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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 7, 2014

**NOAA Releases 185 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 185 loggerhead sea turtles into the Atlantic Ocean off of Florida's east coast on Tuesday, July 8. Twenty one (21) three year old and (1) 5 year old loggerhead turtles will be released from shore into the Sebastian Inlet, and (163) 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.

**WHAT:** Release of 21 three year old, and 1 five year old loggerhead turtles

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 8

**WHERE:** Scientists will release the turtles into the Indian River Lagoon, near Sebastian Inlet.

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

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.

**On the web:**

NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

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