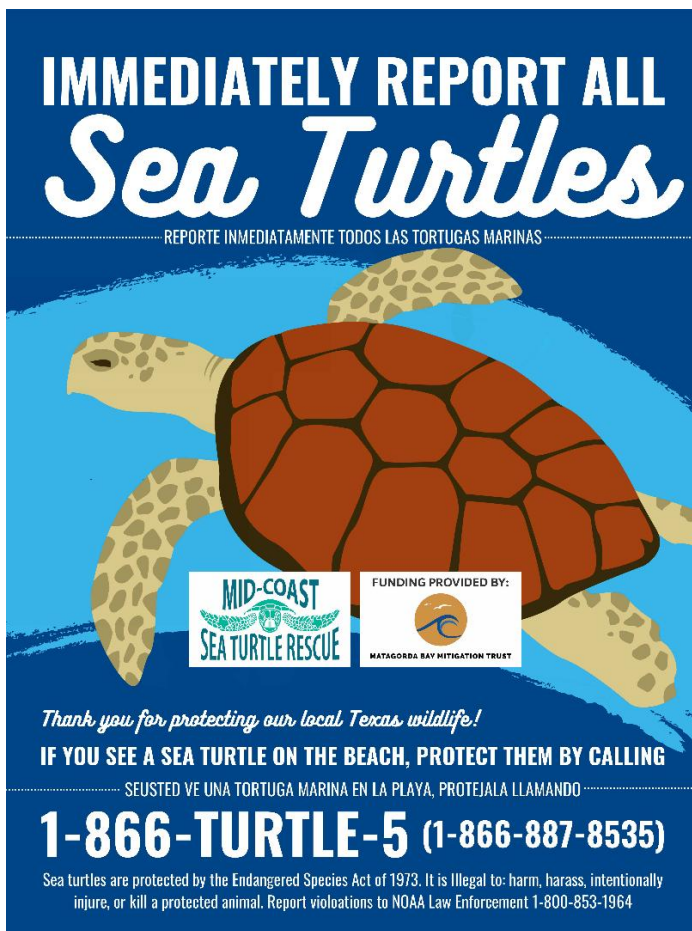


Update: September 1, 2025

**Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue (MCSTR)  
Mitigation Project – Progress Report**



Since the last progress report on February 28, 2025, the Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue has responded to 14 reports of stranded turtles (non-cold stunned), bringing the total number of responses to 22 stranded turtles in 2025. Of the 22 stranded turtles, 5 were found alive and transported to either the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research in Galveston or the Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) in Port Aransas. Of the 5 live turtles, 2 were Loggerhead, 2 were Green and 1 was a Kemp's Ridley hatchling. The dead turtles were 10 Green, 3 Loggerhead and 1 Kemp's Ridley. Three of these were transported to the ARK for necropsy as requested.



Twenty Texas Sea Turtle Hotline Signs were produced and are in the process of being installed at boat ramps and fishing piers throughout Calhoun, Matagorda and Refugio Counties. Grant funds have been utilized to purchase rescue supplies and volunteer appreciation gifts (caps) for the upcoming 2025-2026 cold stunning season. Also purchased with grant funds are MCSTR stickers with the Texas Sea Turtle Hotline number and a newly developed trifold outreach material about Texas Sea Turtles (see below).

Mandated training is planned by the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network State Coordinator for October when all current and new volunteers are required to attend this training. The MCSTR will conduct its annual volunteer meeting in November to train MCSTR volunteers on local procedures.

Respectfully submitted by  
Brigid Berger, MCSTR Coordinator  
9/1/2025

## How You Can Help Save Sea Turtles

Sea turtles and other marine animals too often become entangled in marine debris and mistake plastics for food. Do your part to reduce and prevent litter.

**PICK IT UP!** No matter where you are, pick up litter before it is washed down stream to our bays and the Gulf. Join a cleanup effort like San Antonio Bay Partnership's Shorelines Cleanup.



Reduce your use of single-use plastics by replacing them with reusable items.

Place fishing line in monofilament recycling bins located at most boat ramps & fishing piers.



While boating, secure your trash from blowing out.

### Support Sea Turtle Rescues and Rehabs



Texas State Aquarium



Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue



Amos Rehabilitation Keep

The **Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue** is just one of the volunteer-based efforts provided by



We are a non-profit, stakeholder-driven planning and management program for the San Antonio Bay/Guadalupe Estuary on the Texas Mid-Coast.

The purpose of the San Antonio Bay Partnership is to create and sustain a working partnership of committed stakeholders who protect, restore and enhance the natural resources of the San Antonio Bay System for the benefit of the ecosystem and its human uses.

Our Other Programs:

- ♦ Abandoned Crab Trap Removal
- ♦ Shorelines Cleanup
- ♦ Estuary Education
- ♦ Habitat Conservation

For information about volunteering or to support our efforts

[SABayPartnership.org](http://SABayPartnership.org)

[SanAntonioBayPartnership@gmail.com](mailto:SanAntonioBayPartnership@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn



MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST

Funding for this brochure provided by Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust

# Texas Sea Turtles

## REPORT STRANDED TURTLES

Texas Sea Turtle Hotline

866-887-8535

Provided by

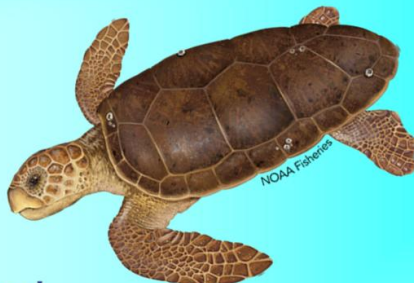


# Texas Sea Turtles

## Kemp's Ridley *Lepidochelys kempii*

The Kemp's Ridley is the smallest sea turtle weighing only 90 pounds and 2 feet long, its shell is round and grayish-green.

Their primary nesting is along the Gulf beaches in Mexico, but through decades of work by biologists and volunteers, our Texas beaches are now a secondary nesting site for hundreds of Kemp's Ridley, helping to secure its survival.



## Loggerhead

*Caretta caretta*

Named for its thick neck and powerful jaws, the Loggerhead is a carnivore that eats hard-shelled prey like mollusks, crabs, and shrimp.

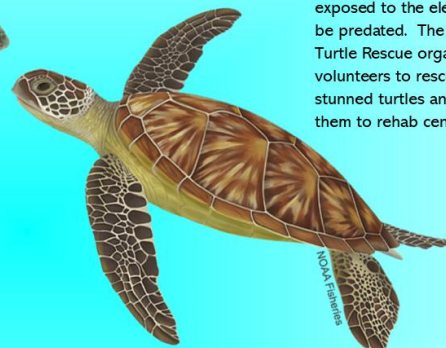
The Loggerhead is the most common turtle found stranded on our Gulf beaches. They forage throughout the Gulf and are susceptible to being caught as bycatch in fishing trawls, nets, and long-lines.

They are known for carrying other marine life on their shells such as algae and barnacles. This is called epibiosis. These attract feeder fish and create

## Green *Chelonia mydas*

Greens are commonly seen around jetties eating algae, and throughout shallow bays eating sea grass. In the winter these locations make them susceptible to cold-stunning which occurs when strong cold fronts drop the water temperature. As cold-blooded animals a turtle can not regulate its body temperature. Cold water makes it difficult for turtles swim. They float to the surface where they are susceptible to boat strikes. They can become so cold that they can not lift their head out of the water to breath and can drown. The wind pushes them ashore where they are

exposed to the elements and can be predated. The Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue organizes volunteers to rescue these cold-stunned turtles and transport them to rehab centers.



## Less Commonly Seen Sea Turtles

**Hawksbill** are known for their beautiful shells. They have a pointed, hawk-like bill perfect for eating sponges from the crevices within coral reefs in the Gulf.



**Leatherbacks** are the largest sea turtle weighing 750-1000 pounds and 5 to 6 feet long. Unlike other species, they have a soft, leathery shell. They are occasionally spotted in our bays.

