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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 21, 2013

**NOAA RELEASES 141 FLORIDA LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES INTO THE WILD**  
*Fisheries Scientists Complete Annual Turtle Excluder Device Testing*

Scientists from NOAA's Fisheries Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will release 141 loggerhead sea turtles into the Atlantic Ocean off of Florida's east coast on Monday, June 24. Twenty eight (28) three year old loggerhead turtles will be released from shore into the Sebastian Inlet, and 113 two year old loggerheads will be released from a United States Coast Guard vessel offshore. The public are urged to avoid contact with released turtles as they acclimate to their new environment. Violations can be reported to 1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922) or the office of NOAA Law Enforcement 1-800-853-1964.

Media are invited to the inshore release.

**WHAT:** Release of 28 three year old loggerhead turtles

**WHEN:** Monday, June 24, 2013 - 7:00 am. Group will leave for the release site at 7:30 am. (EST).

**WHERE:** Scientists will release the turtles into the Indian River Lagoon, near Sebastian Inlet. Meeting location is the parking lot of Inlet Marina Sebastian Inlet State Park- exactly one mile north of the inlet bridge on the west side of S.Highway A1A.

**WHO:** NOAA Fisheries Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and United States Coast Guard

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**MEDIA NOTE**

Photos available upon request after the release.