



NOAA Fisheries MS Lab Sea Turtle Carcass and Effigy Drift Study 2017

The NOAA Fisheries Mississippi Lab is conducting a sea turtle stranding study that will run from January through December 2017. Sea turtle carcasses released in federal and state waters will be used to determine the percent of carcasses that actually strand on northern Gulf of Mexico beaches and also the percent of strandings reported to the Stranding Network. Every two weeks, we plan to deploy 6-9 sea turtle carcasses (primarily green sea turtles) and 3-6 effigies at three different sites in the MS Sound and nearby federal waters. The effigies are spray painted neon colors and all sea turtles have tags in both rear flippers. All carcasses and effigies will have a GPS satellite transmitter attached so that their location is known. It is possible that these objects may end up on or near public beaches, businesses and private property. We are providing this information in the event anyone encounters these items. Pictured below are examples of what the wooden effigies (size 11"x11"x4.5") and sea turtles (~12"-18") look like with their satellite transmitters in the attached jars.



Carcasses and effigies observed floating in the water, should not be disturbed (unless instructed by NOAA personnel), if possible, please document location, photograph and report to NOAA.

Our goal is to respond to beached objects as quickly as possible. If you happen to find it before staff members, please call the following (in order) to report it and possibly receive further instructions:

NOAA Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline: 228-369-4796 or 888-806-1674

*Dr. Melissa Cook: 228-217-6565 or melissa.cook@noaa.gov

Jaymie Reneker: 515-419-6874 or jaymie.reneker@noaa.gov

We thank you in advance for any help you may provide during the course of this project!

*Dr. Melissa Cook is the Sea Turtle and Salvage Network (STSSN) Coordinator for Mississippi