

## Shackleford Banks Horse Herd Update August 23, 2011

As we watch hurricane Irene move toward Florida many folks want to know if the wild horses will be okay in a hurricane. Domestic horses sometimes act in ways that make it clear to their owners that they sense an upcoming change in the weather. Shackleford Banks horses generally do fine in storms, though in 1998 several died in Hurricane Bonnie. We're not on the island to watch, but we assume that the horses seek protected places and higher ground to wait out the wind and rain. After the storm, the Shackleford Banks horses will be monitored ... as they are throughout the year.

Our August surprise was #21 Hercules' filly #2Y Havana, born in late July. All the mares had been pregnancy checked last November, but all who were pregnant at that time would have foaled by now. So the mares who are still going to foal might surprise us – sometimes they look very big but aren't pregnant ... and sometimes they look very big and they ARE pregnant!



#2Y Havana and dam #21 Hercules when first sighted in August.

Source: Cape Lookout National Seashore, Wildlife Biologist - Horses