

5 Sea Turtles Found Dead Or Injured

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2-2 minutes

Five loggerhead and green sea turtles have been found dead or injured along the Brevard County coast since last week. Two were adult loggerheads that washed ashore and died in Cocoa Beach and Cape Canaveral. One found Thursday was too decomposed to determine its cause of death, and the other found Monday appeared to have drowned, said Wayne Stinnett, assistant director of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society. Two other endangered green sea turtles and a third loggerhead were found injured Monday. The green sea turtles, which ranged from 3 to 5 years old, had bitten fishing hooks and become snagged in fishing lines in Sebastian Inlet. They were tagged, treated and released, Stinnett said. The third loggerhead, found on Cocoa Beach, was taken early Tuesday to Marineland near St. Augustine for treatment. A spokeswoman there said the turtle was alive but very weak. Stinnett said "quite a few" dead turtles are usually found during nesting season from May 1 to Oct. 31. He blames many of those deaths on fishermen who do not use turtle extruder devices, which allow turtles to escape from fishing nets before they become trapped and drown.