

BEETLES

Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle, *Cicindela d. dorsalis*

Status:

State: Endangered

Federal: Threatened

Identification

Distinguishing features of the northeastern beach tiger beetle include a bronze green head and thorax and white to light tan elytra (forewings), often with dark lines. Typically 1/2 to 3/5 in. in length, it is considered to be one of four subspecies of *C. dorsalis* (Cazier 1954, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1994).



Photo courtesy US FWS

Habitat

Although there are no definable indicators of northeastern beach tiger beetle habitat, this species is found on long, wide, dynamic, relatively undisturbed sandy beaches of the Atlantic Coast or Chesapeake Bay (Hill and Knisley 1994).

Status and Conservation

Listed as federally threatened in 1990 and state endangered in 1991, the northeastern beach tiger beetle receives regulatory protection from both federal and state Endangered Species Acts. In addition, habitat protection is afforded through the Coastal Areas Facilities Review Act and other coastal regulations. The Natural Heritage Program ranks the species as "critically imperiled in New Jersey because of extreme rarity" (R. Dutko, Office of Natural Lands Management, pers. comm.).

Since 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has supported studies designed to re-establish populations of the northeastern beach tiger beetle in the Northeast. Experiments to establish translocation techniques were conducted at the Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook by researchers from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia. During these studies, tiger beetle larvae from the Chesapeake Bay area were translocated to several beach sites within the recreation area and routinely monitored. Initial results from the experiments indicated that the translocation techniques employed could be used to establish a population of northeastern beach tiger beetles at Sandy Hook and possibly at other sites in the Northeast (Knisley and Hill 1997). A program to reintroduce the species at Gateway National Recreation Area has been underway since 1997 (Knisley and Hill 1998).