4. When defining new and improved (i.e., objectives that will adequately document impacts to REKN and PIPL) –.
5. Discussion around the need for new objectives to: (1) collect the data that will best demonstrate potential impact or take to REKN and PIPL and (2) because SpaceX activities have changed in frequency and actions, objectives need to be developed.
   1. Give that the cadence of activities is increasing – we need to be aware of the potential impact of increased level of certain types of monitoring activities and those impacts to birds.
   2. Suggest remote monitoring – something that is not disturbing birds further
   3. \*\*\*we need to involve State folks to discuss/brainstorm protocol, Stephanie will talk with Reagan to see if we should set up meeting to discuss how we monitor remotely and other avian monitoring suggestions. If this team can have a draft list of new objectives for the Avian plan to share with TWPD – we could improve/refine and add to those objectives as a collective.
   4. Now with change in SpaceX activities – i.e. Night launches etc., now we have roosting birds to consider
   5. Night launches and subsequent potential disturbance to roosting PIPL and REKN is potential activity to document and/or measure impacts and/or take. Mary (ES) can only address the increase to cadence – going from ~5 to 25 launches or actions a year. And landings – some of which will not land on SpaceX property.
   6. Remember – we sometimes suggest that a group monitor other species or similar guild to better understand and/or track impacts on PIPL and REKN. For example, if the T&E species are too small to attach tags or tracking devices that would document movements in response to night launches (etc.) then we suggest that another species be tagged.
   7. Ultimate question: if take is defined through take of habitat, then the habitat monitoring plan is the document that will track that.
   8. If the avian monitoring plan will not help document impacts or take of PIPL and REKN –do we suggest a research effort instead? We could suggest research effort that will document impact to migratory bird species – not REKN and PIPL but other similar species to (1) use as a surrogate to impacts to REKN and PIPL or (2) potentially to ensure that MBTA is not getting violated.
6. Decided: by the end of Oct. this team will provide SpaceX with: (1) new objectives for avian plan, (2) justification for those objectives, and (3) sideboards around what the protocol they can develop to meet those objectives (i.e., protocol that doesn’t increase un-do stress to birds and habitats). And we suggest that Space X then (1) do the work to develop protocol that will meet those objectives and (2) the rest of the avian monitoring plan.