

# NEST Rehab Report

12/16/10 12 noon

**Loggerheads (CC), Green Turtles (CM), and Kemp's Ridleys (LK).**

Here is our cold-stunned residents status as of Thursday, 12/16, all from south of Oregon Inlet:

LK 0	12/6	16.9 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CC 0	12/7	55.7 pounds	12/11	Transported to Virginia Aquarium
CM L1	12/6	10.0 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CM L3	12/6	11.0 pounds	12/15	Released by USCG Ft Macon*
CM L2	12/6	5.12 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CM L4	12/7	5.7 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CC L1	12/7	58.00 pounds	12/11	Transported to Virginia Aquarium
LK L1	12/7	17.6 pounds	12/16	Transported to Topsail
LK L5	12/9	11.9 Pounds		
LK L3	12/8	13.5 pounds		
CM M1	12/8	6.3 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CM M2	12/8	6.9 pounds	12/16	Transported to Topsail ( <i>Old bite left side of carapace</i> )
LK L2	12/8	3.7 pounds	12/15	Released by USCG Ft Macon*
CC L2	12/8	77.6 pounds		<i>Repair of prolapsed cloaca</i>
LK L4	12/8	15.15 pounds	12/13	Transported to South Carolina Aquarium
CM M4	12/10	5.04 pounds	12/16	Transported to Topsail
LK M1	12/10	5.05 pounds	12/15	Released by USCG Ft Macon*
LK M2	12/14	45 pounds	12/16	Transported to Topsail
LK M3	12/14	17.9 pounds		
LK M4	12/14	5.5 pounds		
CC L3	12/14	60.3 pounds		

*Note: 2 greens and 1 Kemp's have died; 1 Kemp's was euthanized due to scavengers' injuring both eyes*

*CM 0, our healthy little 8 pound green who was found by a fisherman 11/8/10, treated for congestion, and has been waiting for a ride to the Gulf Stream, was transported south, then released by USCG Ft. Macon 12/15/10! \**

*\*see account below*



## COLD STUNNED SEA TURTLE RELEASE

**15 December 2010, Wednesday**

Rescued and recovered cold-stunned turtles from NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, NC Aquarium at Roanoke Island and 56 late hatchling green turtles from South Carolina were transported offshore by the US Coast Guard Cutter Block Island (WPB 1344), commanded by Lt. Joseph "Grant" Thomas, Jr., accompanied by Craig A. Harms, DVM, PhD, DACZM and Eric T. Anderson, DVM.

### ***Account below written by Dr. Harms.***

Departure was approximately 10:30 am from the Fort Macon Coast Guard Station. Water temperature just outside of the inlet was about 51 °F (10.5 °C). Turtles were stacked in the main deck hallway. Initial temperatures in the totes shortly after departure, when there had been much opening and closing of the hatch doors, ranged from 15.1 °C on the floor near the door, to 16.8 °C near the roof, with one lucky one at 18 °C in the state room. By 11:00 temperatures were 15.9 – 18.2 °C for turtles in the hallway. After the thermostat was raised, the temperatures were all above 18 °C.

A RHIB (rigid-hulled inflatable boat) was launched to facilitate the releases, so that no turtle would have to be dropped from the deck into the water (height varied with the swell, but 5 – 10 feet). Turtles were consolidated into totes and taken on deck in

stages just prior to loading the RHIB. The RHIB took 2 totes at a time, pulled off a safe distance from the ship, and carefully released each turtle directly into the water. Water temperature at the release site was 23.3 °C (74 °F).

Releases started at about 14:05 and were completed by about 14:30.

Start Release Location N 34° 00.409' W 076° 16.805'

End Release Location N 33° 59.128' W 076° 15.125'

(coordinates from hand-held GPS)

The hatchlings were released last, and there were some small patches of sargassum where they were released that was not present at the beginning of the release.

All turtles but one green were observed to swim well immediately following release. One green floated for a longer time initially. Observations were at a distance, from the deck of the ship. Coast Guard personnel releasing the hatchlings indicated they also swam well immediately. There was one gull that hovered briefly and showed some interest in the hatchlings, but no takes were observed.

Assessment: successful release.



*Pre-loading*



*Stowing Turtles (Dr. Anderson)*



*Stowed turtles*



*Turtles in the main deck hallway*



*Hatchling greens prior to release*



*Releasing loggerhead from RHIB*