Virginia Marine Turtle Stranding Form

Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wm.edu/reports

Part of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons

Recommended Citation
http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.21220/m2-39c1-8933

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by W&M ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reports by an authorized administrator of W&M ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@wm.edu.
VIRGINIA MARINE TURTLE STRANDING FORM

Date of Find _________ (Please respond as soon as possible).

LOCATION
(be as accurate as possible) ____________________________________________

IDENTIFICATION OF TURTLE (see reverse side of sheet)
positive _______ unsure _______

SEX ___ Male (tail extends beyond rear edge of top shell).
      ___ Female (tail shorter than edge of top shell).

Have you ever seen marine turtles in this area before? Yes ___ No ___ Explain: __________________________

MEASUREMENT DATA (Measure along the central ridge (curve) front to rear edge and side to side at widest point).

Top shell length _____ inches (along curve)                      Top shell width _____ inches (along curve at widest part)

Head width _____ inches (at widest point)                       Tag No. and description ______________________________ (if tagged)

CONDITION OF TURTLE

___ Shell and body intact, little of no foul odor or bloating.

___ Shell not intact and/or body bloated and discolored.

___ Skeleton only.

It is important to note any MUTILATION of the body, missing limbs, gashes, missing eyes, wounds, etc., in order to determine possible cause of death. Please list all/any such signs that describe the turtle's condition:

Please RETURN THIS FORM to: MARINE TURTLES, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, Tel. (804) 642-2111, Ext. 151.
ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK: Seven longitudinal ridges on a leathery top shell, without plates. Our only black marine turtle. Lower part of head, limbs and body may be spotted with white or yellow. Often very large (to 7 feet).

ATLANTIC LOGGERHEAD: Top shell reddish brown in color. Has “extra” pair of shoulder plates touching neck plate. May be large (>100 lbs.). Three plates on lower shell bridge.

ATLANTIC RIDLEY: Top shell grey and almost circular. May be some white on head, limbs and bottom shell. Has “extra” pair of shoulder plates touching neck plate. Usually small size in Virginia (<40 lbs.). Four plates on lower shell bridge.

ATLANTIC GREEN: Top shell is broad, with plates barely overlapping, if at all. Olive to brown color (sometimes mottled). Has large triangular central plate touching neck plate and two plates between eyes.

ATLANTIC HAWKSBILL: Top shell shield-shaped, dark brown or tortoise shell in color; plates on top shell broadly overlapping. Has large triangular central plate touching neck plate and four plates between eyes.