

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS  
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2023

Ms. Tammy Smith  
Tybee Island Marine Science Center  
P.O. Box 1879  
Tybee Island, GA 31328

**Re: Letter of Permission (LOP), Tybee Island Marine Science Center 2023 Turtle Trot in the State's Shore Protection Act (SPA) Jurisdiction, North Beach Area, Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia**

Dear Ms. Smith:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request to host the 2023 Turtle Trot on the North Beach area seaward of the Tybee Island Marine Science Center (TIMSC) of Tybee Island. The one-day event combines a 5k race and a sea turtle release that will occur Saturday April 29, 2023 and be completed the same day.

Your request includes the placement of directional signage and traffic cones to identify the 5k course on the beach just for a distance of 1.55 miles. An inflatable start/finish line will be lined with a temporary 3ft. x10ft. lightweight sectional barricade sitting directly on the sand. There will also be a battery powered time clock at the finish line. All equipment will be set up the day of the event and removed as soon as the race is complete.

In addition to the 5k, this one-day event includes the release of a rehabilitated Loggerhead sea turtle by the GA Sea Turtle Center (GASTC). The turtle release area will be set up near Gulick Street vehicular access. Temporary posts with rope may be used to line a path approximately 50 feet long in order to provide the sea turtle protected access to the Atlantic Ocean. The public will be able to traverse the beach landward of the temporary fence and spectators will be able to observe the release from a controlled distance. The fencing will be installed the day of the event using hand tools only and will be removed as soon as the sea turtle is released into the Atlantic Ocean. GASTC will coordinate with Tybee Island's Department of Public Works to use a pick-up truck to move the sea turtle from the staging area to the release area. The vehicle will use the DNR-approved vehicular access point at Gulick Street to access the area.

The Department authorizes the temporary activities associated with the event as depicted in the attached project description and location map. **No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.** Any incidental impacts associated with this project must be rectified by fully restoring areas to their pre-construction topographic and vegetative states.

This LOP is valid for the above referenced project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office

could result on the revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the materials and related structures. This project must comply with all other Federal, State, and local statutes, ordinances and regulations.

If you have any further questions or concerns in regard to this or any other projects please feel free to contact Deb Barreiro at 912.266.3695.

Sincerely,



Doug Haymans  
Director

Enclosures: Description & Site Plan

cc: Robyn Rosner  
City of Tybee Island  
P.O. Box 2749  
Tybee Island, GA 31328

LOP20230012

**From:** [Tammy Smith](#)  
**To:** [Barreiro, Deb](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Trot LOP Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 11:41:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [MAP.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Deb,

We are planning to hold the Turtle Trot on April 29, 2023. This is a 5K beach run on Tybee. This year the run will take place on the north end instead of the pier area. The map shows the potential route depending on if we have a turtle to release from the GA Sea Turtle Center.

Beach Usage for :

Route 1: Taylor Street (TIMSC Crossover, norther most crossover at North Beach) head south 1.55 miles.

OR

Route 2: Gullick Street south 1.55 miles.

Turtle Release area, if needed, will be set up at the center crossover at North Beach. This will require Tybee DPW to put out the stands with rope to mark off the area for the turtle release. Turtle release time TBA.

Race Needs:

- Start/finish line at the same spot (Either at Taylor or Gulick)- requires a battery-operated timing clock, a rubber mat for racer to run across, possible shoot area for participants to finish through. Set up at 7:00 am and breakdown by 11:30 am.
- Turn Around point - at the 1.55 mile mark a mock sea turtle nest will be set up with a water station (table, water supplies and trach containers) for participants to turn around and return to the start/finish line. Project volunteers will man the station and clean up area when finished.
- Runners will head south 1.55 miles, turn around and return to the start/finish area.

Items will need to be set up beginning at 7:00 am and should be concluded no later than 12:00.

The awards ceremony will be at the Tybee Marine Science Center.

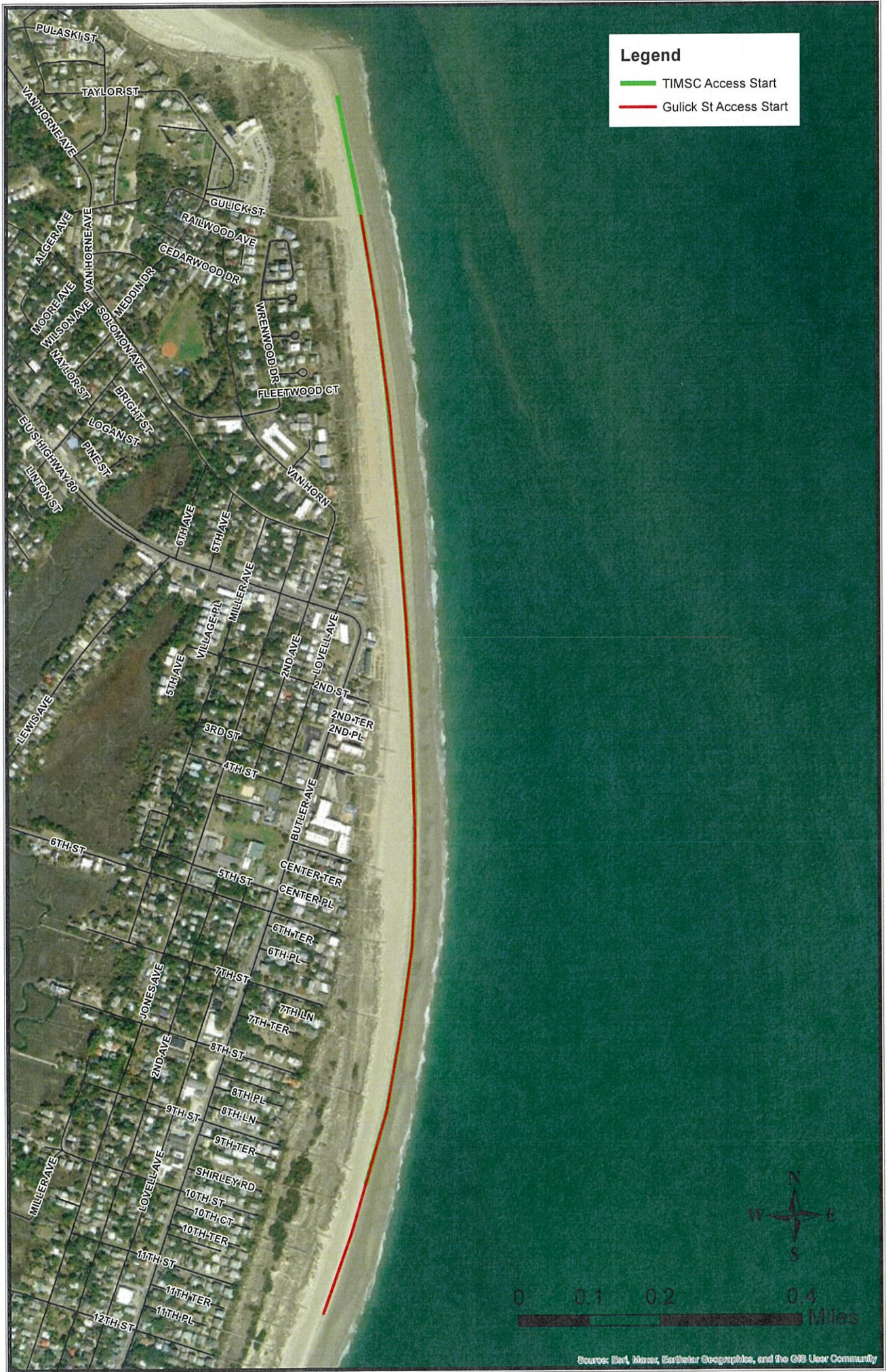
Please let me know if you need further information.

Tammy Smith

**Confidentiality Notice:** The information and any attachments in this Email are proprietary and

strictly confidential. It is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or agent, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distributing, or taking of any action based on the contents is strictly prohibited and protected by the law governing records confidentiality. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete this communication.





**Legend**

- TIMSC Access Start
- Gulick St Access Start

