



# ATLANTIC MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Promoting Conservation Through Action

## Hypothermic Sea Turtle Beach Monitoring

### Monitoring of beaches

1. Dress in warm clothing
2. Bring gloves and a reusable bag
3. If possible bring tarp, plastic sled, or tote to transport animal or marine debris found on the beach
4. Bring marine debris data sheets. The ShowLatLong app is a substitute for a gps, and the Tides Near Me app will help you determine the tide
5. Identify a beach to walk and monitor
6. Walk after high tide (although animals and marine debris can wash up on any tide)
7. Once at the beach record the time you start walking and time you finish. Record the distance covered (if don't have it look on google map and estimate the distance) and report those data to the [volunteers@amseas.org](mailto:volunteers@amseas.org)
8. Collect marine debris while monitoring the beach for sea turtles
9. Report positive and negative finding after the beach walk
  - a. Time of walk
  - b. Beach location
  - c. Estimate distance covered
  - d. Weight of marine debris found (forward data sheets)
  - e. If an animal is encounter suspend beach cleanup. (Assume every animal encountered is ALIVE if it has a head)

### What to do when you find a sea turtle

1. If at any point you encounter an animal contact New York's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline immediately (631) 369-9829. (Always assume the Sea Turtle is alive if it has a head)
  - a. Be prepared with the best location
  - b. Your name and contact number



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- c. Size of turtle
2. After calling it in to the hotline:
  - a. Follow instruction received from the person running the call from the hotline. Do not act outside of the instruction of the stranding network representative.
  - b. If the animal is in danger of washing back out and it is safe for you to move the animal, you may be asked to move it higher on the beach making sure it is orientated with its plastron down and its flippers are free to move.
  - c. If the animal is upside-down and it is safe for you to orient it with its plastron down and its flippers free to move, you may be instructed to do so.
    - i. Always wear gloves when handling a turtle
    - ii. Keep the head facing away from you as they can bite
    - iii. Watch for flipper movement as they can be strong and hit your hands when picking up the animal
  - d. Shelter the animal from the wind without touching the animal.
  - e. Record the stranding location, time of encounter, (if you have thermometer take water and air temperature)
  - f. If possible wait for the responders and continue to note any changes in the animal's disposition
  - g. If you cannot wait make sure the location is marked and visible so the responders can locate the animal.
  - h. Do not imitate any treatment (ie. Warming) unless told by network member.