

ETA Washes Post-Hatchling Sea Turtles Onto Brevard County Beaches



With the widespread effects of Tropical Storm Eta, post-hatchling sea turtles are being washed in along with the sargassum seaweed on Brevard County beaches. The [Sea Turtle Preservation Society](#) (STPS) asks the public to call its hotline at 321-206-0646 for guidance if a post-hatchling is found on the beach.

“STPS is seeing an influx of post-hatchling, or washback, sea turtles on our beaches. While we appreciate everyone’s concern for these tiny turtles, please remember that sea turtles are protected by law, and it is illegal to touch one of any size,” said Susan Skinner, STPS board of directors chairperson.” Trained STPS volunteers are responding to the situation as conditions allow, so please call STPS for instructions if you do find a post-hatchling on the beach.”

These young sea turtles, commonly called washbacks, hatched earlier in the summer and swam 20-25 miles offshore to the Sargasso Sea, where they have been living in the floating beds of seaweed. Storms, waves, and wind can disrupt these beds and bring the young sea turtles to shore along with the seaweed.

STPS discourages the public from looking for these post-hatchling sea turtles. STPS operates a Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program with volunteers who will survey the beaches as needed when conditions allow. These volunteers have received training and have been authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Please remember that sea turtles are protected by law, and it is illegal to touch one of any size.

If you do happen to find a post-hatchling on the beach, please follow these guidelines:

- CALL the STPS emergency hotline at 321-206-0646 or FWC at 888-404-3922 for guidance.
- DO NOT put the post-hatchling into the ocean. It likely will not have enough energy to survive.
- DO NOT place the post-hatchling in water or air conditioning. This could further injure or kill the sea turtle.

For more than 30 years, the Sea Turtle Preservation Society has worked to protect sea turtles and their habitat in Brevard County. Through both public education and conservation programs, the all-volunteer, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization strives to fulfill its mission statement, which is helping sea turtles survive.

To learn more about STPS and its programs, please visit the [Sea Turtle Preservation Society](#) website at SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org or Facebook, or on Instagram account: seaturtleps.

[Sea Turtle Preservation Society - 111 S Miramar Ave, Melbourne, FL](#)

Approximately 90% of sea turtle eggs in the US are laid in Florida. Because of the huge number of sea turtles that nest on area beaches and that forage the Indian River Lagoon, a group of concerned Brevard County citizens, in 1984, formed a grass-roots

organization to help protect them. This group, the Sea Turtle Preservation Society (STPS) was incorporated in 1986 as a not-for-profit whose mission statement was simply: "Helping sea turtles survive."

STPS works tirelessly to educate the public about how to protect the sea turtle population and help sick and injured sea turtles that arrive on area beaches throughout the year, particularly during nesting season, which usually runs from May through October.

Become a member, volunteer, and learn about how we can protect our Seas Turtles!