



Texas Restoration Area

Sea Turtle Restoration

November 2022



Photo courtesy of Gladys Porter Zoo.
Photographer: Hector Chenge Alvarez

ABOUT SEA TURTLE RESTORATION

The endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle is found in the Gulf of Mexico and nests on the south Texas coast. Our goal is to protect this species and other sea turtles on nesting beaches and in the marine environment. Texas Restoration Area projects address this goal through nest detection and protection, enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (including construction of a new rehabilitation facility on the upper coast), and enhancement of bycatch reduction and illegal fishing gear enforcement efforts.

MORE INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE ONLINE



[gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/
restoration-areas/texas](http://gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas)





Sea Turtle Restoration Projects

Project Name	Project Budget	Status
Reducing Sea Turtle Mortality through Removal of Illegal Fishing Gear	\$2.2 M	In Progress
Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project	\$19.5 M	In Progress
Upper Texas Coast Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility	\$2.5 M	In Progress



Photo by Raul Hector Chenge, courtesy of Gladys Porter Zoo

Sea Turtles in the Gulf of Mexico are a shared resource, crossing state, federal, and international boundaries, and relying on a system of interconnected beach, nearshore, and offshore habitats. The Texas Trustees are restoring for sea turtles by directly reducing mortality through nesting protection and bycatch reduction as well as protecting the coastal habitat they need to live and reproduce. Beginning in 2016, we committed over \$19.5 million to sea turtle restoration. One example of project success is the release of over 114,000 hatchlings on Texas beaches. With the addition of two new projects selected in the 2022 Final Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment Plan #2, we hope to continue our successful efforts in restoring and protecting this important Gulf resource.



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Photo courtesy of Sea Turtle Inc.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The **Enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network** portion of the **Early Restoration Sea Turtle Project** is carried out by our project partners at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute Amos Rehabilitation Keep, Sea Turtle Inc., Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and Texas Sealife Center. Our project partners have improved the response capabilities to quickly recover dead and injured sea turtles and enhanced their ability to rehabilitate injured sea turtles.

In February 2021, our project partners mobilized quickly to recover and treat thousands of sea turtles that became stranded as a result of the record-breaking cold snap, when water temperatures dropped below 50°F. Thanks to their efforts, approximately 4,300 sea turtles were successfully recovered, rehabilitated and released.