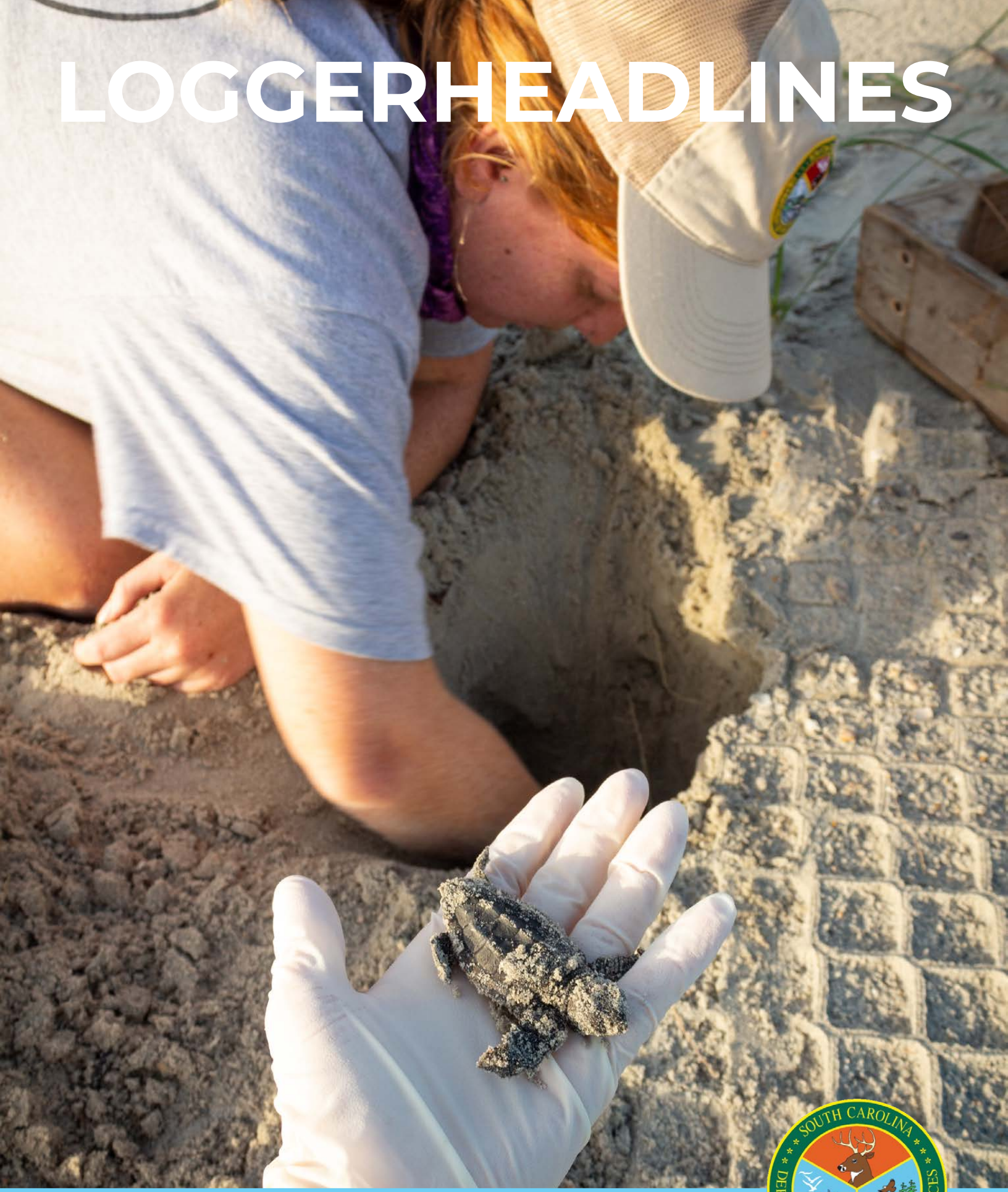
# LOGGERHEADLINES



A publication of the SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program

# 2020 *in review*


Humans, like sea turtles, are resilient creatures, and one year is but a blip in the sum of our existence. Yet, 2020 presented many challenges to "life as we know it;" not one facet of our day-to-day existence was likely left unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mother nature marched onward, however, seemingly unaware of human problems, with some circumstances changing for the better while we remained largely out of her way.

Our agency's mission is to serve as the principal advocate for and steward of South Carolina's natural resources. This year, SCDNR staff scrambled like many others to figure out how to operate in a new and ever-changing environment. Within the Marine Turtle Conservation Program, we asked ourselves (over many Zoom meetings) and our turtle teams how we could continue to manage and protect sea turtles while ensuring the safety of everyone involved. The resounding response: *we'll make it work; we'll get it done.*

Together, we got it done! We built upon this important conservation legacy now reaching into its fifth decade in South Carolina. Our volunteers, ever steadfast and ready for the call, rose to yet another challenge. With their trademark flexibility, turtle teams safely adjusted protocols long embedded in their muscle memory. Together, we continued meeting the challenge of conserving sea turtles – and did so in a safe manner.

These ancient creatures return each spring to our beaches and inhabit our waters. Perhaps, more than ever, this return marked a bright spot in a tumultuous year and reinforced a "normal" many needed to experience. We are ever grateful for the effort and sacrifice of our volunteer network and partners this past year. Challenges remain, and this health crisis is not yet over, but together we continue to make good things happen.

— Jeff Schwenter
*Wildlife Biologist, Marine Turtle Conservation Program, SCDNR*

**First nest**
*May 1, 2020*
*Lighthouse Island*
*Loggerhead*

**First emergence**
*July 11, 2020*
*Kiawah Island*
*Loggerhead*

**Last nest**
*August 23, 2020*
*Cedar Island*
*Loggerhead*

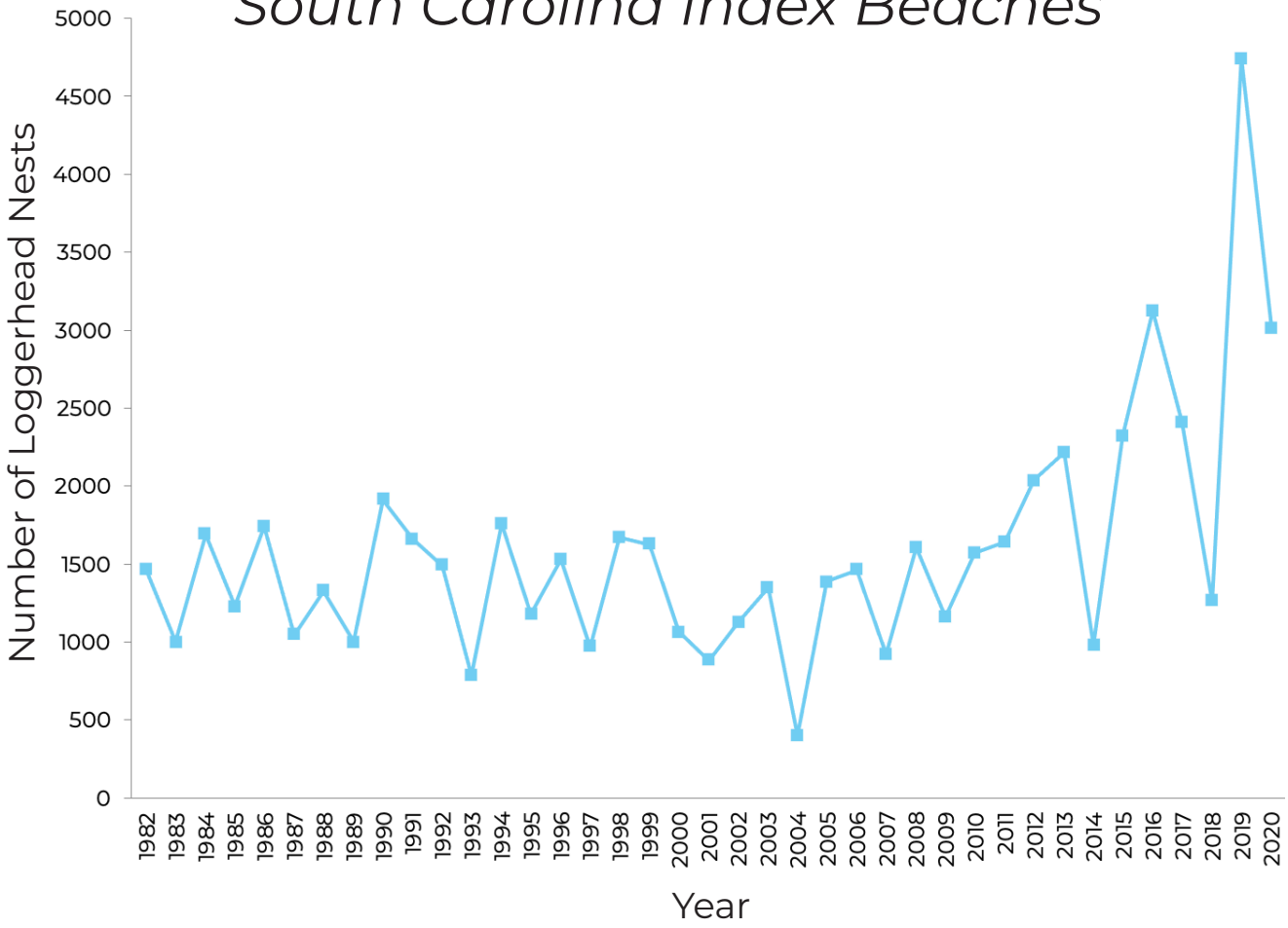
**Last emergence**
*October 18, 2020*
*Huntington Beach St Park*
*Loggerhead*


## *Loggerhead Nest Count by Beach*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Waties Island | 20 | Cape Island | 1,123 | Edingsville Beach | 41 |
| North Myrtle Beach | 9 | Lighthouse Island | 1,091 | Edisto Beach S.P | 181 |
| Briarcliffe Acres | 6 | Racoon Key | 45* | Edisto Beach | 164 |
| Myrtle Beach | 12* | Bull Island | 165 | Otter Island | 88* |
| Myrtle Beach State Park | 2 | Capers Island | 8* | Pine Island | 22* |
| Long Bay Estates | 1 | Dewees Island | 21 | Coffin Point | 29 |
| Surfside Beach | 2 | Isle of Palms | 39 | Lands End | 2* |
| Garden City | 10 | Sullivans Island | 8 | Harbor Island | 86 |
| Hungtington Beach S.P | 23 | Morris Island | n/s | Hunting Island | 134 |
| Litchfield Beaches | 14 | Folly Beach | 57 | Fripp Island | 140 |
| Pawleys Island | 13 | Kiawah Island | 342 | Pritchards Island | 108 |
| Debordieu/Hobcaw | 75 | Sandy Point - Kiawah | 44 | Little Capers Island | 69* |
| North Island | 214* | Seabrook Island | 61 | St. Phillips Island | 6* |
| Sand Island | 19* | Deveaux Bank | n/s | Bay Point Island | 33* |
| South Island | 313 | Botany Bay Island | 109 | Hilton Head Island | 291 |
| Cedar Island | 40* | Botany Bay Plantation | 169 | Daufuskie Island | 66 |
| Murphy Island | 21* | Interlude | 16* | **Total** | **5,552** |

*Number represents a minimum nest count because these beaches are not surveyed every day.

# *Loggerhead Nest Counts on South Carolina Index Beaches*




Sea turtle stewardship requires commitment to long-term monitoring goals. The South Carolina index beach survey is a subset of our total statewide nest survey (representing roughly 46% of nesting). This survey consists of projects that have conducted standardized data collection of loggerhead nests using ground surveys since 1982 and is used to examine nesting trends over time. Loggerhead nest counts from these six beach projects (South Island, Cape Island, Lighthouse Island, Edisto Beach State Park, Edisto Beach, and Fripp Island) totaled a minimum of 3,016 for the 2020 season. The up and down of nest count numbers illustrates the cyclical reproductive pattern of sea turtle nesting, as not all females nest each summer. The upward trend of the nest counts in the past deacde is encouraging, suggesting the reversal of the long-term declining trend of years past.

# DNA Revelations


**5,523**
**DNA samples in 2020**

## *Species Breakdown for 2020*

| | |
|---|---|
| **5,552** | Loggerhead |
| **3** | Green |
| **1** | Leatherback |
| **1** | Kemp's Ridley |
| **3** | Loggerhead-Hawksbill Hybrid |

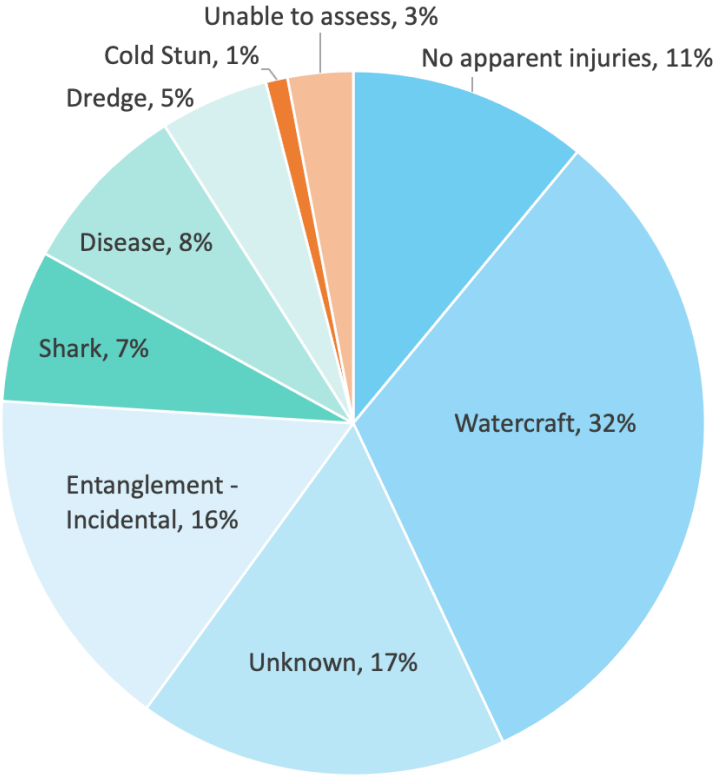
Two fascinating surprises came from this year's genetic samples. One "wild" nest laid on North Myrtle Beach this season was identified as a Kemps ridley nest through genetic testing. This Kemps ridley nest was only our state's fifth record of such a nest. Even more unusual, three nests were laid on Cape Island by a loggerhead-hawksbill hybrid sea turtle! This is the first record of such a hybrid north of Florida.

*The SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program participates in a collaborative multi-state research project with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and researchers at the University of Georgia. Read more about the genetics project at: [bit.ly/seaturtleDNA](bit.ly/seaturtleDNA)*

# Stranding & Rehabilitation

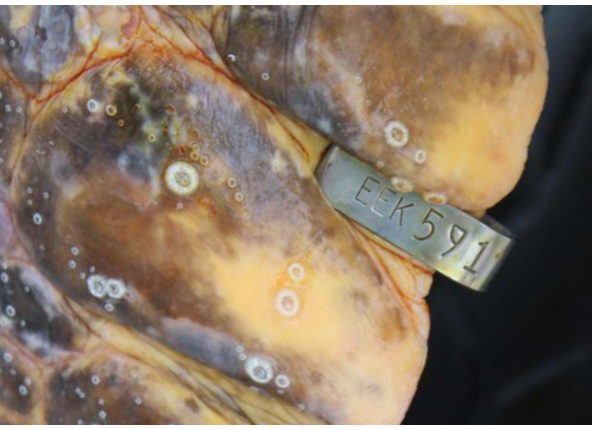

One hundred fifty-four sick, injured or dead sea turtles washed ashore in South Carolina during 2020. This represents a 15% increase over 2019 strandings but an overall decline of approximately 17% compared with the average number of stranded turtles over the previous five years. The species composition of stranded turtles included 56 Kemp's ridleys, 48 loggerheads, 47 greens and three turtles of unidentified species. Forty of the 154 sea turtles stranded alive (23 Kemp's ridleys, nine greens, seven loggerheads, one suspected hybrid). The probable cause of the live stranded turtles included: 23 incidental entanglements, six boat strikes, four diseased, two cold stuns, two dredge "takes," two shark attacks and one with a severed left front flipper attributed to either shark attack or boat strike.

Twenty-eight turtles were admitted into the South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtle Care Center. Seventeen of these were successfully released following rehabilitation, eight remain under rehabilitation and three turtles died. Nine additional live-stranded turtles were released on-site after stranding; three turtles died during transport to the South Carolina Aquarium.




*Probable cause of stranding for 154 sea turtles in 2020*

# Tracking Turtles




## 23 Flipper & PIT tags

The Marine Turtle Conservation Program tagged 23 turtles in 2020 prior to being released from rehabilitation at the South Carolina Aquarium. Tagging these turtles will allow biologists to track their progress should they be encountered again. The status of other tagged turtles, encountered either through nesting programs or stranding response during 2020, are listed below:

| Tagged Turtles | Original Tag Location | Recapture Info | Time and Distance from Original Nesting Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| Loggerhead - Nesting | Wassaw Island, GA on 6/10/2010 | Alive on 7/3/2020 nesting on Hilton Head Island, SC | 10 years & ≈20 miles |
| Loggerhead - Nesting | Wassaw Island, GA on 7/2/2016 | Alive on 6/2/2020 nesting on Hilton Head Island , SC | 4 years & ≈30 miles |

## *Re-sighted 14 Years Later*

In July, the **SCDNR In-Water Sea Turtle Research Program** received notice that a loggerhead sea turtle captured as a 69.5cm SCLmin juvenile in the Charleston, SC, shipping channel in May 2006 was re-sighted as a nesting female on Bald Head Island, NC (BHI). The biologists aboard SCDNR's in-water survey have tagged >2500 loggerhead sea turtles over the past 20 years, two-thirds of which were female — but TTF766 marks only the second time that one of those turtles tagged as a juvenile has been reported nesting on a beach.

Paul Hillbrand captured this image of TTF766 nesting on Bald Head Island for the third time in 2020.

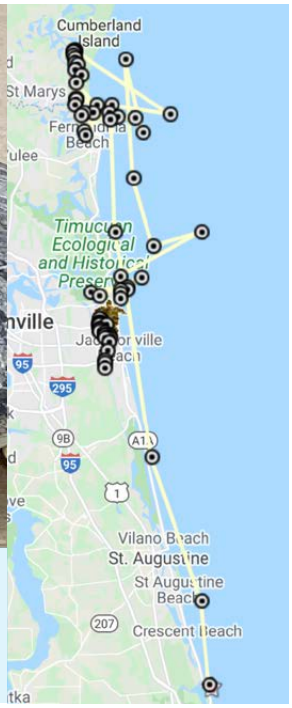
"The significance of this is that she is pushing her species forward," says Paul Hillbrand, coordinator of the Sea Turtle Conservancy Program on BHI. "She made it to sexual maturity and is reproducing. That's huge when it comes to sea turtles...It takes four states, countless organizations and individuals to protect, conserve and manage the efforts along the eastern seaboard, and I couldn't be happier to be a part of it. It seems the groundbreaking sea turtle protection work initiated in the 80s is showing signs of paying off."

# Satellite tags

The **SCDNR In-Water Sea Turtle Research Program** was not able to conduct research cruises aboard either research vessel in spring/summer 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, marking the first season with no data collection since 2000. They look forward to sampling in 2021, as it hopefully becomes safer to conduct research in close quarters.

## *Tracking Richard*

In the fall, SCDNR partnered with the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) and the University of Florida Whitney Sea Turtle Hospital to deploy a satellite transmitter on a 48-cm SCLmin green sea turtle named "Richard" during her time in rehabilitation. Richard was tagged by Dr. Dan Evans (STC) and released near St. Augustine, FL. Following release, Richard made a four-day northwesterly trek to south GA where she entered estuarine waters for three weeks. She then departed southern GA and made a slow, two-week trek south. Since mid-December, Richard has been detected daily in numerous marsh locations adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway near Jacksonville Beach. We hope that the transmitter battery will survive the winter, so that we can continue to track Richard.




Dan Evans (STC) captured the above image of "Richard" during her release near St. Augustine, FL. A map of her movements since release are shown on the right.

# Team Updates

## Edisto Beach State Park

Our Edisto Beach State Park Turtle Patrol are very grateful that we were able to continue to protect our nesting loggerhead sea turtles and educate our guests, although it looked much different than previous seasons! In order to keep our volunteers and staff safe, we got creative as to how to conduct patrols and found new ways to educate our guests. We divided the beach into patrol sections, which we had not done before, and went virtual with some of our programming. We designed and installed new sea turtle beach signs to help communicate the do's/don'ts when at the beach. We also began a new nest adoption program, which was a hit for the first season! We were happy to still get to do what we love and we look forward to the upcoming 2021 nesting season.





## North Island




*Dedicated North Island volunteers digging out nests after Hurricane Isaias. The storm dumped several feed of sand on top of nests laid in state north of Charleston.*

## *Harbor Island*

In 2020, a slimmed-down team of 20 volunteers supported Harbor's Sea Turtle Project, with 18 volunteers conducting daybreak nest surveys, one volunteer patrolling at night and another entering our SC Aquarium Litter-Free Digital Journal data. A few highlights/ "lowlights" included ~15" of rain on July 7-8. This caused days-long pooling of water in nest chambers and precipitated (intentional play on words) a massive pea vine (*Strophostyles helvola*) growth explosion, with roots suffocating many nests. In happier news, we saw the return of a loggerhead mom who has now nested on our beach three years in a row. Where is she foraging in the offseason? And we also had the opportunity to measure and record data for 14 loggerhead moms, one of which we measured three times and barely missed at her fourth nest. Many thanks to our incredible volunteers! They rock!

## *Folly Beach*

Although Folly is saying goodbye to these fabulous turtle volunteers, they will never be forgotten. Our heartfelt thanks for your years of service to the conservation and dedication to the Folly Beach Turtle Watch Program:

- Donna Davis is retiring with eight years of service.
- Jane Davis moved to Alabama after six years of service.
- Jean Kronenberger is retiring with five years of service.
- Betty Tarnowski is retiring with 20 years of service.

## *DeBordieu & Hobcaw S.C.U.T.E.*

In spite of a challenging season, we survived with some good turtle stories to tell. We had the return of Gimpy, our three-flippered regular visitor. After 21 unsuccessful attempts, she was able to nest after volunteer Kathi Aderholt found her and helped her dig the chamber! Post-Hurricane Isaias, volunteers and helpful vacationers pitched in to dig out nests covered with up to two feet of sand. We were able to successfully hatch out nests due to this group effort. At season's end, volunteer Susan Davis organized a virtual 5K Walk/Run to benefit the Sea Turtle Care Center. With over 100 participants and donors, we raised $5,600!

## *Seabrook Island*

Garry and Terry Fansler are retiring from the Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol with a move out of state. They have been on the team for 11 years, with Terry acting as Patrol Leader while Gary handled data entry and report writing for four years. We wish them well on their new adventures!

## *Daufuskie Island*

Tammy Helmuth is stepping down as permit holder this year but plans to remain on the team assisting with nesting patrols and stranding response. She has been a turtle team member since 2005 and held the permit since 2014.

## *Myrtle Beach Police Dept*

Corporal Tommy Hunt retired at the end of 2020 after 15 years of service. Tommy participated in our Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network as a stranding responder in the northern part of the state. We wish him much relaxation in his retirement!

# Volunteer Perspectives

## Gimpy Success Story

**by Kathi Aderholt**

Motivated by the moonrise and knowing that Gimpy had two false crawls near my house, I ventured out to the beach around 11:30 pm looking for turtle tracks. I had been up since 5:30 am, so I decided to go no further than the round house. By moonlight I could see the tracks in the distance. Could it be Gimpy?! Carefully I shone my red flashlight on the beginning of the track. Yes, it could be the turtle with one flipper! And I could see her sitting on the beach, having stopped well before the dunes.

Now wait. Be still. Be quiet. Is she still moving? Is she digging? Is she laying the eggs? Is it truly Gimpy? She was definitely stopped, so I infantry-crawled up behind her. I used my red flashlight to make a positive identification. There is no left flipper. It's Gimpy!

She had 15 attempts at nesting in 9 days. She has to be exhausted. Charlotte said theoretically we could help her dig her hole. I laughed when I read that. So it was time to observe. Gimpy had started digging a hole, but was not having much success. She scooped out sand with her right flipper, deposited it behind her and then scraped it back into the hole. I tried removing the sand she deposited so it couldn't be pushed back in. There was no way I could get my hand under her and in that six-inch hole!

After just a few minutes she moved a few feet forward. Oh no! Please don't leave! I'll help you dig a hole. So I did. Just a Hail Mary in the turtle world. I started digging as close to her flipper as I could get. I had not brought a cockle shell and had no time to find one. My hope was that she would move around and feel the hole with her flipper. I dug frantically and reached hard coarse sand. I didn't want her to feel that so I pushed through, removed a few rocks and finally got to some softer sand. Gimpy just sat there. After I was about 15 inches down, I stopped and waited. Could she possibly find my hole and think it was hers? Did she know I was there?

She started moving her right flipper just slightly. Yes, find the hole. You're so close. To my amazement she started digging in my hole! What an incredible flipper! She scooped out a good flipper-full, deposited the sand next to her this time, returned the flipper to resting position and moved her egg tube over the hole. Now it's my turn. Because this hole was wider and deeper, I was barely able to slide my hand under her tube and dig out a handful of sand. Then she moved the egg tube to her left, slapped the right flipper on the sand, pushed the flipper to her right and then up and down into the hole for another flipper-full of sand. This slow, methodical pattern of taking turns continued for an hour. I think we were both exhausted.

I had been doing all this without the red flashlight, by feel and moonlight. I felt like the hole was deep enough, but Gimpy did not. I decided to take a look. Amazing. She stretched her flipper and it could barely touch the bottom of the hole. Yes, it was deep enough. Then she moved it slowly in a circle, barely touching all sides. Now she was scraping about a tablespoon of sand from the left wall of the hole. I decided to do the same on the right side. This pattern continued for a full 15 minutes, checking the hole each time. Really, Gimpy, it looks great to me. FINALLY, she stopped. She rested a few minutes and positioned the egg tube on the left side of the hole, touching the side of the chamber. Then her body began to contract and I could almost hear her breathe. Eggs, please, eggs!

Her right flipper raised in the air and as it came down, out shot an egg, like a ping pong ball from a nerf gun. I had to hold back the happy tears. Flipper up, flipper down, eggs and slime shot out, one, two or three at a time.

I started counting and then decided to try getting some red light videos. It took about 30 minutes and she was done. She rested a few minutes, and began covering with her rear flipper. She was on her own now. She spent 10 minutes filling in the hole, patting it down and pressing her body on the nest. She was moving from side to side and only using her right rear flipper for a while. Then she started moving forward and throwing sand everywhere with her front flippers. Then at 2:00 am, job well done, she turned and headed back to the ocean, triumphantly swimming into the waves!

# 10 Year Celebration Poem

**by North Island Turtle Team**

DNR's mission seemed simple enough
go to beautiful NTH...nothing tough
just document loggerhead nesting
because predators were ingesting

It's been 10 interesting years
of bugs, sweat and changing gears
our faithful teams weekly went
with countless, long hours spent

Planes landed, boats stranded
Breaches crossed, ATV lost
Hot days, rain delays
Vitex inspected, trash collected
Nursery ditched, wooden cues pitched
Eggs protected, riders ejected
Invading tour boats, abandoned floats
Currents fought, lost anchors sought

Thanks for the hard work and dedication
Cheers to our 10-year celebration!

# Notes from the Field

*A season of turtles and discovery*

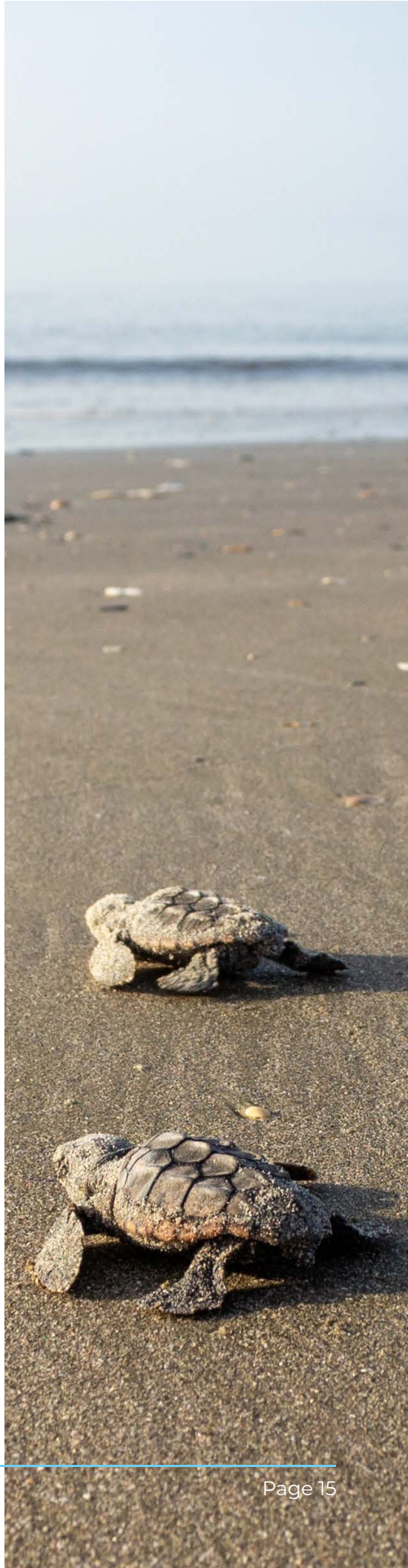
**by Amber Von Harten**

With the crank of a key and gentle hum of the engine, we drift away from the new floating dock at the recently renovated public boat landing at Sol Legare as we launch beside the local crabber, off to tend to his crab pots. The flood of the incoming tide and the gentle onshore wind creates mirror like conditions on the Stono River as we motor out to Sandy Point.

Located on the far north end of Kiawah Island, this 2.25-mile stretch of barrier island is undeveloped and separated from the rest of Kiawah Island by some small tidal creeks, making it only accessible by boat. A popular anchoring spot for the weekend boating crowd, Sandy Point is a classic barrier island with a healthy dune system backed by small pockets of erosional maritime forest, a few freshwater ponds and saltmarsh. This treasured Lowcountry ecosystem is the perfect spot for a diversity of flora and fauna to take up residence, including the loggerhead sea turtle, which graces us with its presence yearly between May and October.

This season, SCDNR had difficulty hiring some of their usual seasonal staff to cover some of the nesting beaches monitored by agency staff and needed a few helping hands. I jumped at the opportunity to return to the field work that defined my introduction to barrier island ecology some 20 years ago on Pritchards Island down in Beaufort County, SC. I rejoined the ranks of hundreds of SCDNR volunteers to walk the beach looking for signs of loggerhead sea turtle nesting and hatching and participate in a long-term genetics project that has been able to identify multiple generations of nesting females along the NC, SC, GA, and North FL coast. For this volunteer project, Sandy Point is only patrolled one day each week which brings challenges that will be revealed shortly.

We arrive at Sandy Point and anchor the boat in the small creek immediately behind the north end of the island. This morning, a nighthawk greets us as it makes its acrobatic flight through the air and over the dunes catching insects on the fly. As we start our patrol, we note the weather conditions and time in our data book and start the trek down the beach to see what visitors we had over the past week. We keep the load rather light and only carry a T-shaped probe stick for finding the egg chamber of any suspected turtle nests and a hefty backpack full of nesting



supplies to mark and record a GPS location of confirmed nests and “false crawls” where the turtle attempts to nest but abandons the effort.

Up ahead about a quarter mile, a telltale track emerges out of the ocean stretching up into the dunes – a turtle crawl. Upon further inspection, the turtle has definitely left the classic field signs of a nesting attempt – a large body pit where she dug through the soft sand layer to dig her nest in the hard compact sand, broken vegetation from her digging action, and thrown sand around the area from where she used her flippers to cover and conceal the nest from predators. Using the probe stick, we gently and methodically sink the stick into the sand in rows until feeling the sand give way indicating we’ve found the upside-down, light bulb-shaped egg chamber about 18-24-inches deep. Once the egg chamber is confirmed, a GPS location is recorded, one egg sample is taken for the genetics study, and the nest is covered back up with sand and marked with a stake to monitor the nest throughout the season. Some projects use protective screens to cover the nest to prevent predators, such as raccoons, wild hogs, or coyotes, from digging into the nest and eating the eggs or hatchlings. However, depredation events have been minimal at Sandy Point the last couple of years and this protective measure was not put in place for 2020.

Each week, we make the journey by boat and the routine of sunrise walks to find nests in this manner continues through late July/early August until nesting ends. And typically, around the first week of July, after 45-60 days of incubation, hatchlings begin to emerge from the nests. At this point in the season, each nest is checked for tiny tracks spreading out in front of the nest to indicate the hatchlings have made their way out of their sandy nursery and down into the waves where they will spend the rest of their lives in their new watery home. Only females will ever return to land to lay the next generation of Caretta caretta.  To track the success of the nest, three days after the emergence, the nest is excavated, and the number of eggshells and unhatched eggs are counted along with the occasional live hatchling.

As of this writing, there have been 42 nests laid on Sandy Point in 2020 and hatchlings started to emerge about three weeks ago. And, because patrols only happen one day a week, we are finding a handful of “wild nests” – nests that were laid but the crawl went undetected until the hatchlings began to emerge. Unfortunately, coyotes have also returned to the beach resulting in some nests being dug into and partially lost. But, fortunately, loggerhead sea turtles developed a brilliant reproductive strategy to put a massive amount of energy into reproduction, laying 3-5 nests per season with an average of 116 eggs per nest. This amount of potential offspring can help ensure that a portion of the nests survive to sustain the population for future generations.

Each week since mid-May, we’ve risen with the sun one day each weekend to make the trek to Sandy Point. Watching the evolution of summer on a barrier island is truly an exercise in discovery - observing the transition of sea oats sprouting forward and then going to seed with their golden hue; watching Wilson’s plovers and American Oystercatchers rear their young along the back dune areas; tending to the loggerhead nests and feeling the heartbreak of waves brought on by Hurricane Isaias taking a bite out of the dunes and washing away some nests. But, this is the cyclical way of nature – she gives and takes. Witnessing this cycle is like the ebb and flow of the tides – what one tide takes away can deposit new life in the next. All in the cycle of a summer season.

*Story orginally published by the South Carolina Marine Educators Association*

# Citizen Science

## Report Turtle Sightings

Members of the public can use our smartphone application for reporting sightings of healthy sea turtles in South Carolina waters. Information collected by everyday "citizen scientists" using the app complements our nesting and in-water marine turtle projects and provides valuable data regarding the abundance, locations and life histories of sea turtles. This information may help improve management and decision-making in lesser-studied estuarine and coastal marine waters of South Carolina.

Through the app, users can share the location and photos of the sighting along with additional information about the animal, such as size, species, and observed behavior. The app also provides users with background information about our program and a "field guide" to assist with the identification of sea turtle species.

1. Download the "Survey123 for ArcGIS" App on your phone.
2. Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code or open this link in your web browser: arcg.is/1mKHb00
3. Now the sea turtle reporting form will be ready to use anytime, even in areas with no cell reception!

## Report Manatee Sightings

In addition to sea turtles sightings, we are now collecting citizen science reports of manatee sightings in South Carolina waters! You can report sightings at bit.ly/ManateeSighting

## Monitor King Tides

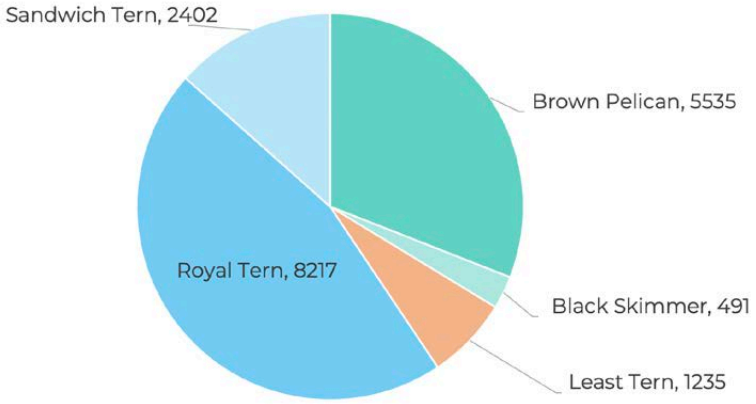
Download the MyCoast.org App to report king tides, document storm damage, and report abandoned boats to SCDHEC.

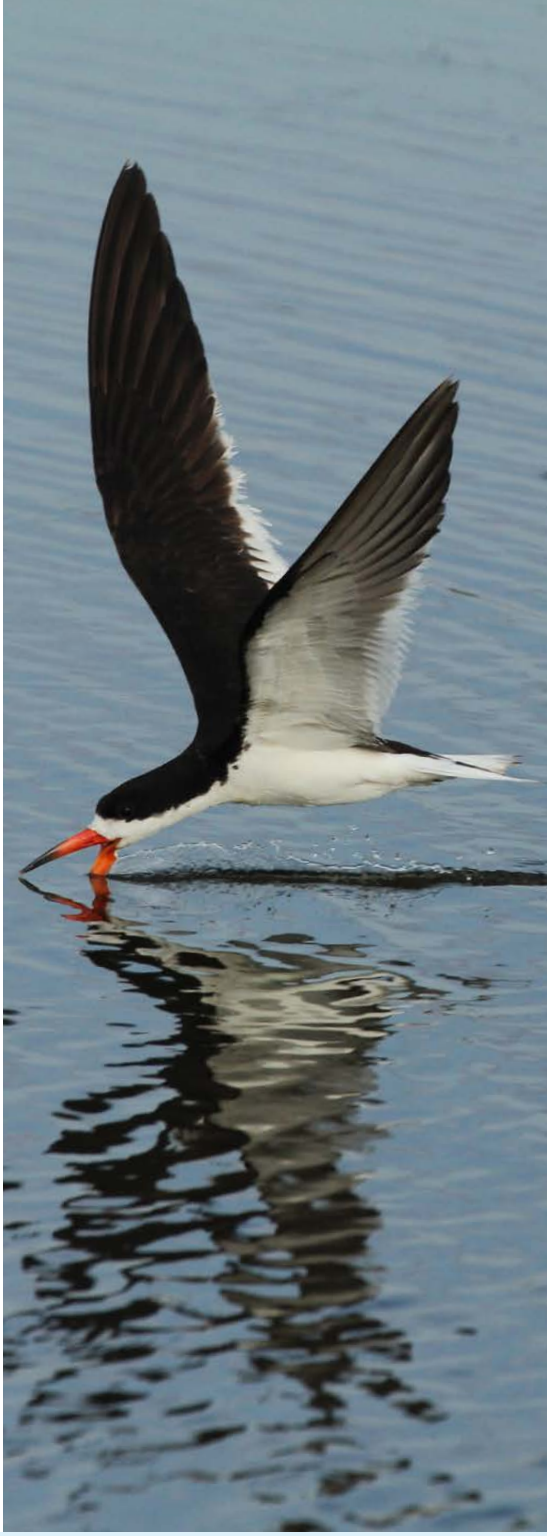
# Beyond Turtles

## Seabirds

The beach bird nesting season of 2020 is one the SCDNR Coastal Birds Project will never forget! Preparations for the busy field season were progressing in early March, and then COVID-19 appeared! SCDNR offices were closed, and staff could not work in the field. We all entered a new way of living, but the birds were not restricted. As they have for thousands of years, shorebirds and seabirds made spring migrations to SC to rest and feed, nest on our shores and produce the next generation of birds. SC's beaches were closed to public visitation from March 30 to April 21, and migrating shorebirds such as piping plovers, dunlin and semipalmated sandpipers had undisturbed time for feeding and resting. American oystercatchers and Wilson's plovers established nesting territories and laid their eggs in people-free spaces. By the time people returned to the beaches in record numbers, the Coastal Birds Project had colony nesting sites posted and stringed, indicating temporary closures so that birds could nest undisturbed.

### *Seabird Nest Count in 2020*



Nest counts for each species, except for the black skimmer, have increased in South Carolina since 2000. This increase is a testament to statewide support of nesting habitat protection. Unfortunately, 2020 had the lowest number of black skimmer nests since 2000. Black skimmers nest later than most seabirds, with the first nests laid in late June, when beach recreation is at its peak. Additionally, black skimmers are particularly sensitive to disturbance from people and dogs, and, unlike terns, do not aggressively defend against predators. With threats such as a decrease in habitat and increased recreational use of our beaches, black skimmers need our help to keep going! We are hopeful for an increase in black skimmer nests in 2021.



**Photo: Black Skimmer**
**Christy Hand, SCDNR**

# Our Team

**Michelle Pate**
*Coordinator*

**Charlotte Hope**
*Wildlife Biologist*

**Jeff Schwenter**
*Wildlife Biologist*

## *2020 Seasonal Staff*

**Abbey Chaney** Charleston
**Caitlin Walker** Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center

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*As well as:*

**Horry County Police**
**Myrtle Beach Police**
**Myrtle Beach Fire Dept**
**Midway Fire Dept**
**Charleston Fire Dept**
**Holy City Sailing**

# *In Memoriam*

## James “Jim” Poindexter

*1940-2020*

The Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol held a drive-by birthday celebration for Jim’s 80th birthday. Many of our volunteers wished him happy birthday and zone captains were on hand to give Jim names of folks not in his zone! Jim was very surprised, not an easy feat where Jim is concerned. Jim has been with the Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol for at least 25 years! Sadly, we lost him to COVID-19 in December of 2020. He will be sorely missed.

# *The SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program*


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