

Share the Beach



Newsletter of the USFWS Daphne Field Office

<http://daphne.fws.gov>

October 4, 2002



Hatchling from Orange Beach Photo: USFWS

Just a Reminder

- **Thurs. Oct. 10**-End of Season Party! 6:30PM, Gulf State Park
- Please bring all FWS supplies to the last meeting, return them to GSP Nature Center or Bon Secour Refuge during the week of October 14th.
- Bring any suggestions you have for next season to the party or email them to seaturtle2002@hotmail.com

Contact Us:

1-866-SEA-TURTLE, x 41
or
251-441-5181, x 41

*Share the Beach
Newsletter*

Staff

Tarah Smith
Sarah Gibbs

The Share the Beach newsletter is published by the Daphne Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Drawer 1190, Daphne, AL 36526. Tel. 251-441-5181. Fax 251-441-6222. Web site: <http://daphne.fws.gov>.

Share the Beach Update

It seems that with every newsletter there is another storm to talk about and this one is no exception. Tropical Storm Isidore graced our shores on Thursday, September 24th after spending a week moving around the Gulf. Even though the storm had weakened from a Category 4 Hurricane to a tropical storm, it still hit our beaches pretty hard. Luckily we had placed our three remaining nests (D3, H7, I11) in coolers before the storm hit. We returned the nests to the ground on Saturday, September 28th only to take them out again on Wednesday, October 2nd because of Hurricane Lili. Nest I11 was full of hatchlings when we dug it up and they were released after the storm subsided. These three nests have been moved as much as four times but are still producing good results. It appears that relocating nests later in their incubation is not as damaging as originally thought. We can use this information next year to make decisions on moving the nests during storms.

One of our volunteers emailed us a link to an uplifting story about one man's attempt to save the struggling sea turtle population in Indonesia. The web address to the story is:

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/18002/story.htm>

Agus Santoso, an Indonesian local, buys captured turtles from fisherman using his own money and also incubates turtle nests at his home. He has even inspired local officials to develop conservation programs in a country that traditionally offers no protection for endangered species.



Laguna Key Hatchling Photo: USFWS



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Nest Update

Nests that recently hatched:

Laguna Key: B10- 61 hatchlings

B11- 9 hatchlings

Orange Beach: H6- 30 hatchlings

AL Point: I11- 66 hatchlings

BS/Ft. Morgan: A29- 21 hatchlings

Survival Percentage: 62%

Hatchling Total: 4145

Average Incubation: 63 Days

Remaining Nests:

West Beach #1: D3 (Southern Sands Con

Orange Beach: H7 (Holiday Inn Express)

Important Dates

October 10th is the End of The Season Party. Volunteers who participated in the program will be receiving certificates, there will be a slide show with pictures from the season, and refreshments to enjoy. Kickoff National Wildlife Refuge Week (Oct 14th-18th) with the "Monarch Majesty" butterfly tour. The tour leaves from Pine beach trail off of Hwy 180 on October 12th at 5:30 PM.