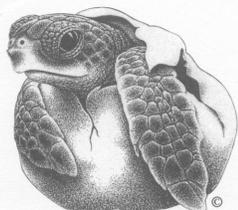


# Share the Beach

August 10, 2001



*Share the Beach*

## How to Contact us:

US Fish &  
Wildlife Service

251-441-5181  
1-866-SEA-TURTLE  
Ext 32 or 41  
**Cell: 334-331-0835**

## Sea Turtle Facts

- Loggerhead hatchlings may rely on light cues on the beach, light cues in the water, and wave cues, to help set their magnetic compass.
- It is hypothesized that magnetic cues play a large role in helping turtles recognize and find their natal beaches.

Dear Sea Turtle Volunteers,

Our next meeting will be held at **Gulf State Park Resort** on **August 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30pm**.

## Storm Update

High tides and the wave effects preceding Tropical Storm Barry combined to spell trouble for our turtle nests last Friday. We'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped check and relocate nests. In all, 151 hatchlings were saved from drowning, 6 nests were relocated, and 7 nests were lost to the storm. It was interesting to note that one of the nests containing hatchlings was on its 57<sup>th</sup> day, while another was on its 70<sup>th</sup> day, so the incubation time is definitely varying.

## Planning for Future Storms

During a storm situation, volunteers are allowed to relocate nests in danger of washing away without USFWS or Gulf State Park personnel present, because we simply cannot be everywhere at once. When moving nests that have just been laid, maintaining the same orientation for each egg is important. When moving nests over 25 days old, orientation is not as critical. In either situation there is a risk associated with moving the eggs, but those risks are better than losing the entire nest.

## New Cell Phone Number

Because our cell phone was not getting very good coverage in some areas, it has been difficult to reach us at times. We are now switching to a radio phone which will get a more reliable signal. The **new cell number** is **334-331-0835**. If you need to contact us when we are out of the office, or have a turtle related emergency at night, please call us. Please try to contact us at the office first during the day. This number should be in effect within a week (8/20).

## Nest List

We are attaching an updated nest list. Please let us know if any information is missing or incorrect.

## Kemp's Ridley in Alabama!

We had a preserved specimen from our first nest to hatch in Laguna Key. Thanks to Donna Ellis for freezing it! We've sent it off to an expert in Texas and

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**Alpha** – Orange  
Beach/Perdido  
Key

**Charlie** – Gulf  
State Park

**Delta** – Gulf  
Shores Beach

**Echo** – Laguna  
Key & West Beach  
West

**Foxtrot I & II** –  
West Beach East

**Gulf** – Fort  
Morgan



Floaters :

Homer Singleton:  
251-943-8945

Trent & Jill Scott:  
251-928-5967

she's confirmed that it is a Kemp's ridley. This means we must keep an eye out for other Kemp's nests. Their inter-nesting period is about 14 days, so keep your eyes peeled and take a close look at all hatchlings so we can identify any more possible Kemp's ridleys.

### **Important Reminders!**

**Please call us with pole numbers from streetlights and the dates they need to be shut off (55-day marks)! The sooner we get this done, the better. Also please ask condo owners to turn off their lights when the turtles are due to hatch.**

We will do nest excavation 72 hours after the hatchlings start to emerge or on day 75 if no hatchlings have emerged. If you would like to participate in excavation please let us know.

Team leaders should fax/call us with their nest numbers (ex. E12) based on the first letter of their team name and the order in which the nests were laid.

This program would not exist without all the time and hard work put in by its volunteers. Keep up the great work!

Happy Turtling