



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NORTH CAROLINA SEA TURTLE WEEK

2021

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are only seven species of sea turtles around the world and six are classified as threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS, five of the seven sea turtle species nest on North Carolina's oceanfront beaches including the well-known loggerhead sea turtle; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina beaches are critical to the loggerhead habitat that spans across 96 miles of oceanfront beach and is key to contributing male hatchlings to the larger loggerhead metapopulation in the Southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, an average of 378 individual turtles nest on North Carolina beaches each year and this equates to 1,000 nests that produce 70,000 emergent hatchlings; and

WHEREAS, threats to sea turtles in North Carolina waters include habitat degradation, incidental capture in commercial and recreational fishing gear, boat collisions and marine pollution; and

WHEREAS, efforts made by state, federal and non-governmental organizations (NGO) including Bald Head Island Conservancy and the North Carolina Audubon monitor more than 95 percent of the state's 330 miles of coastline daily during the nesting season to find and protect sea turtle nests; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Aquariums and The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center rehabilitate and release dozens of injured sea turtles each year along with numerous volunteers and staff that work endlessly to help protect the sea turtles of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 13 – 19, 2021, as "**NORTH CAROLINA SEA TURTLE WEEK**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.