

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDER
14TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 4010
HONOLULU, T. H.



7 August 1956
J32
Serial: 10592

From: Commander, 14th Coast Guard District
To: Commandant (O)
Via: Commander Western Area

Subj: Destruction of eggs and use of traps to remove terns on or from Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals; request for

Ref: (a) Executive Order of 1909 establishing Hawaiian Islands Bird Reservation

1. A survey of bird population and breeding on Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals was made 3 August in company with Mr. Paul Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo and Mr. Lawrence Richards, Ornithologist of the University of Illinois, and on their advice this request is submitted.

2. The problem in brief:

a. A loran transmitting station to provide navigational lines for safety of surface and flying traffic in this part of the Pacific was ordered established here in 1943. A study of electronic problems and logistic support problems showed Tern Island to be the only practicable site.

b. A weather reporting station is operated here on behalf of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

c. A radiobeacon has been requested here by the C.A.A. and establishment has been authorized.

d. A detachment of 15 Coast Guard men stationed on Tern Island is supported logistically by bi-weekly aircraft flights and a quarterly ship visit. The ship support is costly and unreliable due to distance and delays created by storms and seas and a difficult reef. The air support has recently been jeopardized by great numbers of terns flying into the aircraft at the instants of landing and take-off. One aircraft was nearly lost on take-off last month; an airscoop was jammed, one engine was burned up and two propellers had to be replaced. Upon each landing and take-off the lives of crew and passengers are put in serious hazard.


e. The terns appear to be on the increase and Mr. Breese guesses since December 1953 the population increase is greater than 500%. Reason for the great increase is not understood. Messrs. Breese and Richards estimate that the tern population involved in this request is less than one percent of the birds of this type in the Hawaiian Islands Bird Reservation. Other sea birds - boobies, goonies, frigate birds, etc., are not a problem.

7-20
Commander, 14th CG District
to Commandant (O)
via Commander Western Area

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7 August 1956
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Serial: 10592

e. Both Mr. Breese and Mr. Richards recommended that this action be taken in the interest of human life. They will be glad to answer queries as to proposed action.

3. It is requested concurrence be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service to permit gathering and destroying all tern eggs found on Tern Island and, if found necessary, trapping and removing live terns to other islands in the vicinity. Tern Island is only one of 13 islands in this atoll.


D. H. DEXTER
Acting


4 September 1956
File: J32

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to Com14CGD(o) ltr J32 serial 10592 of 7 Aug 56

From: Commander Western Area
To: Commandant (O)

Subj: Destruction of eggs and use of traps to remove terns on or from Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals; request for

1. Forwarded approved.


R. L. BURKE
Deputy (Acting)

OSU
13 SEP 1956
J32

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
C Streets, between 18th and 19th Streets, NW
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Paul Hickey, Branch of Wildlife Research

My dear Sir:

The Coast Guard Loran Transmitting Station located on Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals, is encountering a problem concerning interference with aircraft operations by terns on the island. A copy of a letter from the Commander of the Fourteenth CG District concerning this matter is attached for your information, and is self-explanatory.

It is requested that the Coast Guard be advised as to what appropriate action can be taken to resolve this problem.

Inasmuch as the supply of the loran station by aircraft is a continuing requirement, the above requested information is desired as quickly as possible. This will permit elimination of the hazard at the earliest practicable time.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ F. T. KENNER
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Operations
By direction of the Commandant
mailed 9/13/56

Encl: (1) copy of ltr from CCGD14

Copy to: OAV
 CCGD14 *for ltr from CCGD14*
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TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. COAST GUARD
CGHQ-3584 (10-54)

DIRECTIVE CLEARANCE SHEET

RNREA: jw

RETURN TO OSU 7-12

typed 9/11/56

(Fill in blocks as initialed - do not use for routing)

OFFICE OR DIVISION DESIGNATORS	OSU	0																	
INITIALS OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS	<i>OSU</i>	<i>0</i>																	
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ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OSU
D

OCT 18 1956

Rear Admiral F. T. Kenner
U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Operations
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Admiral Kenner:

The problem as outlined in your letter of September 13 (OSU J32) and amplified in the attachment from the Commander, 14th Coast Guard District, in Honolulu, concerning interference with aircraft by terns on Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals, is one that is most perplexing.

We appreciate both the seriousness of planes landing on Tern Island because of its small size, and the difficulty of transporting supplies to the loran station by surface vessels.

There are some encouraging aspects to the problem. The tern which you report is causing trouble because of its tremendous numbers is most certainly the sooty tern which is widespread throughout the world, and has been studied intensively on other islands where aircraft are operated, particularly, on Ascension Island midway between South America and west Africa.

Studies which were carried out on Ascension Island confirm that these birds are seasonal visitors and will be absent for several months of each year. Along the Leeward Chain the sooty tern habitually returns in March or early April but actually does not alight on the islands until mid-April. Their period of residence is generally from April through August. For the next six or seven months they are absent, being scattered widely over the Pacific Ocean.

Initial efforts on Ascension Island were directed at egg destruction and temporary abandonment of the sooty tern nesting grounds resulted. In a week's time on Ascension, over 50,000 eggs were destroyed. In June 1955, similar studies were undertaken on Midway Islands. A Navy crew destroyed 166,900 eggs. Apparently no success whatsoever was achieved in discouraging these birds on Midway.

U. S. COAST GUARD

OCT 18 1956

OPERATIONS-SHORE UNITS

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#318/5
26-26

Later studies on Ascension Island pointed to the success in using wire netting supported horizontally a few inches above the ground extending over the entire tern nesting area. These birds construct no nests but depend upon depressions in the sand, both to confine the eggs and to supply heat during the temporary absence of the birds.

As was pointed out in Commander Dexter's letter of August 7, French Frigate Shoals is one of the islands within the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge established by an Executive Order on February 3, 1909. If necessary, this Service will consider reasonable proposals for the discouraging of these terns, including the screening of the nesting area. Since 1951 this Service has had an agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry in the Territory of Hawaii for the joint administration and supervision of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. We have depended upon this Board for recommendations having to do with uses within the refuge. Consequently, copies of your communication and of this acknowledgment are being sent to Mr. Vernon E. Brock, Director of the Division of Fish and Game, seeking their recommendations in this problem. Mr. Brock is well acquainted with Mr. Paul Breeze, Director of the Honolulu Zoo, and both of them are familiar with conditions on Tern Island. If they endorse a program of nesting control, necessary action can be taken before these birds return next April.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JOHN L. FARLEY

Director

FILE
LORSTA
French Frigate
Shoals

OSU
24 OCT 1956
J32

From: Commandant
To: Commander, Fourteenth CG District
Subj: French Frigate Shoals Loran Transmitting Station;
control of terns
Ref: (a) CCGD14(o) ltr 7 Aug 56, J32, serial No. 10592

1. The problem of terns on Tern Island interfering with aircraft operation was referred to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. Enclosed is a copy of the reply of that agency concerning this problem.
2. It is recommended that the matter be taken up with Mr. Vernon E. Brock, Director of the Division of Fish and Game for the development of a suitable program of nesting control.

/s/ F. T. KENNER
By direction
mailed 10/24/56.

Encl: (1) copy of ltr from Fish & Wildlife Service dtd 18 Oct. 1956

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. COAST GUARD
CGHQ-3584 (10-54)

DIRECTIVE CLEARANCE SHEET

RNREA: jw

RETURN TO OSU 7-12

10/23/56

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1957

Permit No. 55-937

PERMIT TO CONDUCT PATROLS, TO FLUSH
BIRDS, COLLECT EGGS OF THE SOOTY
TERN, OR TO DESTROY THEIR NESTS ON
TERN ISLAND, FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS,
OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

Pursuant to Section 21.61 (15 F.R. 7386) of the regulations for the administration of national wildlife refuges, authorization is hereby granted to the United States Coast Guard and its designated representatives to conduct patrols for the purpose of flushing birds, collecting eggs of the Sooty Tern, and destroying their nests on Tern Island. These operations are to be carried out under the direction and recommendations of the Director of the Division of Fish and Game of Hawaii.

This permit is limited to the Sooty Tern, and the operations authorized shall be confined to Tern Island. In carrying out these operations, it is expected that all necessary precautions will be observed to preserve and protect the adult or breeding population.

This permit is not transferable and is effective until June 30, 1960. A report shall be furnished the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by June 30, 1958, and each year thereafter that this permit is in effect showing the results of control measures authorized and other pertinent information relating to this experiment.

D. H. JANZEN
Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

W. J. M.

APR 5 - 1957

Rear Admiral F. T. Kenner
Chief, Office of Operations
U. S. Coast Guard
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Kenner:

You were advised in our letter of October 18, 1956, that an investigation of the problem outlined in your letter of September 13 concerning the interference with aircraft by terns on Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals, would be made.

On the basis of recommendations of Mr. Vernon E. Brock, Director, Division of Fish and Game, Territory of Hawaii, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, following his investigation of conditions on the island during February 1957, we have issued a permit to carry on control operations. The enclosed permit, issued for a period of 3 years, authorizes the United States Coast Guard to conduct patrols, collect eggs, and destroy the nests of the Sooty Tern for the purpose of flushing birds from the island in order that they will nest elsewhere. It is hoped that the patrols will be effective in discouraging the birds prior to nesting and that it will not be necessary to resort to egg and nest destruction too frequently. Two copies of the approved permit are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. M.

Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife

Enclosures 2

U. S. COAST GUARD

APR 10 1957

OPERATIONS-SHORE UNITS

1566/B
834

OSU
19 APR 1957
J32

From: Commandant
To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (o)
Subj: French Frigate Shoals Loran Transmitting Stations; control of terns
Ref: (a) COMDT (OSU) ltr to CCGD14 dtd 24 Oct 1956, file J32

1. Forwarded herewith for your information and action is a copy of a letter to RADM F. T. Kenner from the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the original of a permit issued by that agency concerning control of terns on French Frigate Shoals Loran Transmitting Station.

2. Your attention is invited to the annual report required by the permit. It is requested that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Commandant (OSU) for information and file.

19 F. T. KENNER
By direction *mailed 4/19/57*

- Encl: (1) ✓ Copy, Dir., Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Dept. of Interior ltr to RADM F. T. KENNER dtd 5 Apr 57
(2) ✓ Original, Permit No. 55-937, issued by Dir. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Dept. of Interior, dtd 29 Mar 1957

Copy to:

- ✓ OAV -- W/encl (1) and copy of Encl (2)
✓ CL -- " "

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. COAST GUARD
CGHQ-3584 (10-54)

DIRECTIVE CLEARANCE SHEET

RNREA/ksh

RETURN TO OSU 7-12

typed 4/16/57

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