

PG&E Letter DCL-2024-527

Electronic Submission  
E-Mail PDF Formatted File  
justin.viezbicke@noaa.gov

July 2, 2024

Justin Viezbicke  
California Stranding Network Coordinator  
NOAA Fisheries  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Sea Turtle Stranding Report (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Enclosed is NOAA Fisheries West Coast Sea Turtle Stranding Report (Copy) for a sea turtle discovered in the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) intake structure. This report was previously provided to NOAA Fisheries by the Local NOAA Stranding Network Organization, The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) Morro Bay, which managed the specimen following recovery from the power plant intake structure.

On the morning of June 17, 2024, a live sea turtle was discovered by intake operations within the power plant intake structure 1-4 forebay. The turtle was subsequently identified as a loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

As authorized in DCPP's incidental take statement issued September 18, 2006, facility staff removed the turtle from the intake structure forebay later that morning (June 17<sup>th</sup>) and transferred the turtle to the management and care of TMMC staff at the direction of NMFS. The turtle was removed using a welded metal platform, then transported from the intake structure in a TMMC climate-controlled van. Photographs taken of the recovered turtle are enclosed.

TMMC transferred the turtle to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA on the evening of June 17<sup>th</sup> for further examination, assessment, and eventual release. Prior to transfer, TMMC measured the turtle's weight at 23.0 kilograms and shell length (notch-tip) at 62.0 centimeters, and noted the animal appeared to be in average health based on visual observation. There were no apparent abrasions or indication of any injury due to the stranding event. Superficial lesions and inflammatory tissue likely due to barnacle adhesion were noted, and the animal showed evidence of cold stunning (core body temperature approaching 10 degrees C). The turtle was transferred to TMMC staff for initial transport to the Morro Bay Care facility and later to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Discovery and disposition of the turtle was reported by TMMC to NOAA Fisheries on June 17, 2024, within the required 48-hour facility reporting period.

Live loggerhead sea turtles have not been discovered at DCPP's intake structure prior to this event. Loggerhead sea turtles are not typically observed in the coastal waters in the vicinity of the power plant.

IE77  
NRR

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Justin Viezbicke, NOAA Fisheries  
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If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed report, or require additional information, please contact Steve Pengilley at (805) 545-3236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TRR', with a horizontal line above it.

Trevor Rebel  
*Manager, Environmental Protection - Diablo Canyon Power Plant*

2024527/nrh

Enclosures (2)

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Justin Viezbicke, NOAA Fisheries  
July 2, 2024

cc w/enclosures:

Samson Lee  
NRR Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Mahdi Hayes  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant 104/5

Regional Administrator  
Licensing Assistant, Operations Branch  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
1600 East Lamar Boulevard., Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-4511

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Marine Region  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. Suite 100  
Monterey, CA 93940

Robin LeRoux  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037

James Morris  
DCPP Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Services

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**Enclosure 1**

Copy NMFS Stranding Report Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) – June 17, 2024  
Report Generated by The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) Morro Bay



# U.S. WEST COAST SEA TURTLE STRANDING REPORT

FIELD # TMMC-ST-84 ("Liftoff") NMFS REGIONAL # \_\_\_\_\_ Other # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE INITIALLY OBSERVED: 06 17 2024 DATE EXAMINED: 06 17 2024 RESTRANDER?   
Month Day Year Month Day Year

INITIALLY OBSERVED BY: Ninah Hartley, PGE Diablo Canyon  
Phone ( ) 805 545-3326 Email ninah.hartley@pge.com  
 Private citizen  Beach official  Stranding network member

EXAMINED BY: Dr. Heather Harris/Shayla Zink  
Phone ( ) 415 517-5514 Email HarrisH@tmmc.org/ZinkS@tmmc.org  
Affiliation The Marine Mammal Center

SPECIES:  Unidentified  
Loggerhead sea turtle  
Common name  
Caretta caretta  
Genus Species  
Digital photos taken:  Yes  No  
Verified by: Heather Harris

LOCATION: *Check one option.*  Beached  Floating in water  
City Avila Beach County San Luis Obispo State CA  
Locality details (be specific): Diablo Canyon Power Plant Intake Structure  
Latitude 35.2110 ° N Longitude -120.8563 ° W *Record in decimal degrees.*  
How determined (check one):  GPS  Map  Internet/software google Maps

AGE: (NMFS Use Only)  
 Hatchling  Immature  
 Adult  Unknown

SEX:  Male  Female  Unknown  
Does tail extend beyond carapace?  
 Yes  No  
How was sex determined?  
 Tail length  Penis  Necropsy

MEASUREMENTS:  Whole carcass  Partial/ scavenged  
Body weight  Actual  Estimate 23.0 kg  
CARAPACE:  
Curved Carapace Length (nuchal notch to tip) 62 cm  
Curved Carapace Width (at widest point) 59.5 cm  
Straight Carapace Length  Calipers  Tape 56.5 cm  
Straight Carapace Width  Calipers  Tape 48.75 cm  
TAIL:  
End of plastron to tail tip (ventral side) \_\_\_\_\_ cm  
Cloaca to tail tip (ventral side) \_\_\_\_\_ cm

CONDITION:  
 1 = Alive  
 2 = Fresh dead  
 3 = Moderate decomposition  
 4 = Advanced decomposition  
 5 = Dried mummified/ skeleton  
 6 = Unknown condition

BODY CONDITION:  
 1 = Poor  4 = Good  
 2 = Fair  5 = Excellent  
 3 = Average  6 = Unknown

TAGS: *Contact NMFS before disposing of any tagged animal!!*  
FLIPPER: Existing metal tags present?  Yes  No  
Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
Return address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evidence of old tag holes/ rips in flippers  Yes  No  
*If yes, draw on diagram on back of page.*  
PIT: Existing PIT tags present?  Yes  No  
Scanner type:  AVID  Universal tag reader  
PIT tag # did not scan  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
PIT tag # \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_

HUMAN INTERACTION:  Yes  No  Cannot Be Determined  
*If yes, choose one or more. Describe and draw on diagram on back of page.*  
 1 = Boat collision  
 2 = Shot  
 3 = Fishery interaction  Hook  Monofilament  Braided line  Netting  
 4 = Oiled  
 5 = Power plant entrapment Diablo Canyon Power Plant  
 6 = Other \_\_\_\_\_  
How determined?  External exam  Internal exam  Necropsy  
Evidence collected?  Yes  No Describe \_\_\_\_\_  
Storage location \_\_\_\_\_  
Digital photos sent to NMFS coordinator?  Yes  No

APPLIED NEW TAGS (live turtle):  Yes  No  
Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
PIT tag # \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_  
PIT tag # \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Left/ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Front/ Rear \_\_\_\_\_

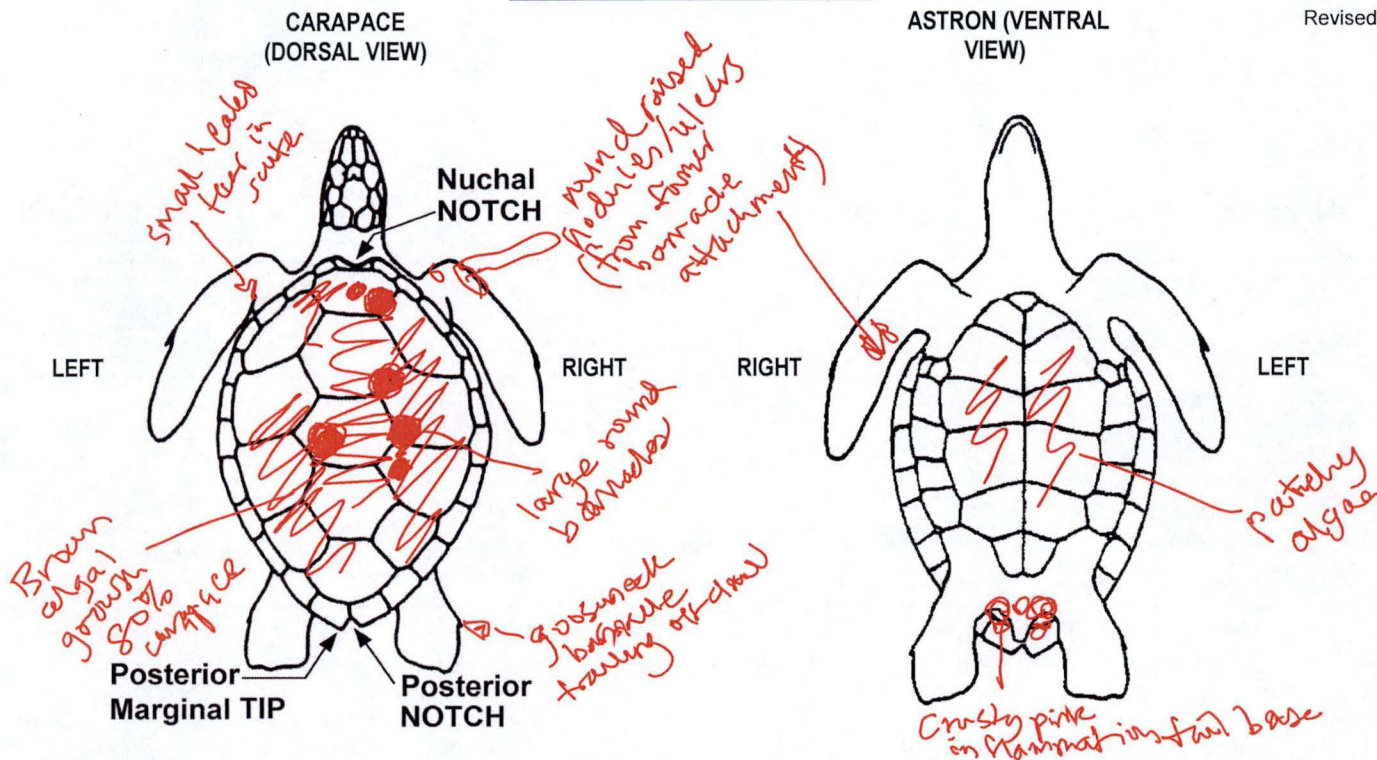
OTHER FINDINGS:  Yes  No  Cannot Be Determined  
*If yes, choose one or more. Describe and draw on diagram on back of page.*  
 1 = Disease  
 2 = Trauma  
 3 = Cold stunning: Body temp (live only) 11.5 °C/°F method cloacal probe  
 4 = Other \_\_\_\_\_  
How determined?  External exam  Internal exam  Necropsy

FINAL DISPOSITION: *Check all that apply.*  
 1 = Alive, released  At site  Relocated \_\_\_\_\_ If fishery interaction, disentangled prior to release?  Yes  No  
 2 = Alive, transferred to rehabilitation Date 6/17/24 Facility Aquarium of the Pacific  
 3 = Euthanized at site By \_\_\_\_\_ Carcass disposition \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 = Dead, left at site Marked?  Yes  No How? \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 = Dead, buried:  On beach  Off beach Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 6 = Dead, salvaged:  Whole carcass  Part(s)  Frozen for later exam *Please note all specimens collected and disposition on back.*  
 7 = Necropsied:  Field  Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 = Left floating, not recovered Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 = Disposition unknown Explain: \_\_\_\_\_



## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Revised 3/2020



Please mark wounds/ abnormalities on diagrams above and describe them below. Be sure to measure all wounds/ lesions and document with digital photos. Note tar or oil, gear or debris entanglements, epibiota, masses, papillomas, emaciation, etc.

**Please note if no wounds or abnormalities are found.**

Digital photos taken?  Yes  No

Quiet, alert, and responsive. Can lift head above plane of body, strong spontaneous movement of head and all flippers, moving around carrier, flaps flippers when lifted.

Eyes open and aware of surroundings, clear OU. No nasal discharge, no oral lesions observed, no foreign material in oral or cloaca.

Heart rate 9 beats/min, respiratory rate 4 breaths/min, core body temp (cloacal probe) 11.5 C (52.7 F), weight 23 kg.

Brown algal growth diffusely across 80% of carapace, with some patchy algae on plastron. 6 large round barnacles (2-4 cm diameter) on carapace, with several round raised ulcerative lesions on dorsal and ventral front flippers (likely previous barnacle attachment sites). Gooseneck barnacle trailing off claw of right hind flipper.

Crusty pink inflammatory tissue on ventral side of tail base. No evidence of trauma or fisheries interactions.

Additional Attachments (e.g. Level A, Pathology): \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIMEN DISPOSITION:** Check all that apply.  Scientific collection  Education  Other \_\_\_\_\_

List all samples/ parts collected (note tissue and storage medium): Storage location \_\_\_\_\_

Plasma (lithium heparin)- 3 vial x 1.8 ml each, frozen at TMMC for cold-stun health assessment

**NMFS Sample Requests:**

- |                                       |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Skin (All species):                   | <input type="checkbox"/> DMSO     | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturated salt |
| Scleral ossicles (Leatherbacks only): | <input type="checkbox"/> Left eye | <input type="checkbox"/> Right eye      |
| Humerus bone (CM, CC and EI only):    | <input type="checkbox"/> Left     | <input type="checkbox"/> Right          |

**SHIP TO:** Erin LaCasella  
 SWFSC-NMFS-NOAA  
 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive  
 La Jolla, CA 92037  
 858-546-5696  
 Erin.LaCasella@noaa.gov

Other Samples: \_\_\_\_\_

SWFSC Animal ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Other ID: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL ORIGINAL FORMS TO REGIONAL STRANDING COORDINATOR:**

**In CA:** Justin Viezbicke, NOAA – West Coast Region, Long Beach Office; 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802  
 Office: (562) 980-3230, Hotline Cell: (562) 506-4315, Fax: (562) 980-4027, [Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov)

**In OR/WA:** Kristin Wilkinson, NOAA – West Coast Region, Seattle Office; 7600 Sand Point Way Northeast, Seattle, WA 98115  
 Office: (206) 526-4747, Cell: (206) 550-6208, [Kristin.Wilkinson@noaa.gov](mailto:Kristin.Wilkinson@noaa.gov)



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**Enclosure 2**

Specimen Photographs – Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) – June 17, 2024

