

## **NRR-PMDAPem Resource**

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**From:** Steve Weege <steveweege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** Meghan Koperski  
**Cc:** Ed Hollowell; Jodie Gless; John Jones; Ken Frehafer; Marine Turtle Permit; Michael Bresette; EndangeredSpecies Resource; SCO@dep.state.fl.us; Vince Munne; Cody Mott; Jeff Guertin; Ryan Welsh; debbie.spring@noaa.gov; Eaton, Kristin; Jonathan Gorham; Terri.Taylor@fpl.com; William.Nurnberger@fpl.com; Audra Livergood - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] April 2017 FPL Marine Turtle Removal Monthly Report  
**Attachments:** April 2017 Marine Turtle Captures.pdf; Monthly Report Notes 2017.pdf; FPL St. Lucie Capture Summary 2017.pdf; Power Plant Causal Turtles.pdf

Mrs. Meghan Koperski

Tequesta Field Laboratory

19100 SE Federal Highway

Tequesta, FL 33469

**Subject: Marine Turtle Removal Monthly Summary**

**April 2017**

Dear Meghan,

Attached, please find the monthly summary of marine turtle removals for April 2017. This month, we captured thirteen (13) *Caretta caretta* and one (1) *Chelonia mydas* in the intake canal of the St. Lucie power plant on Hutchinson Island. Four sea turtles were sent for rehabilitation and there were no mortalities recorded during the month of April. As with all sea turtle strandings at the Saint Lucie Plant (alive or dead), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was consulted and a stranding form was filed with the state through the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network.

Four loggerhead sea turtles were sent to rehabilitation facilities for non-causal injuries this month. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, an emaciated subadult loggerhead was recovered from the tangle nets. The turtle was in poor condition (heartbeat visible). Harbor Branch personnel helped to transfer this turtle to the Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) in Juno Beach for rehabilitation. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, an emaciated subadult loggerhead was recovered from the tangle nets. It had a small break in the left posterior carapace (necrotic, not from entrapment). Inwater Research Group (IRG) biologists transported this turtle to LMC for rehabilitation. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, an emaciated subadult loggerhead with heavy epibiont coverage was hand-captured near the base of the permanent 5-inch barrier net. The FWC Stranding Coordinator transported this turtle to the Clearwater Aquarium for rehabilitation. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, another emaciated subadult loggerhead was recovered from the permanent 5-inch barrier net. It had a 10 cm necrotic wound in the right anterior carapace. IRG biologists transported this turtle to LMC for initial medical treatment. The turtle was later transferred to the Miami Seaquarium. All of the strandings this month were considered non-causal.

Throughout the month, the permanent 5-inch barrier net experienced light loads of algae and only negligible amounts of jellyfish. Overall, the barrier net has performed as designed and no turtles have been observed beyond the 5-inch net.

The tag numbers and morphometric data for all turtles captured during the month have been included with this report (see attachments/addendums). Also included is a spreadsheet for all captures, mortalities, injuries, and causal events delineated by species and by month for 2017. In addition, this spreadsheet tracks fresh scrapes incurred on captured turtles for the current month, as well as the entire year. An additional Excel spreadsheet tracks all causal injuries and mortalities incurred by sea turtles at the St. Lucie Plant since 2004.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve

Steve Weege

Sr. Environmental Specialist

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<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	3100	5/9/2017 12:36:02 PM
April 2017 Marine Turtle Captures.pdf		72034
Monthly Report Notes 2017.pdf	56318	
FPL St. Lucie Capture Summary 2017.pdf		72933
Power Plant Causal Turtles.pdf	87697	

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**MARINE TURTLE REMOVALS  
ST. LUCIE PLANT INTAKE CANAL  
APRIL 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Tag #'s</b>	<b>SMCL (cm)</b>	<b>SSCL (cm)</b>	<b>CSCL (cm)</b>	<b>CMCW (cm)</b>	<b>SMCW (cm)</b>	<b>SMPL (cm)</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Method</b>
4/1/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	1	MMA790/MMA791	98.4	100.3	106.4	95.9	71.4	72.9	134.7	North net
4/1/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA792/MMA793	67.5	69.0	73.0	68.4	57.6	55.8	50.6	North net
4/2/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	2	JRG170402-01	67.2	68.5	72.5	68.6	54.9	51.6	37.2	North net
4/4/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA794/MMA795	77.7	79.0	82.5	77.8	59.1	60.0	60.2	South net
4/6/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA796/MMA797	68.7	70.4	74.4	68.2	55.8	53.5	43.4	North net
4/9/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	3	LLS451/LLS452	84.1	85.0		82.4	60.3		78.0	Hand capture
4/10/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA798/MMA799	57.7	59.0	62.0	61.5	51.9	47.3	29.6	South net
4/10/2017	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	4	MMA800/MMA801	60.8	60.9	63.7	56.8	45.7	50.3	26.8	South net
4/13/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	5	STW170413-01	62.5	63.9	68.7	66.2	53.4	49.0	28.8	North net
4/19/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	6	STW170419-01	67.1	68.6	72.7	67.3	55.6	53.5	35.7	Hand capture
4/24/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA802/MMA803	62.6	64.9	68.0	65.9	56.9	49.5	39.7	South net
4/25/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA804/MMA805	66.5	67.6	71.4	67.5	56.0	51.5	40.4	North net
4/27/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>		MMA806/MMA807	66.9	68.4	73.8	68.7	58.2	54.9	49.7	Hand capture
4/29/2017	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	7	STW170429-01	63.2	64.0	68.0	65.0	51.9		30.6	Barrier net

## NOTES

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1. Adult female. Tail length = 220 mm. Healing shark bite wounds in both front flippers.
2. REHAB (NON-CAUSAL). Stranding# JRG170402-01. Emaciated subadult loggerhead recovered from the tangle nets. Turtle in poor condition (heartbeat visible). Notch and healed crack in right posterior carapace. Taken to the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach for rehabilitation.
3. RECAPTURE. Turtle was removed from the intake canal, tagged and released at Hutchinson Island on 8/6/16 and 4/9/17. "Mayor Mort" was an FPL rehab turtle with Debilitated Loggerhead Turtle Syndrome that was successfully rehabilitated at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) in Juno Beach. The animal was fitted w/ a satellite tag prior to its release on 2/14/17. The turtle returned to the FPL intake canal on 3/31/17, according to the data feed. The satellite tag was still on and transmitting when the turtle was recaptured on 4/9/17. Old healed boat strike wound still evident on carapace. Adult female. No ventral measurements could be taken due to the presence of the satellite tag.
4. RECAPTURE. Turtle was removed from the intake canal, tagged and released at Hutchinson Island on 11/13/04, 4/11/08, 5/5/08, 9/25/08, 10/12/08, 7/12/10, 12/6/10, 9/10/11, 11/1/11, 1/9/12, 5/10/13, 9/5/13 and 4/10/17. New Inconel tags applied on this capture event.
5. REHAB (NON-CAUSAL). Stranding# STW170413-01. Turtle was severely emaciated. Small 4cm break in left posterior carapace (necrotic, not from entrapment). Inwater Research Group (IRG) biologists transported this turtle to LMC for rehabilitation.
6. REHAB (NON-CAUSAL). Stranding# STW170419-01. Emaciated subadult loggerhead with heavy epibiont coverage. Turtle was hand-captured near the base of the permanent 5-inch barrier net. Old healed injury to nares. The FWC Stranding Coordinator transported this turtle to the Clearwater Aquarium for rehabilitation.
7. REHAB (NON-CAUSAL). Stranding# STW170429-01. Emaciated subadult loggerhead with 10cm necrotic wound in right anterior carapace. Turtle was retrieved from the permanent 5-inch barrier net. Ventral measurements were not taken due to the animal's condition. IRG biologists transported the turtle to LMC for initial medical treatment. The turtle was later transferred to the Miami Seaquarium.

*SMCL = Straight Minimum Carapace Length*  
*SMCL = Straight Standard Carapace Length*  
*CSCL = Curved Standard Carapace Length*  
*CMCW = Curved Maximum Carapace Width*  
*SMCW = Straight Maximum Carapace Width*  
*SMPL = Straight Midline Plastron Length*

	Loggerheads ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )		Green turtles ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )		Hawksbills ( <i>Ereimochelys imbricata</i> )		Leatherbacks ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )		Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )		Overall Totals	
	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date
Captures	13	47	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	61
Causal Mortalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Causal Mortalities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Causal Injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sent to Rehab	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Fresh Scrapes	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date	Apr-17	Year to Date
None	3	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14
Minor	10	35	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	45
Moderate	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Severe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percent with Mod/Sev Scrapes	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0%	3.3%

St Lucie Power Plant Causal Turtles		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	**2017	Injury / Mortality Totals by Species	
Loggerhead	Total Captures	623	484	419	227	420	260	295	302	232	302	275	274	316	47	4,476	
	Injuries	0	1	*3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Mortalities	1	0	*21	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Green	Total Captures	286	428	267	101	299	161	444	217	127	197	134	181	159	14	3,015	
	Injuries	0	3	7	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
	Mortalities	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	1	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	18
Leatherback	Total Captures	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	14	
	Injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Mortalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kemp's Ridley	Total Captures	1	3	3	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	2	7	6	0	31	
	Injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Mortalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hawksbill	Total Captures	2	2	2	1	4	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	4	0	29	
	Injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Mortalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Injury & Mortality Yearly Totals		2	5	32	1	5	3	5	1	3	3	0	4	1	0	65	
Total Captures per Year		914	917	692	330	725	424	751	521	362	503	414	465	486	61	7,565	

\* The loggerhead causal injuries and mortalities in 2006 were all hatchlings.

\*\*2017 is a partial year.