

**From:** [Stephen Weege](#)  
**To:** [Meghan Koperski](#)  
**Cc:** [Bob Hoffman](#); [Dave Niebch](#); [Dave Clark](#); [RidsNrrDlr Resource](#); [Ed Hollowell](#); [Jodie Gless](#); [Ken Frehafer](#); [Mike Bresette](#); [Shelley Norton](#); [Vince Munne](#)  
**Subject:** September 2011 FPL Marine Turtle Removal Monthly Report  
**Date:** Thursday, October 06, 2011 11:04:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [September 2011 Marine Turtle Captures.rtf](#)  
[Monthly Report Notes 2011.xls](#)  
[FPL St. Lucie Capture Summary 2011.xls](#)

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Mrs. Meghan Koperski  
Tequesta Field Laboratory  
19100 SE Federal Highway  
Tequesta, FL 33469

**Subject: Marine Turtle Removal Monthly Summary  
September 2011**

Dear Meghan,

Attached, please find the monthly summary of marine turtle removals for September 2011. This month, we captured fifteen (15) *Caretta caretta* and sixteen (16) *Chelonia mydas* in the intake canal of the St. Lucie power plant on Hutchinson Island. There were no mortalities or sea turtles sent for rehabilitation in September.

Throughout the month, the 5" barrier net experienced negligible to severe loads of jellyfish that entered into the intake canal, whereas algae entrainment ranged from negligible to moderate in magnitude. There were two severe jellyfish intrusion events in the month of September. The first began on August 20<sup>th</sup> and subsided after the first week of September. The second severe jellyfish event began on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and is ongoing as of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

UESI divers remained on site during both of these events to attend to the 5" barrier net. Efforts ranged from four divers cleaning the net around the clock to one diver performing routine inspections and cleaning as needed during daylight hours. The divers also added three floats to the 5" net during times of light jellyfish intrusion. In addition to this effort, FPL and IRG personnel performed helicopter surveys to monitor the progression of the jellyfish event offshore (up to two miles out, between the Jupiter and Fort Pierce Inlets). Inwater Research Group (IRG) personnel increased canal monitoring efforts to include nights on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Then, from September 18<sup>th</sup> until the 30<sup>th</sup>, IRG monitored the intake canal 24 hours-a-day. To lessen the potential impact of this event on entrained sea turtles, IRG biologists proactively removed turtles whenever possible through the use of hand capture and dip nets. Despite the heavy influx of jellyfish, the temporary barrier net has performed as designed and no turtles have been observed beyond the 5-inch net. A permanent fix for the primary net continues to remain in the design phase.

The tag numbers and morphometric data for all turtles are attached. Also included is a spreadsheet for all captures, mortalities, injuries, and causal events delineated by species and by month for 2011. This spreadsheet also tracks fresh scrapes incurred on captured turtles for the current month, as well as the entire year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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