

NEWS RELEASE

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Cold Stun Season Arrives with Rhyme

(VIRGINIA BEACH, VA)

There's a chill in the air,
the waters are colder.
Some sea turtles left,
while others were bolder.

Below are the five,
we received in November.
All are alive,
And we're into December.

Sea turtles need protection,
Of that, there's no doubt.
But the early projection
Means the weather is out.

Named after Seuss,
The turtles will be.
Hoping for less,
We will have to see.

Below are the five cold stunned rehab patients we have received so far:

- "Lorax," a loggerhead was recovered on November 9 from Cape Charles.
- "Thing 1," another loggerhead was found floating near Cape Charles on November 16.
- "Thing 2," a third loggerhead, came in on November 16 from Kiptopeke.
- "Cindy Lou Who," a Kemp's ridley, was found floating off Bloxom on November 23.
- "Grinch," a green sea turtle, was found in the surf near Chincoteague on November 25.

When sea turtles used to warmer water are suddenly exposed to water temperatures below 50 degrees, they become lethargic and can drift on top of the water or wash ashore appearing to be dead. This exposes them to predators, accidental boat strikes, and possible death if the temperatures continue to decline.

To prevent future losses of these endangered animals, the Stranding Response Team is asking all citizens to be watchful and to call the 24-hour hotline (757) 385-7575 if they see any sea turtle in the region, regardless of its apparent condition.

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