

Species	Month	Water Temp	Habitat	Release Location
<i>Loggerhead, Green, Kemp's ridley</i>	May 1 - Sept 30 ¹	≥ 70°F	SC nearshore coastal waters ≥ 70°F	Beach ² or boat
<i>Loggerhead, Green</i>	Oct 1 – April 30 ¹	≥ 70°F	SC offshore coastal waters on the shelf in waters ≥ 70°F	boat
<i>Kemp's ridley</i>	October and April ¹	≥ 70°F	SC offshore coastal waters on the shelf in waters ≥ 70°F and < 50 m	boat
<i>Kemp's ridley</i>	November – March ¹	≥ 70°F	FL nearshore coastal waters on the shelf in waters ≥ 70°F and < 50 m north of Cape Canaveral ³	Beach or boat in GA, FL

1. Based on NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center water temperatures for Charleston, SC, SC Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network data (1980 – 2010), and Preferred Optimal Temperature Zone (low 70s° F for sea turtles);
 2. Turtles will be released by boat in the cases that a beach release cannot be arranged within two weeks of medical clearance.
 3. Turtle will be driven or flown to Georgia or Florida;
- † Plans for release must be coordinated with the SCDNR Marine Turtle Program at least two weeks in advance of release date;
- †† Sea turtles must be tagged at least one week prior to release.