



Tracking Post-Release Movement Patterns of NY Rehabilitated Sea Turtles

New York

Marine Rescue Center

Founded in 1996, the New York Marine Rescue Center (NYMRC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which conducts response and rehabilitation of marine mammals and sea turtles as well as community outreach and educational programs. NYMRC responds to sea turtles, seals, and small cetaceans (dolphins and porpoises) in New York State.

The New York Marine Rescue Center has rescued more than 6,162 animals since inception in 1996. Under research efforts, rehabilitated animal release and tracking is one of our primary goals. Tracking information through satellite tags, radio tags, and flipper tags provides valuable information on the various species as they re-enter the wild. The data obtained assists in furthering our mission of preserving and protecting the marine environment through conservation efforts including education, rehabilitation, and research. Since 1996, NYMRC has rescued and rehabilitated 2,510 sea turtles, 2,709 pinnipeds and 943 cetaceans.

Sea turtles are threatened or endangered and strand for various reasons including entanglement, vessel interaction, malnourishment, debilitation, and cold stunning. Many of the stranding cases can be linked to human activities in regions which overlap with sea turtle habitat. Information gathered from these stranded sea turtles can provide insight on age, size composition, diet, reproductive status, health, population trends and cause of mortality.

If You Find A Stranded Sea Turtle

Call the NY State 24-hour hotline number:
(631) 369-9829.



PEP Funded Project Details

This project aims to explore the critical relationship between green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and their foraging grounds, specifically in the Peconic Estuary and its surrounding sea grass beds.

To aid these important efforts in the summer of 2025 PEP is funding ongoing work by the New York Marine Rescue Center to track the movement of rehabilitated and released green sea turtles in the Peconic Estuary using satellite tags. After being released, the turtles will be tracked with a publicly available live map until their tags fall off.

PEPs support goes towards rescue maintenance, tagging preparations, release, and post-release monitoring for a total of fifteen sea turtles depending on the availability of stranded individuals. Direct funding will support the purchase of 15 Wildlife Computers satellite tags enabling monitoring of post-release movement behavior on green sea turtles. Satellite tags provide long-duration (year+) intermittent information on the geographic position, dive profile, and sea water temperature of the animal. This information can be used to identify critical habitats and large-scale processes affecting animal movements including migration timing.

We extend a thank you to the local governments for their continued support and partnership in helping make this program possible.

The goal is to identify patterns of habitat use, especially whether sea turtles frequently forage within sea grass beds in the Peconic Estuary. By mapping the locations of both turtles and sea grass beds, spatial overlays will be created to visualize shared areas of use, helping to pinpoint potential foraging hotspots.

CCMP Actions:

Objective G: Expand scientific understanding of the Peconic Estuary ecosystem and deliver information that supports management decision-making

- Action 23. Conduct scientific studies to expand understanding of the Peconic Estuary ecosystem and support ecosystem-based management
- Action 24. Review and update data for rare, protected and endangered species in the Peconic Estuary to support the development of protection strategies

NYMRC Website

