

Welcome!

2025 Year in Review

& Splashing Forward

Wednesday, 4 February, 2026, 4:30 pm

AGENDA:
2025 Splashing Successes
Splash On, Snooki!
Remembering Jean
Strategic Splashing to the Future



Introductions - Board of Directors



Karen Sota, Chair



Terry Meyer, Treasurer



Judy Ferrier,
Secretary



Dr. Craig Harms, Medical Director



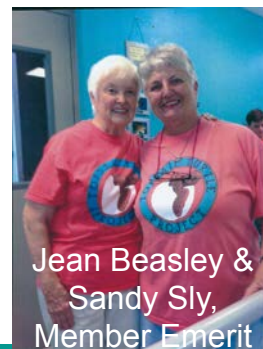
Todd Crawford



Tammy Proctor & Jean Beasley



Nancy Fahey



Jean Beasley &
Sandy Sly,
Member Emerit



Introductions - Staff

Back to Front:

- Mary Brandle, *Education Associate*
- Tina Sharpe, *LSS Coordinator*
- Megan Bargerhuff, *Rehabilitation Manager*
- Tracy Shaw, *Administrative & Volunteer Manager*
- Kaia Strand, *Gift Shop Manager*
- Terry Meyer, *Deputy & Conservation Coordinator*
- Kathy Zagzebski, *Executive Director*





Introductions - Leadership Volunteers

Team Leaders:

- Sunday: Jason Keogh
- Monday: Janice McCarthy
- Tuesday: Karen Sota
- Wednesday: Tammy Smithley
- Thursday: Jackie Felker
- Friday: Sandy Pfeifer
- Saturday: Lindsey Hull

Med Leads:

- Chris Jarina (Sunday)
- Sandy Pfeifer (Thursday, Friday)
- Dinah Searles (Monday)
- Tammy Smithley (Wednesday, Saturday)





Introductions - Leadership Volunteers

Beach Coordinators (N-S):

- NTB-N: Pam Kosar, Marie Palmer, Connie Pletl, Vicki Schroeck
- NTB-S: Carol Bass, Kristi Cotter, Diana Zamora
- SC-N: Barbie Hairfield
- SC-S: Trudy Solomon, Angela Burns Crain
- TB: Debbie Wilson, Andi Ulm

Additional:

- Julie Bator, Adoptions Team Lead
- Layne Caudle, Gardens Committee Lead
- Jackie Felker, Safety Committee Chair
- Lindsey Hull, UNCW Intern Supervisor
- Pat Johnson, Hydroponics Team Lead
- Sandy Pfeifer, Turtle Vegetables Procurer
- Vicki Schroeck, Nest Adoptions Team Lead
- Carl Turnage, Endowment & Finance Committees Chair

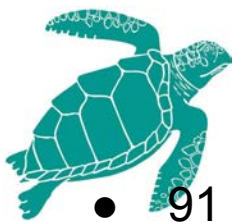




2025: Splashing-ly Successful!

Thank You!





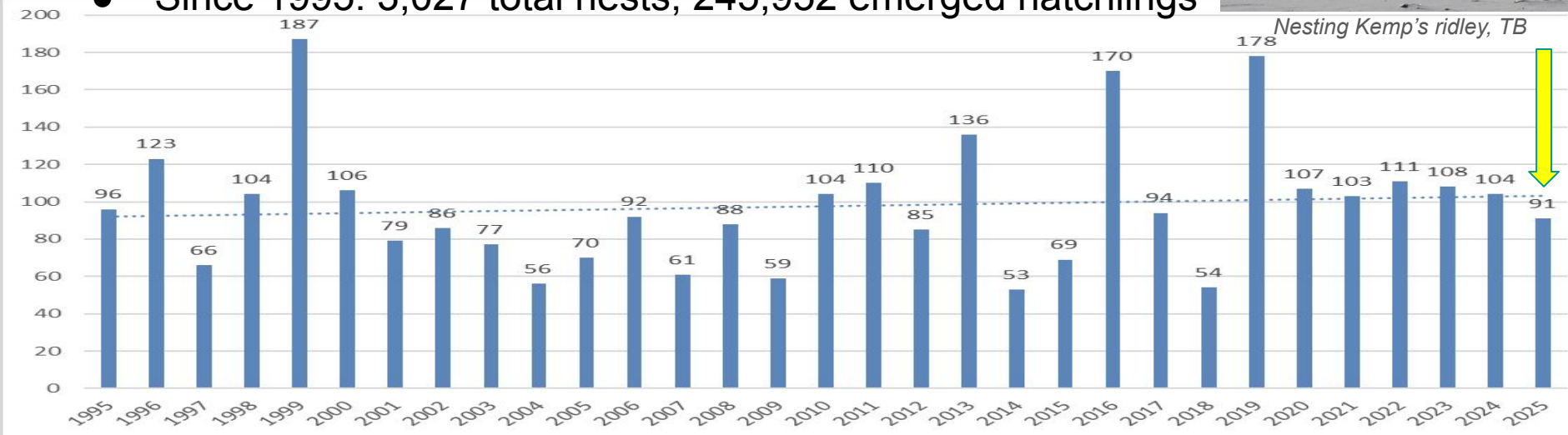
Splashing on the Beach



- 91 nests, 51 false crawls
- 2nd ever Kemp's nest!
- 60.1% Emergence Success
 - Lower than ave b/c of Hurricane Erin & Nor'easter
- Since 1995: 3,027 total nests, 245,952 emerged hatchlings



Nesting Kemp's ridley, TB





THE TOPSAIL TURTLE PROJECT 2025!





The Topsail Turtle Project



You are 25 strong every morning, surveying the beach for 123 consecutive days, rain or shine, hot or cold. You are 12 strong every morning, waiting for and responding to the 25 with calls of tracks on the beach, and you did that 142 times! You are 10 strong or 30 strong or 50 strong on any given night for 90 consecutive nights monitoring hatching nests. **You are the Topsail Turtle Project.**

We try our best to protect our nests but we know at some point a storm will come along with its challenges. Hurricane Erin passed off shore pushing water and sand onto the island in many places and burying the nests under 2-4 feet of sand. Metal detectors were used to locate the protective wires. We did not lose that many nests outright but those affected had little to no hatch success.





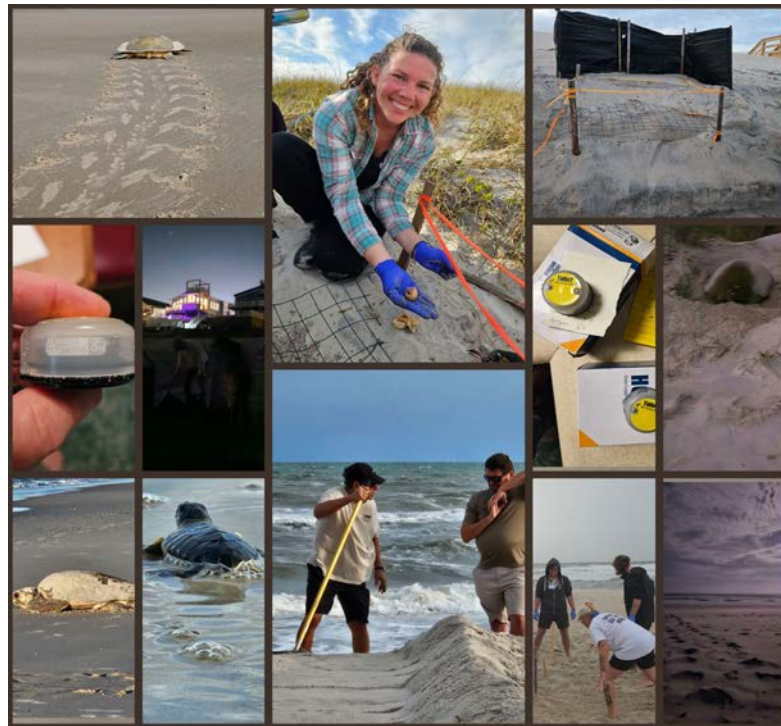
The Topsail Turtle Project



More important than storms is our everyday work and contributions to conservation. Yes we had downs, but we also had ups, we had loggerhead nests and green nests and even a kemp's nest for good measure; we had good weather, we had science, we had interesting challenges, and we had fun! There might even be a secret sourdough starter club (because nesting sitting can reveal too much personal information.) We are learning how temperature affects nests with our data logger program; we are learning the sounds hatchlings make in the nests with our Dolphin Ears; we are working every night to convince people of the evils of white lights, and thanks to two sets of interns we now have a map of measured light shining on the beach.

We are The Topsail Turtle Project! On to 2026 with more nests, more data loggers, more Dolphin Ears and sound recording devices, and more lights out initiatives!

Thank you Topsail Turtle Project Volunteers!





Nest Adoption Splashes

Symbolic Nest Adoptions

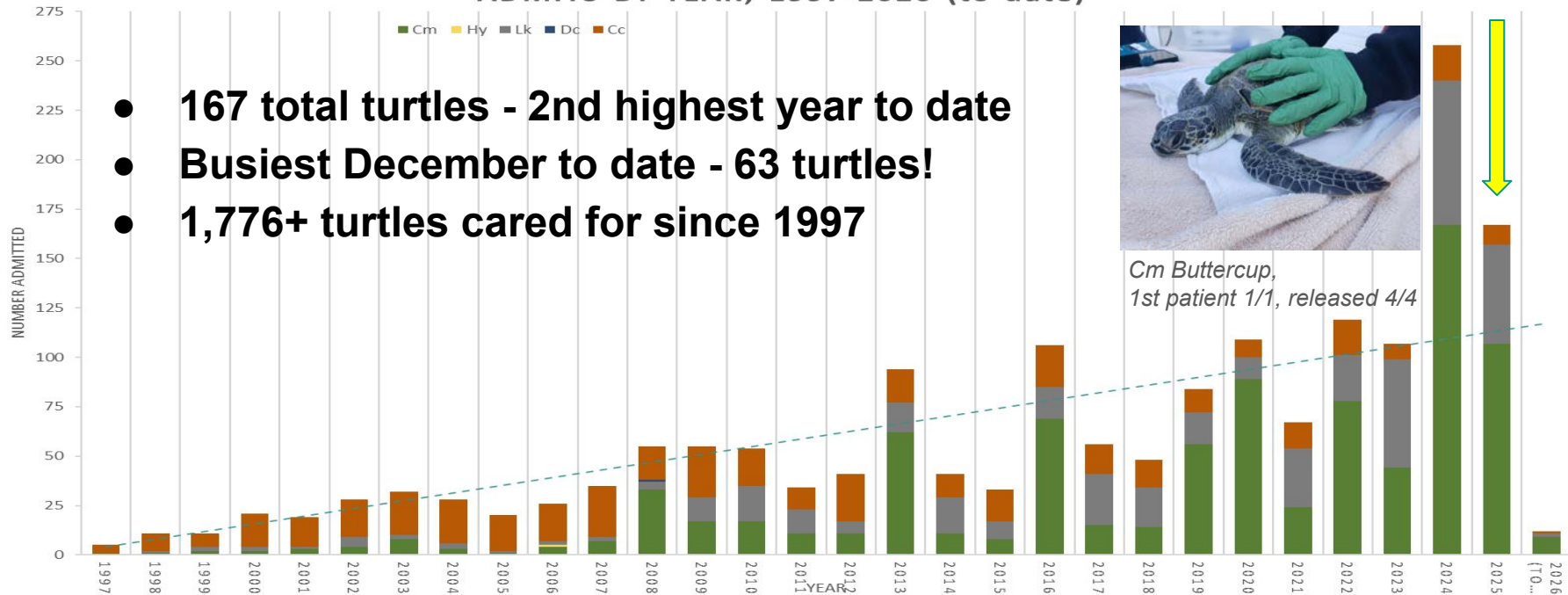
- 85 Nests Adopted,
\$10,625 raised
- Thank you to Vicki Schroeck
and the Beach Coordinators
- Funds raised help pay for:
temperature data loggers,
dolphin ears, other nesting
supplies





2nd Splashiest Year of Admissions

ADMITS BY YEAR, 1997-2026 (to date)



- 167 total turtles - 2nd highest year to date
- Busiest December to date - 63 turtles!
- 1,776+ turtles cared for since 1997



Cm Buttercup, 1st patient 1/1, released 4/4

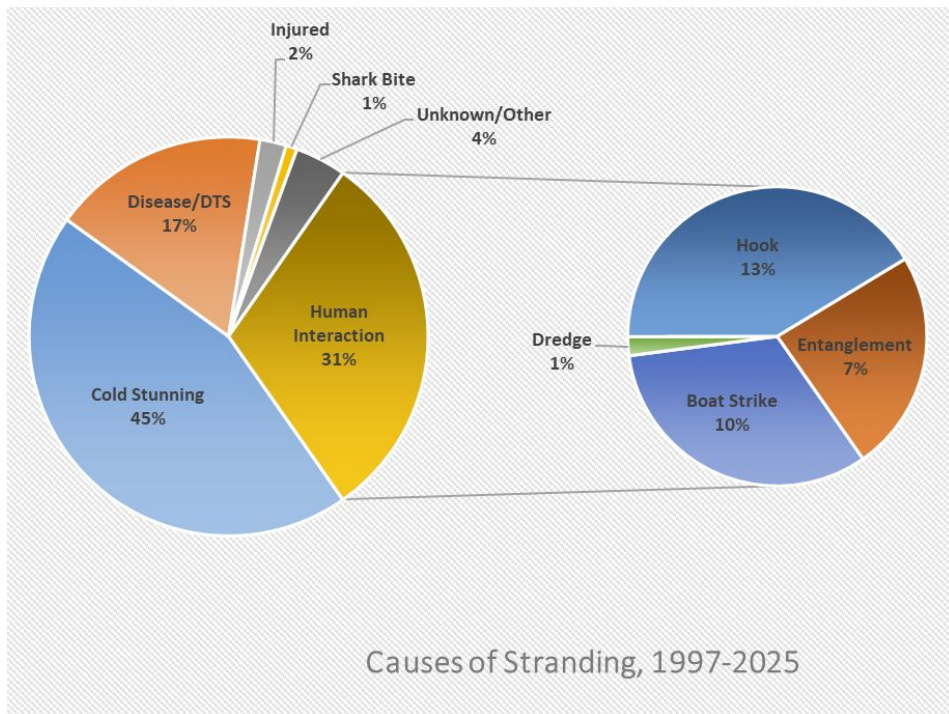


Reasons for Admission

Causes of Stranding in 2025:

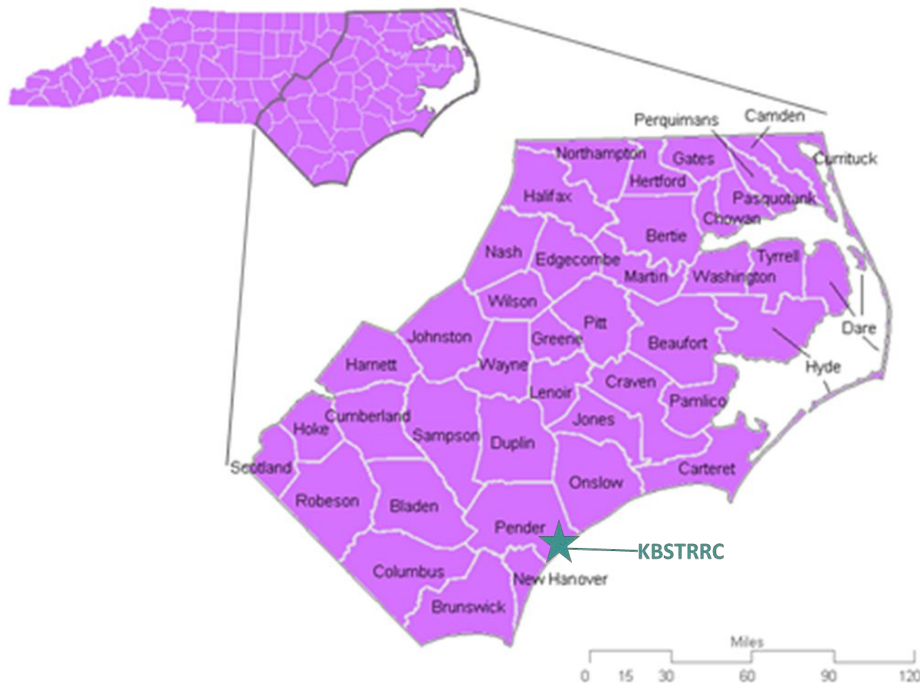
- Cold Stunning - 105 (62.9%)
- Disease/DTS - 17 (10.2%)
- Injured - 1 (0.6%)
- Boat Strike - 11 (6.6%)
- Hook - 30 (18%)
- Entanglement - 2 (1.2%)
- Unknown/Other - 1 (0.6%)

TOTAL = 167 Turtles

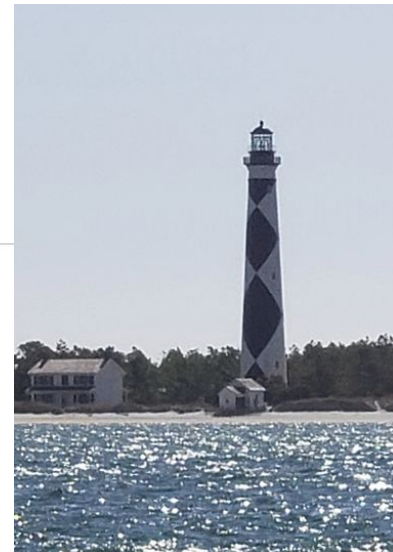
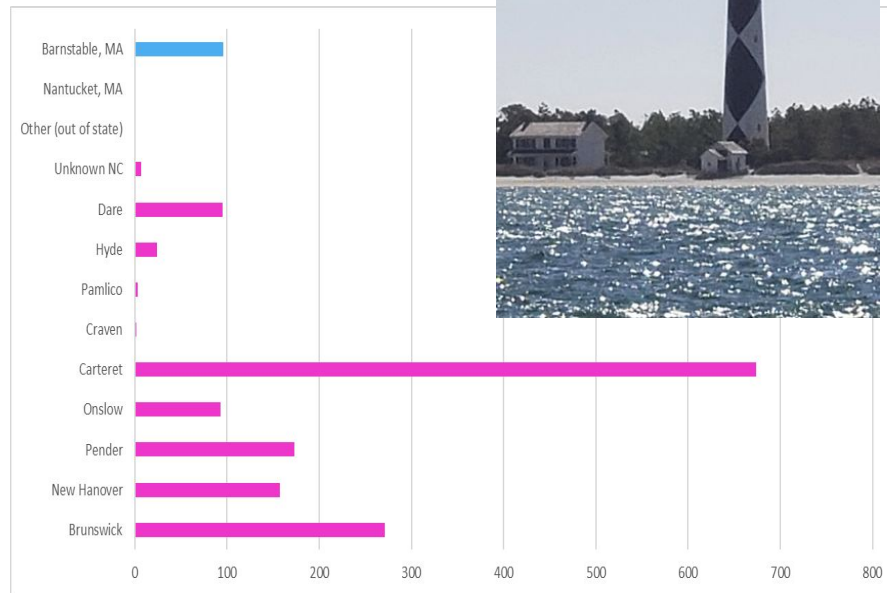




Stranding Locations by County



County Map Image Credit: <https://climate.ncsu.edu>



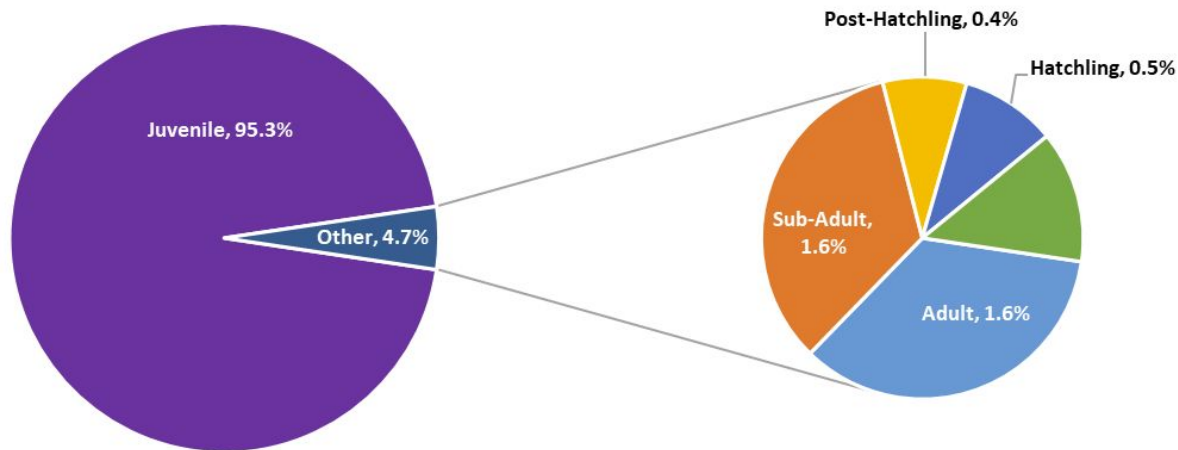


Age Classes of Admissions

Age Classes in 2025

- Adult = 0 (0.0%)
- Subadult = 3 (1.8%)
- Juvenile = 163 (97.6%)
- Post-Hatchling = 0 (0.0%)
- Hatchling = 1 (0.6%)
- Unknown = 0 (0.0%)

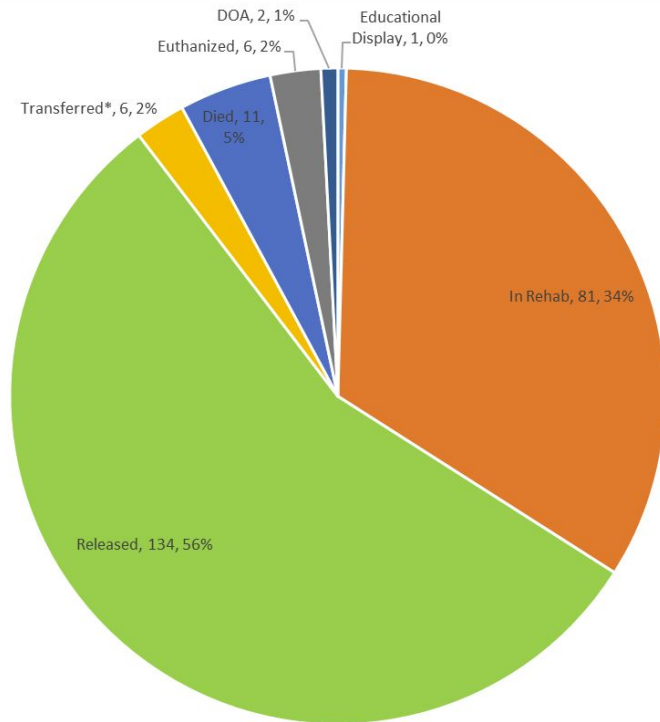
TOTAL = 167 turtles





Disposition (as of 12/31/25)

Current Status	Prev Yr Admit	'25 Admit	TOTAL
Educational Display	1	0	1
In Rehab	0	81	81
Released	69	65	134
Transferred	3	3	6
Died	1	10	11
Euthanized	0	6	6
DOA	0	2	2
TOTAL	74	167	241





Scientific Contributions

- **Meyer, TA, KA Zagzebski**, MH Godfrey, 2025. A comparison of low and high nest relocation efforts during 11 seasons of sea turtle nesting data on Topsail Island, NC. Poster presentation at the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, February.
Poster Presentation at the International Sea Turtle Symposium, March.
- **Zagzebski, KA, CA Harms, MA Bargerhuff, JF Beasley, TA Meyer, P Sharpe**, 2025. Causes of admission and changes over time at the KBSTRRC, NC, USA.
Poster presentation at the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, February.
Presentation at the International Sea Turtle Symposium, March.
- **Zagzebski, KA, MA Bargerhuff, TA Meyer**, 2025. Hooked sea turtles at the KBSTRRC. Presentation at the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, February.

- Muirhead, CA, WED Piniak, DP Nowacek, **CA Harms**, 2025. Sea turtle acoustic ecology: addressing priority data gaps in knowledge of sea turtle hearing sensitivity. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management study 2925-011. PhD Thesis.
SERSTM Presentation.
Pending journal publication.
- **Dr. Craig Harms** & Vet Students (NC State) - Effects of doxapram on respiration frequency and venous blood gas parameters in sea turtles (in progress).
- Dr. Ivana Mali (NC State) - genome sequencing of marine leeches (in progress). Sampled leeches from Lichen.
- Dr. Matthew Ramirez & Jamie Clark (UNCW) - age estimation methods in live sea turtles (in progress). Sampled Lennie.



*Lk Aquamarine, 2022
Photo credit: Karen Sota*



Current Patients

<https://www.seaturtlehospital.org/sea-turtle-hospital.html>

59!



SEA TURTLE HOSPITAL

The Sea Turtle Hospital provides rehabilitation services for sick and injured sea turtles. Most admitted turtles are from North Carolina, although occasionally we receive turtles that strand on other states such as Massachusetts. The three species of turtles we primarily care for are loggerheads, greens, and Kemp's ridleys. The Sea Turtle Hospital is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Current Patients Summary

updated February 9, 2024

Status	Loggerhead Turtles	Green Turtles	Kemp's Ridley Turtles	TOTAL
In Rehabilitation	3	30	5	38
Permanent Residents	0	11	1	12
Reservations	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	41	6	50



*Cm Desert Rose
Stranded 12/15/26 at Cape Lookout
Photo Credit: Doug Payne*

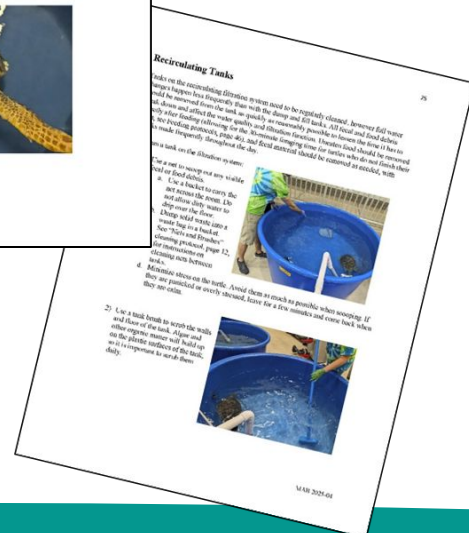
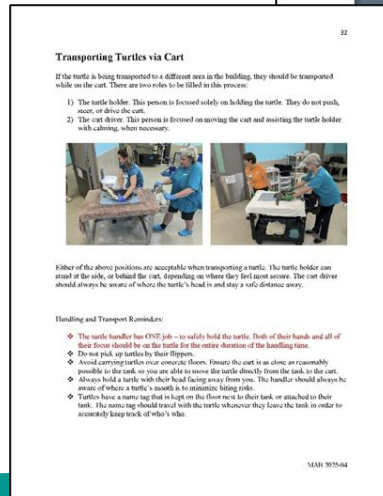


New Husbandry SOPs (no splashing!)

- SOP Committee re-formed, consisting of a representative from every hospital Team and key staff
- Agreed to and finalized (for now) SOPs
- New SOP Manual
- Roll-out of SOP Manual to Teams
- SOP Training & Jeopardy
- Plans to review and update annually

• THANK YOU

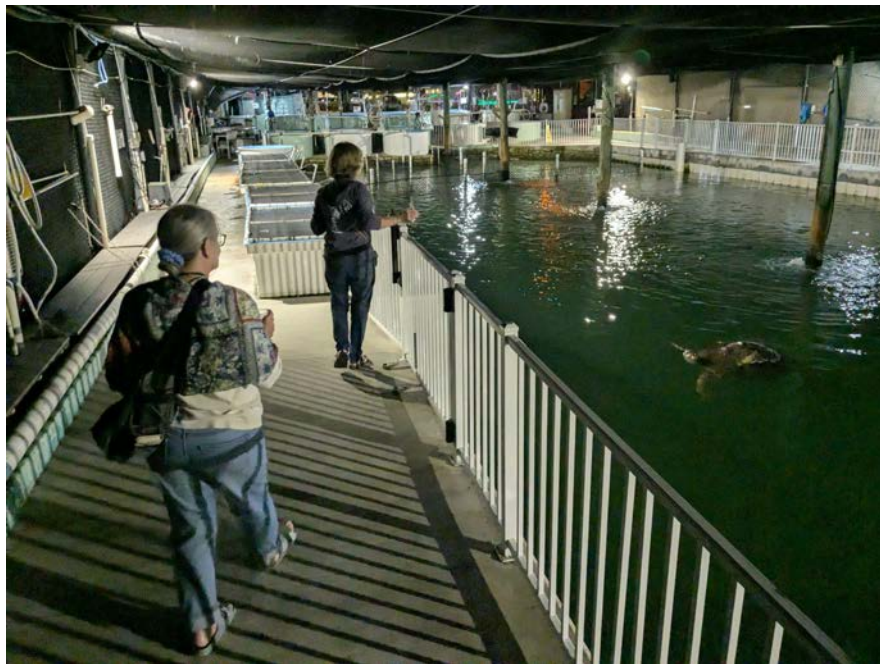
- SOP Committee Members
- Teams for your feedback & for following SOPs!





Sharing Info: FL Sea Turtle Rehab Conf

- December conference at Sea Turtle Hospital in Marathon, FL
- Able to extend learning opportunity to 2 of our medical leads this year!
- Consecutive season nesting CSWF
- Front flipper regional limb perfusion
- ARCAS Guatemala
- TCVM





Turtle Case Highlights - Labradorite

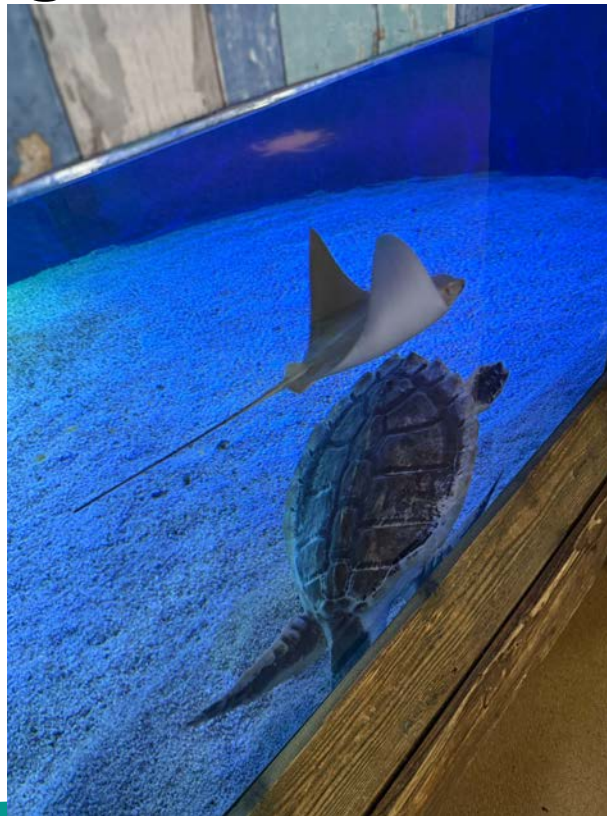
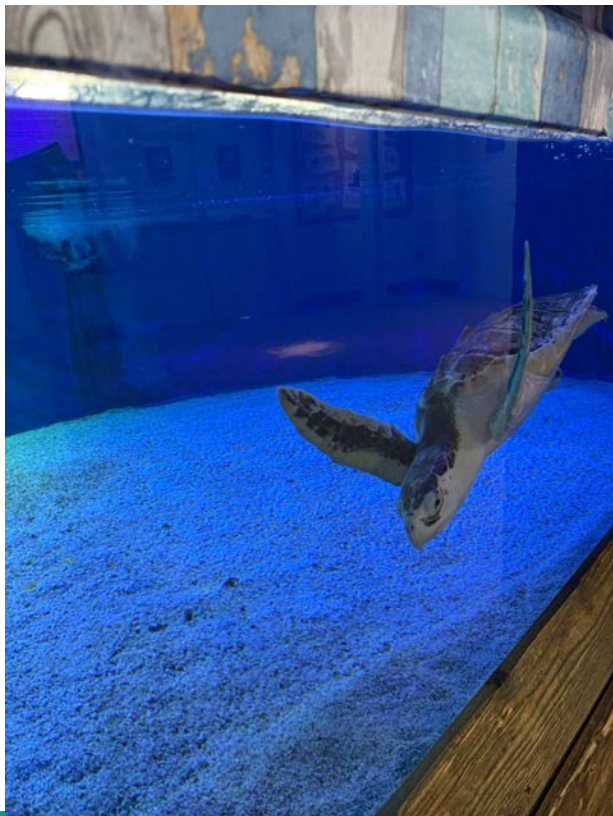
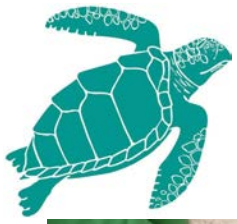
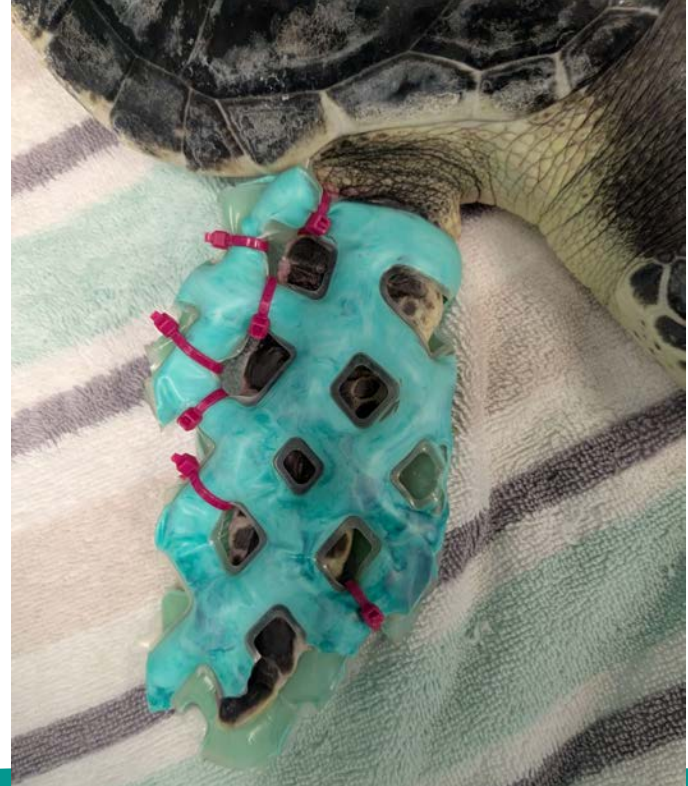


Photo credit
Pat Johnson



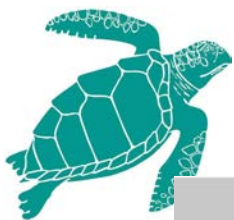
Turtle Case Highlights - Intan



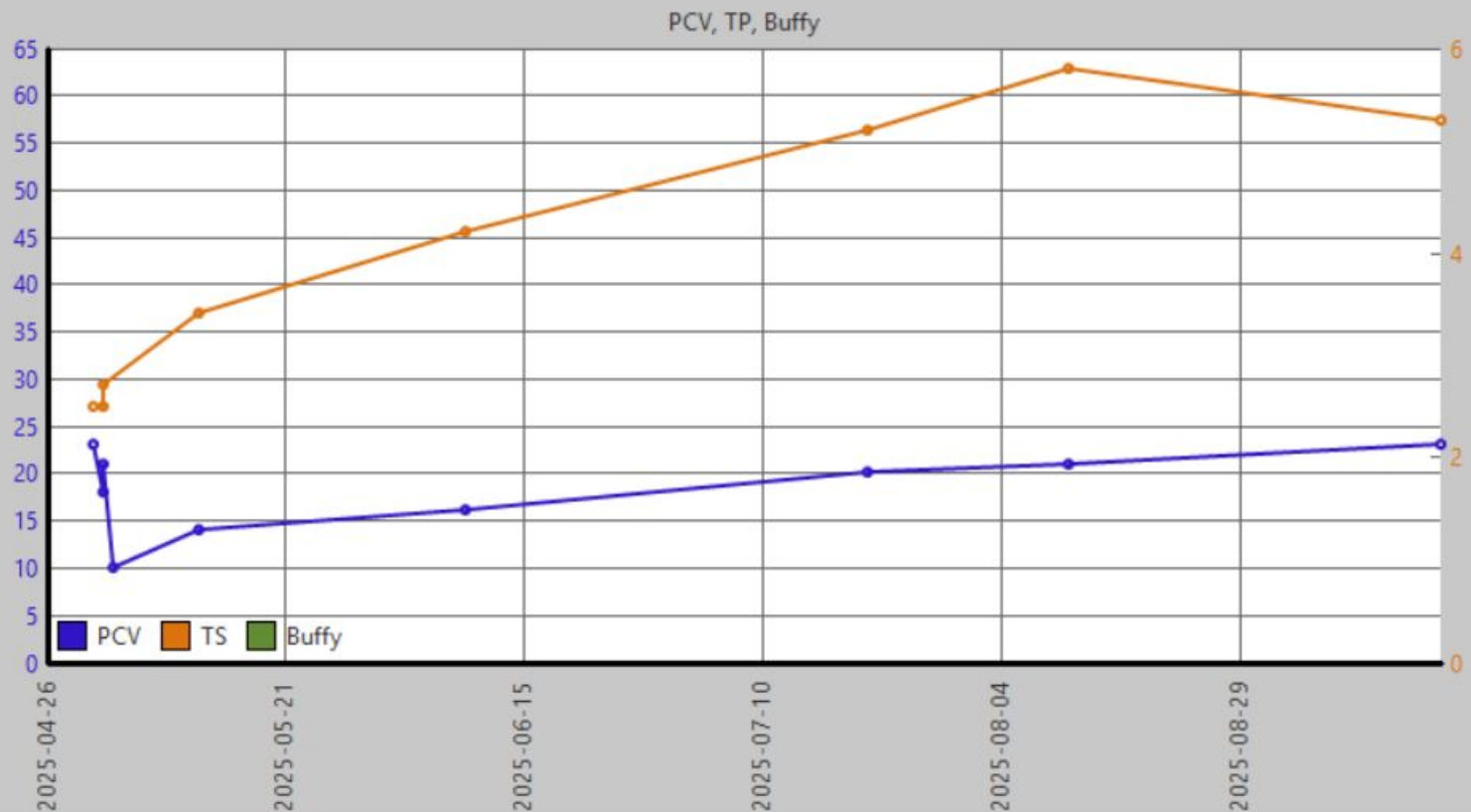


Turtle Case Highlights - Taro





Turtle Case Highlights - Taro





Turtle Case Highlights - Taro

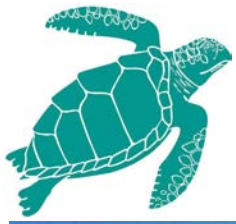




Turtle Case Highlights - Oregano



FF progress
Oregano - January 23, 2026



THANK YOU to all who help us care for these turtles. Hospital team members, medical team members, medical leads, water volunteers, veterinary team, interns, etc. etc. We could not do it without each of you!



Cc Lichen



Cm Jonah



Cm Pisces

Photo Credit Doug Payne



Splash On, Snooki!

After 9 years at KBSTRRC, on October 27 Snooki was moved to her forever home at the Minnesota Zoo.

THANK YOU to everyone who cared for Snooki, spoke about Snooki on your tours and on the beach, donated to Snooki's travel fund, adopted Snooki, etc.

[Snooki at the Minnesota Zoo](#)





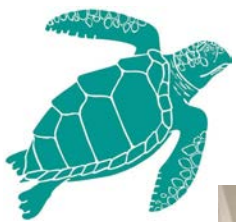
Life Support Systems / Water

2025 STATS

- 2337 boxes of salt
- 408,875 gallons of saltwater
- Salt cost: \$96,386

Upgraded making saltwater so the paddle is optional!





Lennie also received a system upgrade





Thank you to the best water team!





Splashy New (to us) Equipment

- Forklift purchased (used) through local specialist vendor
- Five staff went through forklift operation and safety training
- Used regularly
 - Salt deliveries
 - Medical supplies (e.g., Rescue Barrel)
 - Gift shop product, etc.
- Helping to save money!
 - Reduced salt costs
 - Reducing delivery costs





Splashier Sick Bay!



Sick Bay Reveal Event
April 9, 2025



Sick Bay Success

- Increasing # of independent systems
- Increasing # of sea turtles on filtration
- Decreasing handling of and stress on turtles
- Reducing water changes and tank cleaning work for volunteers





Thank You, Tina!



- Join us to celebrate Tina!
Tuesday, February 17, 4 pm, at the Salty Turtle
(Look for an event announcement from the Volunteer portal.)





Welcome, Troy!

Our new Life Support Systems and Facilities Coordinator is **Troy Rezek!**

- BS & MS from UNCW
- 20 years experience managing LSS at NOAA, Duke, UNCW
- Starts February 23



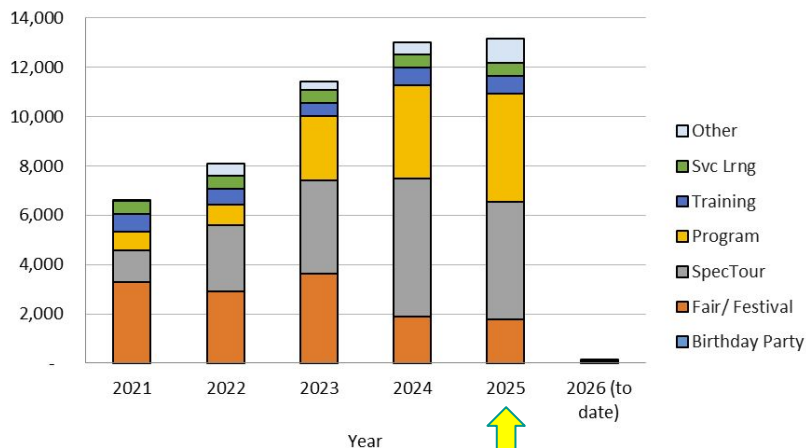


Splashing in (and out of) the Classroom

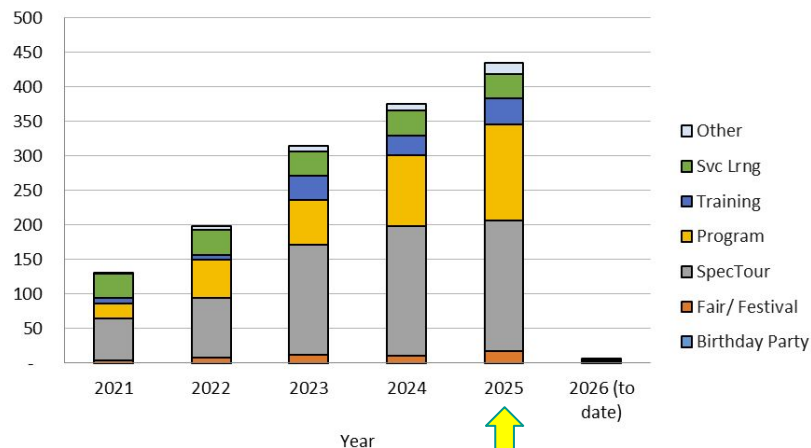


- Reached 13,183+ people in 435 programs - highest #s to date!
- Programs include Special Tours, Programs, Trainings, Fairs & Festivals, etc.

Number of People by Program Type



Number of Programs by Type



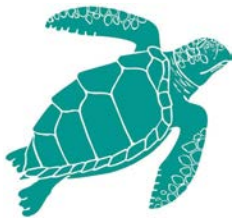


Education Days

Increasing access to learn about sea turtles, science, and conservation through days of free tours and activities for local schools

- April 29-30 & October 22-23
 - 16 schools/groups
 - 978 students
 - 80 teachers
 - 62 volunteers - THANK YOU!
-
- Thank you to Duke Energy Foundation for funding!





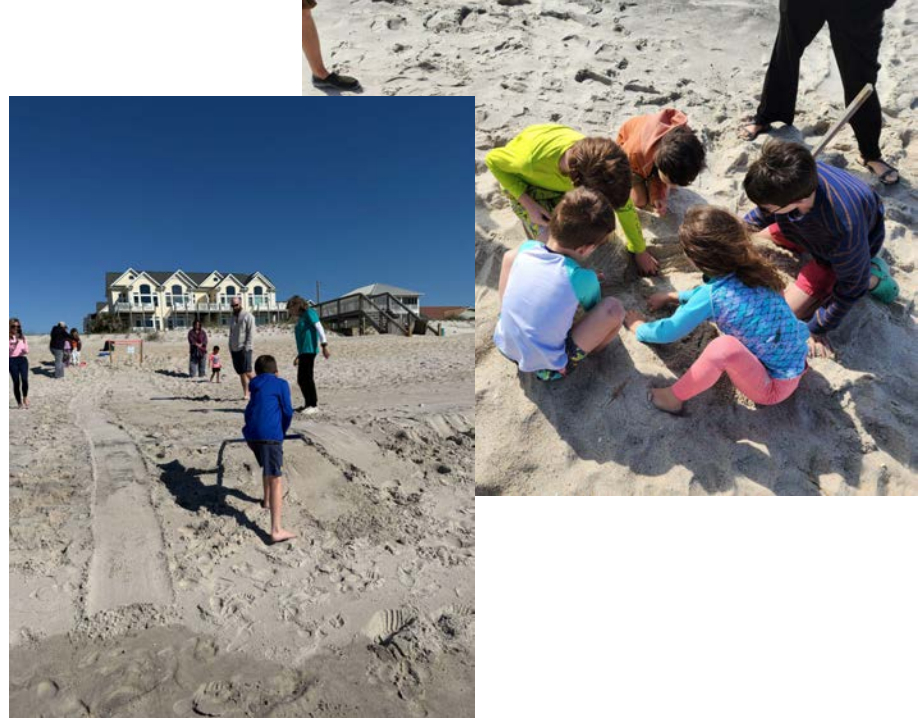
Additional Education Highlights

Continued our mission through Spring Break programming with hands-on outdoor and classroom learning.

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out!
- 186 students were able to attend

Continued exploring new ways to connect virtually, including hosting our first livestream in partnership with Streamable Learning.

- Hope to continue virtual learning to reach more students





Gift Shop Splashes

The Gift Shop helps fund KBSTRRC's mission of sea turtle conservation, rehabilitation, education, and science!

- **Total 2025 Sales: \$1,013,712**
 - Online Sales: \$33,016
 - In Person Sales: \$980,696
- **Best Sellers of 2025**
 - Logo Short Sleeve T-Shirt: \$45,941
 - Hoodie Sweatshirt: \$30,237
 - Crewneck Sweatshirt: \$19,574
 - Thinking Green Theme T-Shirt: \$19,207
 - Leatherback Plush: \$18,732
 - Bracelets: \$18,240
- **THANK YOU** to Missy, Melissa, Sharon and everyone who helped in the Gift Shop, as well as with restocking, pricing, organizing storage, and folding and folding and folding





2026 T-Shirt Design Contest

Submissions due Monday, Feb 9th!

Winner will receive 2 free T-Shirts & a \$25 gift certificate to our gift shop





Adoption Splashes

Symbolic Turtle Adoptions

- 2,967 Adoptions, \$162,450 raised
- The new Adoptions promo items are very popular
- NEW: Classroom Adoptions Program
- Thank you to Julie Bator and the Adoptions Team!
- Funds raised help pay for: food, medicine, salt, electricity, medical supplies, medical procedures





Tours Splashes

Through public tours we teach and share our conservation messages. They also raise funds to support our mission.

- 50,638 people in 2025
 - \$394,191 raised
 - *(Totals don't include educational tours)*
 - Increased awareness and interest in sea turtles!
-
- THANK YOU to Tracy's Team, and everyone else who helps give tours and support public visitorship!





Splashing Swell Volunteers

All these splashing successes are only possible due to our amazing volunteers!

- 544 volunteers as of 12/31/25
- 53,992 volunteer hours in 2025
- Valued at \$1,782,276
 - Value of volunteer time in NC in 2024 = \$33.01/hour per Independent Sector
<https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/vovt-report-2025.pdf>





Volunteer Enrichment in 2025

Lectures

- Kirt Rusenko: STs & Lighting
- KBSTRRC Staff: Year in Review 2024
- KC Clark, WRC: Hatchling Fitness
- Andrew DiMatteo: Lk & Cm tagging
- Eduardo Altamirano: Latin American ST Assoc, Costa Rica

Additional Activities

- Education classes
- Sea Turtle Releases
- Snooki parties

Appreciation

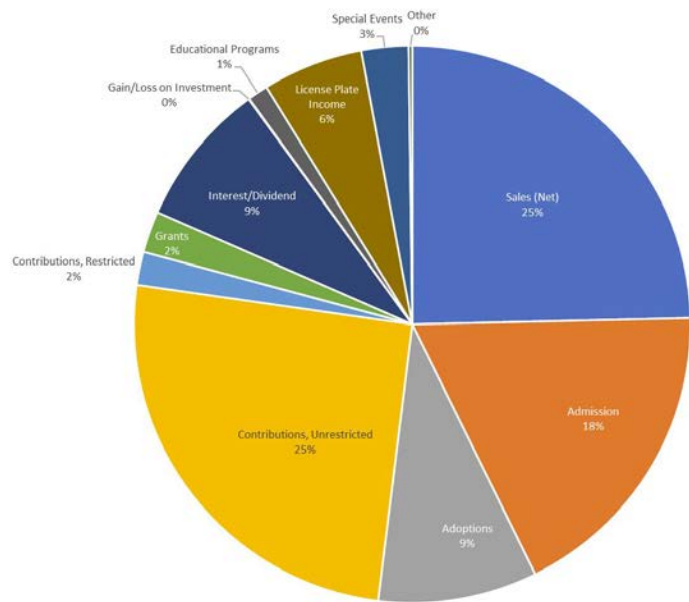
- Gift shop discounts during April Volunteer Appreciation Week and during December
- Team Lunches
- TTP Volunteers & Families Tour Day
- Volunteer Appreciation Party
- Gifts: Service Pins, Snooki Pins, Calendars



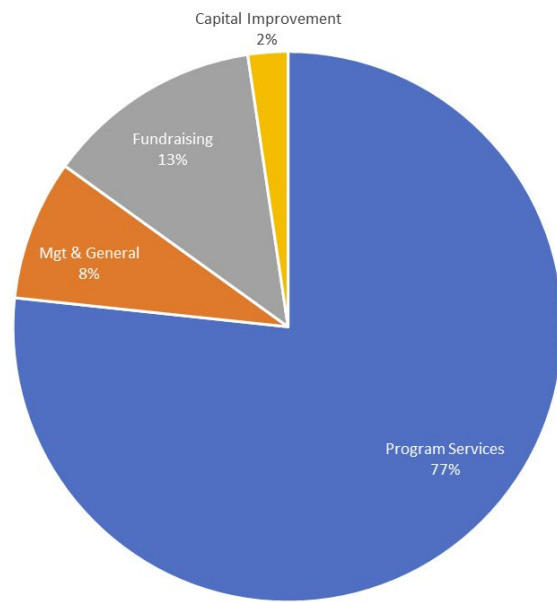


Preliminary Financials

2025 Revenue = \$1,853,923



2025 Expenses = \$1,154,512





Forever in our Hearts

Jean F. Beasley

10/18/35 - 12/2/25

Celebration of Life

4/11/26

(details TBA)

Jean Beasley Fund





Splashing to the Future: KBSTRRC Strategic Plan, 2026-2028



- **GOAL: Organizational Leadership** (Karen S. & Judy F., Co-Chairs) Enhance Board, staff, and volunteer leadership skills and practices to improve governance and operations and position the organization for success going into the next stage of our growth and development.
- **GOAL: Resources** (Tracy S. & Vicki S., Co-Chairs) Intentionally increase organizational resources to achieve strategic goals, especially in fundraising, in ways that are consistent with our organizational vision, mission, and values.
- **GOAL: Programs** (Pat J. & Megan B., Co-Chairs). Create and implement plans for improvements and excellence across program areas - beach, sea turtle hospital, education, and interns.
- **GOAL: Communications** (Tammy P. & Luckaia S., Co-Chairs). Strengthen internal and external communications to clearly articulate KBSTRRC's history, mission, programs, and fundraising priorities, driving increased engagement and support for sea turtle conservation.
- **GOAL: Infrastructure/Facilities/Education Center** (Terry M. & Jason K., Co-Chairs). Support the mission and goals of KBSTRRC through targeted capital projects. Design, build, implement the new Education Center that advances the organization's educational mission.
- Opportunities for **feedback** throughout the process! (see QR code)
- **NEXT:** Plan presented to KBSTRRC Community later in February or March.





Open Positions:

- **Gift Shop Assistant** (seasonal in the summer)
- **Sea Turtle Rehabilitation & Life Support Systems Assistant** (part-time)
- Apply at <https://www.seaturtlehospital.org/career-opportunities.html>





Any Questions?

Lk Violet
stranded 11/12/26 in Cape Cod
released 1/5/26 offshore NC

**So Long,
and Thanks
for All the
Splashes!**

