

Helping to Prevent Vessel Strikes



Today, Jan 31, 2023 our permitted and trained volunteers responded to a juvenile green sea turtle stranding. Our team met boaters at an area marina. The boaters saw the turtle struggling at the surface of the water and retrieved it.

They called the **FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888.404.3922.**

Our volunteers quickly transported the turtle to Mote Marine Lab for rehabilitation. Sadly, the turtle didn't make it. Many thanks to Kim and her friend who found the turtle and made the call to FWC and met volunteers at Gasparilla Marina.

Vessel strikes are one of the most common causes of sea turtle strandings. In Florida alone, injuries consistent with vessel strikes are observed in 20 -30 percent of stranded sea turtles. **Sea turtles can be found in Florida's waters year-round.**

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HELPFUL TIPS:

- Keep a sharp lookout - Appoint a wildlife spotter
- Wearing polarized lenses will help see into the water
- Watch your speed
- Keep your distance - Stay at least 100 yards away
- Slow your boat immediately and put it in neutral if you see a turtle. Resume at a slow, safe speed and distance your vessel from the animal.
- In April sea turtles will begin mating in the near shore waters. Mating pairs float on the surface.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A STRUGGLING OR DEAD SEA TURTLE:

- Call FWC Wildlife Alert Number: 888.404.3922
- Take a few photos, they might ask for you for them
- Note your location - GPS is an added bonus.

For more information:

Coastal Wildlife Club, Inc. www.CoastalWildlifeClub.org

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FWC Permitted Activity MTP-132A