

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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East Coast Zoological Foundation to Release Green Sea Turtle

MELBOURNE, Fla., September 15, 2026 — Bowtie, a juvenile green sea turtle, is headed back to the ocean thanks to East Coast Zoological Foundation's (ECZF) Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center at Brevard Zoo.

Bowtie will be released from Lori Wilson Park, 1500 N. Atlantic Ave. in Cocoa Beach, on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. Flippers will be in the water at 11 a.m. sharp. This release will take place rain or shine, although it may be delayed or canceled if there is lightning in the area. 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.

Bowtie arrived in mid-August after a fisherman had reported accidentally hooking the turtle at Jetty Pier Park in Port Canaveral. The large hook had lodged under the turtle's neck. Luckily, the veterinary team was able to immediately remove the hook. There was also a hook in Bowtie's esophagus, which was removed by our skilled veterinarians using a video endoscope. Bowtie was in otherwise good health upon arrival, and they recovered quickly from both procedures. The team is happy to say a quick goodbye to this small turtle.

ECZF encourages fishermen to always be on the lookout for turtles hanging out nearby. If you see a turtle that frequents your pier, consider not fishing while the turtle is in the area. Likewise, if you see an injured sea turtle or one struggling with fishing gear entanglement, please report it to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society by calling 321-206-0646. For anywhere in Florida, contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions' Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC. Make sure to not touch the turtle, as you may do more harm than good.

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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.