

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Coast Zoological Foundation Releasing Two Green Sea Turtles

MELBOURNE, Fla., Jan. 12, 2026 — East Coast Zoological Foundation is proud to be sending two rehabilitated sea turtle patients back to the ocean!

Bling and Jiminy Cricket are being released at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at Howard E. Futch Memorial Park in Paradise Beach, located at 2301 Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway in Melbourne. This event is open to the public and will take place rain or shine. We will delay or cancel if lightning is detected in the area.

Bling, a juvenile green sea turtle, was found entangled in fishing line at a fishing pier in Port Canaveral and brought to East Coast Zoological Foundation's (ECZF) Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center at Brevard Zoo in May of last year. While our veterinary team was able to remove most of the fishing line after this turtle's arrival, a fishing lure was deeply embedded in Bling's front right flipper, inspiring his shiny name. The lure made three holes and had reached the turtle's bone. It appeared to have been there for a while, and the prolonged bone exposure meant some pieces of dead bone had to be removed.

After an 8-month-long recovery, Bling is ready to head home!

Jiminy Cricket, a fellow juvenile green sea turtle, joined Bling as a patient in September. Jiminy Cricket was named by East Coast Biologists, a local nonprofit dedicated to sea turtle research, who found this sea turtle while conducting population studies on local sea turtles off Satellite Beach. They noticed a thin, lethargic Jiminy and got him some help. After being admitted to the Rehabilitation Center, it was also discovered that this turtle was struggling with pneumonia and a previous wound that needed tending to.

After a few months of care with our veterinary team, Jiminy Cricket will be released alongside Bling.

All media personnel are asked to RSVP to Senior Communications Manager Lauren Delgado prior to the event and check in with the Zoo's communications team upon arrival. Flippers will be in the water at 3:30 p.m.; media personnel are advised to arrive early.

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About East Coast Zoological Foundation

Driven by a mission to answer the call, East Coast Zoological Foundation (ECZF) is focused on educating, engaging and empowering the community to take action for conservation. The 501c(3) nonprofit located in Melbourne, Fla., includes Brevard Zoo and Bowen Aquarium campuses. ECZF works directly with Florida species and the community to develop programs and workshops to make a difference locally and around the world. From sea turtle rehabilitations and releases, building living shorelines along the Indian River Lagoon, providing scholarships and grants to the community and more, the Foundation creates opportunities for guests to connect with nature and make an impact in conservation and education. Founded in 1986, ECZF is governed by a volunteer board of directors and receives no recurring operating funds from any city, county or state government, relying on donations from people and companies to continue answering the call for wildlife and the environment along Florida's Space Coast and beyond. To learn more, visit ourlegacycampaign.org.