



LOGGERHEADLINES

Sea Turtle News
from
South Carolina
June 1998

GREETINGS

Strandings

June's sea turtle strandings were the third highest on record. Out of 58 strandings, there were 53 loggerheads, 4 Kemp's, and 1 leatherback. This is the highest number of strandings in June since the implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED's) on shrimp trawls. As in past years, the majority of strandings occur in the Charleston area between Isle of Palms and Kiawah.

On 1 June a nesting female loggerhead stranded dead on Seabrook Island. This turtle was tagged nine years earlier just across the Edisto River on Botany Bay Plantation. It was tagged by SCDNR during translocation research by Tom Murphy. This 102cm, 290 lb. female had grown only one inch since then and stranded just 3 to 4 miles from where she nested in 1989. Necropsy showed 164 fully formed eggs.

Post-mortems on five fresh loggerheads and one Kemp's ridley showed them to be in good body condition. Three of the five loggerheads were carrying eggs. One of the females with eggs, was tagged and had nested on Wassaw Island, Georgia in July 1996.

Please remember to include a department map with your stranding forms so we can report

accurate stranding locations to the National Marine Fisheries Service. If you don't have a map, contact Joan Drews at 843-762-5015.

Nesting

Nesting continues to be high throughout the state. Be on the lookout for early hatchings due to the hot, dry weather we've been having. There is a chance that the hatchlings will be smaller than normal and weak because of the weather. Remember to let nature take its course and stick to the inventory protocol provided in the guidelines (ie. wait three days before opening a nest).

We're initiating a new research project this summer to determine the post-nesting movements of female loggerheads. Five turtles will be outfitted with satellite transmitters after nesting on Cape Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Barring any equipment failure, we should get information on their movements and location for at least the next year. At this time, we do not know where South Carolina turtles go in their off-nesting years. Since we don't know where these turtles go, we don't know what threats may be influencing their survival. This research could help answer important management questions. We will keep you posted on what we find.

Sally Murphy, State Coordinator
Charlotte Hope, Meg Hoyle and Joan Drews

Sea turtle song lyrics CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU

From: Nancy Ibsen
To: CTURTLE
Subject: Sea turtle song lyrics CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU
Date: Thursday, June 04, 1998 13:58:35

My mother writes environmental education songs for kids. I wanted to share with you the song she wrote about sea turtles.

Sea Turtle Memories
Copyright 1990 Nancy Schimmel/C. Forest

The baby turtles scramble to the sea,
Nothing to guide them but genetic memory
They swim and swim till they're babies no more,
Then their mem'ry guides them to the very same shore.

They lay their eggs but they don't have to stay
To watch their babies and show them the way,
They leave them to the sun and their DNA.

Sea turtle memories, moonlight on tropical foam,
The turtles are coming, humming,
There's no place like home,
Sea turtle memories weaving their natural spell
You've got a soft spot for somewhere,
under that hard old shell.

It is the taste of the water, or the smell of the air
That tells you no, not here, it's just over there?
Is it the feel of the current
or something we can't understand?
Sea turtle memories, made up of seasons and sand.

<http://www.sisterschoice.com/catalog.html>

Thanks
-Nancy Ibsen
