

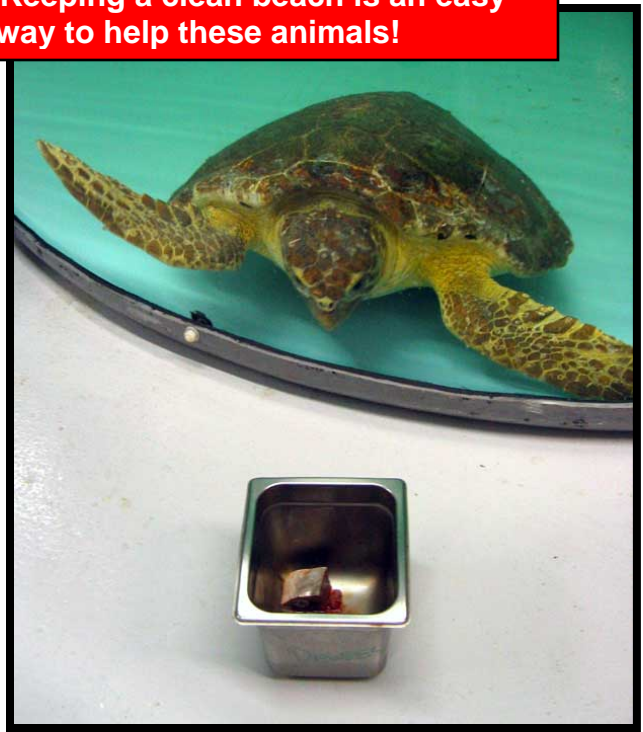
Dewees Island Nature Notes:

Week of October 2, 2005



Sea turtles face many challenges, including floating pieces of trash that mimic food items. Keeping a clean beach is an easy way to help these animals!

In early August, a sub-adult loggerhead turtle was rescued from the Dewees impoundment. This turtle is currently recovering at the SC Aquarium. Other turtles are not so lucky. A dead green turtle was recently discovered on the island's south beach, the result of a boat strike.



4 species of sea turtles are found in the coastal waters of South Carolina. Green, Kemp's Ridley, leatherback, and loggerhead—all of our native species are either threatened or endangered. Sea turtles face many challenges from the moment they are laid as eggs, to the time they hatch and swim out to sea, and through adulthood. The hardships that sea turtles encounter can be natural or human-caused. Hurricanes, predators, and lack of food—these natural factors affect turtles throughout their lifetimes. Likewise, commercial fishing gear, boat propellers, and coastal development are man-made factors that negatively affect sea turtles. Fortunately, South Carolina and many of those who enjoy or live near coastal areas have embraced sea turtle conservation as a necessary step for saving these animals from extinction.

Suggested Resource from the Nature Center:

"Journey of the Loggerhead"—DVD, Environmental Media, Inc., 2004.