

Cold Weather Wildlife Rescue

Sea Turtle Inc., the only sea turtle rehabilitation center in South Texas, activates a search and rescue mission.



Sea turtles floating ashore along the Laguna Madre Bay during the February 2021 Texas freeze

Photo credit: Sea Turtle Inc.

For immediate release: December 21, 2022

South Padre Island, TX: Sea Turtle Inc. is preparing for the winter weather that is approaching South Padre Island this weekend. Historically, Sea Turtle Inc responded to the largest cold stun event in recorded history, rescuing more than 5,500 sea turtles in 8 days. “While we do not expect that type of event this weekend, cold stun response is an annual part of our dedication to conservation and rehabilitation. **“ Predictions currently anticipate a substantial cold stun event over the Chrstimas weekend. Sea Turtle Inc, its staff and volunteers are ready and prepared for whatever this weekend holds for us.”** says Wendy Knight, Chief Executive Officer.

Cold Stun events happen when the water gets too cold for sea turtles to maintain their body temperature. As a result, the turtles are awake but unable to move or swim. If not rescued, while they are awake and alive, the turtles will drown from being unable to lift their head to draw their breath. Sea Turtle Inc. has been responding to cold stuns for over forty-five years and continues its three-tier mission year-round. **“As the community looks for ways to support us during this event we encourage you to follow Sea Turtle Inc on our social media platforms for live updates as the weather event continues to unfold”** says Wendy.

Follow Sea Turtle Inc on Facebook : facebook.com/seaturtleconservation

Visit Sea Turtle Inc website for more information or to make a donation <https://seaturtleinc.org/donate/>

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Plunging Temperatures Put Sea Turtle Rescue on Emergency Alert

Sea Turtle Inc., the only sea turtle rehabilitation center in South Texas, activates a search and rescue mission.



A rescued sea turtle is held by Sea Turtle Inc. staff as it struggles to move in freezing temperatures

Photo credit: Sea Turtle Inc.

For immediate release: January 15, 2024

South Padre Island, TX: Sea Turtle Inc. staff are reacting to a dramatic plunge in temperatures over the weekend by preparing for another environmental emergency. Cold Stun events happen when the water gets too cold for sea turtles to maintain their body temperature. As a result, the turtles are awake but unable to move or swim. If not rescued the sea turtles will drown from being unable to lift their head to draw breath. Sea Turtle Inc. has been responsible for responding to cold stun events in South Texas for more than 46 years, overcoming the unprecedented cold stunning event of 2021 by responding to more than 5500 cold stun sea turtles in just 8 days.

“Cold stun response is an annual part of our dedication to conservation and medical care,” says Wendy Knight, Chief Executive Officer. “Over the next few days, you will see the deployment of hundreds of dedicated volunteers on foot and boat patrol, and we respond to this weather event.”

“Given current predictions, we anticipate patrols to begin midday Tuesday and be required throughout the following days as we watch for water temperatures to move back above the 55-degree mark,” says Wendy.

Though Sea Turtle Inc. has managed these emergencies in the past, the opening of their new hospital is highly anticipated, bringing much-needed additions and critical resources for future cold stunning events. “We are rapidly working to complete construction on the largest fully enclosed sea turtle hospital in the world,” says Wendy “Having the hospital complete for these types of events will have a critical impact on the survival rate and the response capability of our organization.”

“Cold stun emergencies are challenging and show the extreme dedication of our staff and the enormous impact the community, volunteers, and boat owners have on our organization.” Says Wendy. Those looking for ways to help in the upcoming days should go to the [Sea Turtle Inc. Facebook page](#) for current and live updates as well as supplies and other resource needs.

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