

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Lauren Delgado, Senior Communications Manager

321-254-9453, ext. 236

ldelgado@brevardzoo.org

East Coast Zoological Foundation Releasing Two Green Sea Turtles

MELBOURNE, Fla., May 12, 2026 — Two juvenile green sea turtles will be heading home to the ocean after being found wrapped in fishing gear in two separate instances. Sir Hooks a Lot and Stag the sea turtles just finished months-long rehabilitation at East Coast Zoological Foundation's Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center at Brevard Zoo.

The duo will be released at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, from Lori Wilson Park, 1500 N Atlantic Ave. in Cocoa Beach. 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.

Both sea turtles were found separately struggling on the water at Jetty Park pier in Port Canaveral, a popular fishing spot.

[Sir Hooks a Lot](#) was brought to the Rehabilitation Center in January by the Sea Turtle Preservation Society. Unfortunately, this turtle was likely looking for an easy snack near the pier when some derelict fishing lures and line bound the turtle to a pillion. Sir Hooks a Lot had a large lure with three treble hooks embedded in areas of their body, including the right eyelid and right front flipper. This sticky situation inspired the turtle's namesake. A fishing line connected to the lures was wrapped around their neck and both front flippers.

The Zoo's veterinary team removed the hooks and line from the turtle. This turtle was treated for those injuries and pneumonia with antibiotics, fluid therapy and pain medication. Sir Hooks a Lot recovered quickly from the wounds and has no extensive damage to the eyes or flippers.

Stag arrived at the Rehabilitation Center in February after being found with fishing line wrapped around their head, neck and flippers. This green sea turtle dealt with pneumonia, which caused some buoyancy issues during their stay. With rest, medication and good nutrition, Stag is ready to head back to the ocean.

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 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.