

## **COLD STUN PRO-TRAINING (KACB)**

- **General Techniques**

- Handling Techniques
  - **DO NOT PICK UP BY THE FLIPPERS!**
    - Turtle shoulders can get dislocated no matter the size
  - Small-Medium Size Turtle
    - The best technique is to pick up with one hand on the nuchal notch on the front of the shell and one hand on the tip of the carapace
    - Alternatively, you can carry with hands on either side of the carapace.
      - Be careful of flapping flippers
      - Nail can cut you and can rip waders
  - Large Turtle
    - Two people required
      - You each pick up with one hand on the nuchal notch on the front of the shell and one hand on the tip of the carapace, standing across from each other.
      - Best Technique: Put turtle in a large tub first then carry.
- Measuring Techniques
  - Straight Measurements – Use calipers
    - Notch to Tip – Longest measurement
    - Notch to Notch
    - Widest Point
  - Curved Measurements – Use measuring tape
    - Same as above
- Entanglement
  - **DO NOT REMOVE ANY HOOKS**
  - Take photos before removing any entanglement
  - Remove line if fresh or loose as long as it is not cutting into the flesh.
  - If cutting into the flesh, release tension.
    - It may not be safe to completely remove the line.
  - If line is down the throat, please make a note of that.
    - Turtle may completely swallow while in transit.
  - **IF YOU ARE UNSURE, CALL FIRST**
    - ARK may ask for you to send photos via text to better assess the situation.
- Fibropapillomatosis (FP)
  - Herpes Virus
  - Creates tumors on the outside of the body as well as internally
  - Infectious to all turtles
  - No known cure
  - Keep turtles separate
  - Use new gloves before touching a non-FP turtle

- Disinfect gear
- **Rescues**
  - By boat or by vehicle/foot patrol
  - How to Look for Turtles
    - Winds and tides will push turtles onto land
    - They could be covered in seaweed and/or debris
    - Look for predators and/or scavengers
    - Not usually found on gulf beaches only in shallower areas or in channels/passes
    - Use binoculars
    - Turtle or Tire?
    - Use net, remember not to grab by flippers
    - May need to wade out to shallow areas to collect turtles.
    - Use a boogie board for large turtles
  - CALL DISPATCH WHEN A TURTLE IS LOCATED
  - Turtle ID Numbers and proper documentation
    - Make sure each turtle is properly documented with a stranding id number
      - YEARMODYFML##
      - YearMonthDayFirstMiddleLastTurtleNumberbyday  
(20181219AMW01)
      - Use sharpies, event bands, or flagging tape
      - Take a photo with the ID and GPS
      - If dead turtle is left in the field, get photos of both carapace and plastron.
  - Call when heading back to boat ramp or to ARK, give dispatch a number of total turtles found and in need of transport
    - This will allow ARK to prepare space and get ready for incoming turtles
  - DO NOT PATROL AT NIGHT
    - Dangerous for you but also dangerous to turtles
    - You will not be able to spot turtles anyway
- **Transporting turtles to the ARK**
  - By Boat
    - Bring to UTMSI boat basin, notify ARK and we will meet you with a truck to bring turtles to the ARK
  - By Vehicle
    - Go directly to the ARK's Oiled Wildlife Facility
- **Rehab**
  - How to house a turtle
    - Warm slowly at room temperature (~65-70°F)
    - Do not put in front of a heater
    - Do not put in water for at least the first 8 hrs. until fully warmed and active.
    - Use dry tubs

- For a smaller event, use towels or foam for padding if available
- Multiple turtles can go in the same tub as long as they are all greens and do not have FP.
  - Do not put FP turtles with non-FP turtles
  - You can house multiple FP turtles together, as long as there are no non-FP turtles.
- Do not put larger turtles in the same tub with a very small turtle
- Do not stack turtles on top of each other.
- Disinfect tubs before using again, especially once used for FP turtle or dead turtle
  - Room with no pets
- Once at the ARK
  - Documentation
    - Fill out stranding report completely, measure, weigh, check for tags, pit tag if none, check for FP tumors
    - Enter into stranding database
  - Access body condition
    - Check glucose, give fluids
    - X-ray
    - Wound therapy
  - Put in tank once active.
    - Monitor to make sure turtle is diving and is strong enough to get to surface for air.
- **Release**
  - Water Temperatures must be above 55°F
  - The ARK will notify KACB of release times
  - Turtles are loaded into trucks and taken to release location
  - Turtles are released by wading into the water, **BRING WADERS**
  - Use gloves for public releases and do not let public touch the turtles.

## **LIST OF SUPPLIES:**

- **Boat Patrol Teams:**

- Turtle tubs
  - For FP or dead turtles, turtles can be placed directly on boat deck if needed; try to separate FP
- Measuring tape
  - For dead turtles left behind
- A way to mark each turtle
  - Flagging tape
  - Wax sharpie or specialized marker
  - Event bands
- Latex or vinyl gloves
- Nets-rubberized netting
  - Less harmful
- Waders
- Small notepad (may consider Rite in the Rain or other waterproof paper)
  - Can be used for taking location notes for turtles or taking data on dead turtles left in the field.
- Boogie boards
- Binoculars
- Sharp scissors or knife
  - for entangled turtles
- GPS software
  - You can use phone with free GPS app
- Tarps
  - For covering turtles or boat deck
- Pens and Sharpies
- General Laminated Map with markers
  - To make locational notes
- Copy of Permit in vehicle
- Personal Safety/Comfort Ideas
  - Bring extra clothes in case you get wet
  - Layer clothes
  - Gloves
  - Way to block wind from face (baklava, scarves, etc.)
  - Chapstick
  - Chemical warming packs (ie hot hands)
  - Extra food and water

- **Vehicle/Foot Patrol Teams:**

- Turtle tubs
  - For transport; try to separate FP
- Measuring tape
  - For dead turtles left behind
- A way to mark each turtle
  - Flagging tape
  - Wax sharpie or specialized marker

- Event bands
- Latex or vinyl gloves
- Nets-rubberized netting
  - Less harmful
- Waders
- Small notepad (may consider Rite in the Rain or other waterproof paper)
  - Can be used for taking location notes for turtles or taking data on dead turtles left in the field.
- Binoculars/spotting scope
- Sharp scissors or knife
  - For entangled turtles
- GPS software
  - You can use phone with free GPS app
- Tarps
  - To cover open bed trucks or seats/floorboards
  - Bungies or a way to tie down the tarps
- Shovel
  - In case you get your vehicle stuck
  - Disposing of dead turtles
- Pens and Sharpies
- General Laminated Map with markers
  - To make locational notes
- Copy of Permit in vehicle
- Personal Safety/Comfort Ideas
  - Bring extra clothes in case you get wet
  - Layer clothes
  - Gloves
  - Way to block wind from face (baklava, scarves, etc.)
  - Chapstick
  - Chemical warming packs (ie hot hands)

- **Transport Teams:**
  - Turtle tubs
    - For keeping FP or deteriorated dead separate
  - Tarps
    - To cover open bed trucks or seats/floorboards
    - Bungies or a way to tie down the tarps
  - Latex or vinyl gloves if helping load turtles
  - Small notepad & pens
    - Take notes from rescue team to give to rehab team
  - Copy of permit
- **Rehab Teams (other than at the ARK):**
  - Turtle tubs
  - Towels
  - Latex or vinyl gloves
  - Climate controlled environment
  - Copy of permit

## **SIGN-IN SHEET**

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