



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA Fisheries Service Releasing Sea Turtles into Christmas Bay, Texas *Three juvenile green turtles to be released August 20, 2007*

Scientists from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries Service) Galveston Laboratory will release three juvenile green turtles into Christmas Bay on Monday, Aug. 20, 2007. Media are invited.

WHAT: Release of three juvenile green sea turtles

WHEN: Monday, Aug. 20, 2007, 7:20 a.m.

WHERE: Turtles will be released into Christmas Bay (Follett's Island, Texas)

The turtles will be released off of the boat ramp at Ernie's Too bait camp. The release site is west of San Luis Pass and east of Surfside. Turn towards the bay at beach entrance #6.

WHO: NOAA Fisheries Service – Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Galveston Laboratory

BACKGROUND

Three green sea turtles stranded on upper Texas coast beaches in the summer and fall of 2006. They were treated at NOAA Fisheries Service's Galveston Sea Turtle Hospital and then moved to either the Landry's Houston Downtown Aquarium or Houston Zoo Aquarium to complete their rehabilitation.

One turtle is currently held at the Landry's Houston Downtown Aquarium. This turtle was originally stranded on Bolivar Peninsula entangled in monofilament fishing line. A Galveston County sheriff removed the line and brought the turtle back to the station in Crystal Beach where it was picked up by NOAA Fisheries Service scientists. The turtle had wounds to the base of its right front flipper and the flipper was swollen and discolored. The turtle was treated with antibiotics and transferred to the Downtown Aquarium on August 31, 2006 for monitoring during rehabilitation.

The two other turtles are currently housed at the Houston Zoo Aquarium. The first was found in a crab trap in the Brazos River, about 10-miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The owner of the crab trap notified NOAA Fisheries Service. The other turtle stranded on the north jetty rocks on Bolivar Peninsula. Neither turtle had visible injuries, or any identifiable illness. Both were transferred to the Houston Zoo Aquarium on August 2 and November 29, 2006, respectively for monitoring and rehabilitation.

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MEDIA NOTE

Photos available upon request.