

Cape Cod sea turtle strandings increase after slow start

November 29 2021



This image provided by the New England Aquarium shows a Kemp's ridley sea turtle being intubated to assist with its breathing Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at New England Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital, in Quincy, Mass. Sea turtle strandings on Cape Cod are picking up after a slow start to the season, experts at the New England Aquarium said Monday. The aquarium has so far cared for almost 120 of the animals at its Quincy turtle hospital, the vast majority of which have been endangered Kemp's ridley turtles. Credit: Adam Kennedy/New England Aquarium via AP

Sea turtle strandings on Cape Cod are picking up after a slow start to the season, experts at the New England Aquarium said Monday.

The aquarium has so far cared for almost 120 of the animals at its Quincy turtle hospital, the vast majority of which have been endangered Kemp's ridley [turtles](#). But scientists have also treated eight green turtles and two loggerheads.

The turtles are treated for life-threatening conditions, including pneumonia and dehydration, a result of days or weeks of hypothermia and the inability to feed.

"Early in the [season](#), we typically see the smaller Kemp's ridley and [green turtles](#). The larger loggerhead turtles will start to wash ashore in December, though we saw our first loggerhead of the season on Thanksgiving Day," said Charles Innis, the aquarium's director of animal health.

The turtles get trapped in Cape Cod Bay as temperatures drop and wind patterns change, and they quickly become hypothermic. The stranding season started late this year because of temperature fluctuations that kept water in the bay warm.

The turtles are assessed and treated in Massachusetts, a process that can take weeks or even months, before being flown to Southern states for continued rehabilitation and eventual release back into the ocean.



This image provided by the New England Aquarium shows Kemp's ridley sea turtles being cared for Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at New England Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital, in Quincy, Mass. Sea turtle strandings on Cape Cod are picking up after a slow start to the season, experts at the New England Aquarium said Monday. The aquarium has so far cared for almost 120 of the animals at its Quincy turtle hospital, the vast majority of which have been endangered Kemp's ridley turtles. Credit: Vanessa Kahn/New England Aquarium via AP



This image provided by the New England Aquarium shows Kemp's ridley sea turtles swimming in a tank Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at New England Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital, in Quincy, Mass. Sea turtle strandings on Cape Cod are picking up after a slow start to the season, experts at the New England Aquarium said Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. The aquarium has so far cared for almost 120 of

the animals at its Quincy turtle hospital, the vast majority of which have been endangered Kemp's ridley turtles. Credit: Vanessa Kahn/New England Aquarium via AP

© 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Cape Cod sea turtle strandings increase after slow start (2021, November 29) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-cape-cod-sea-turtle-strandings.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--