

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025

CONTACT

Lauren Delgado, Communications Manager

321-254-9453 ext. 236

ldelgado@brevardzoo.org



Brevard Zoo Releasing 140-pound Loggerhead after 16-month Rehabilitation

MELBOURNE, Fla., February 18, 2025 — Mischief the 140-pound loggerhead sea turtle patient is headed home to the ocean after a 16-month rehabilitation at Brevard Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center.

The release will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Howard E. Futch Memorial Park at Paradise Beach, 2301 N. Highway A1A in Melbourne. Sea turtle releases are rain or shine – but any release may be delayed or canceled for safety concerns like lightning in the area.

Mischief came to the Zoo’s Healing Center in October 2023 after being found by boaters in Sebastian Inlet with their right front flipper entangled in a crab trap line. Unfortunately, the line had cut off circulation to the limb, causing it to die off.

The Zoo’s veterinary team undertook a 6-hour surgery to remove the flipper. Sea turtles have been documented in the ocean living healthy full lives with just three flippers, so we believe Mischief will do the same.

Sea turtles’ bodies can quickly heal from the severity of a missing limb, but sometimes complications arise from this quick healing. Mischief underwent several surgeries to clean debris and dead muscle from the wound.

Derelict fishing gear presents one of today’s greatest threats to aquatic life. Anglers should stow their equipment before and after use.

A few ways to make a difference in the lives of sea turtles include bringing trash home for proper disposal after a day on a beach or boat and refusing single-use plastics (microplastic is another major threat to sea turtles).

###

Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 170 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.