



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

March 5, 2024

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 2024 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 2024 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 13, 2024 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 Georgia 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 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. The 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Andrews".

Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Description & Site Plan

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

LOP20240017

From: [Tammy Smith](#)
To: [Barreiro, Deb](#)
Subject: Tybee Turtle Trot
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 9:52:41 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,

The Tybee Island Marine Science Center will host the Turtle Trot again this year. The Trot will take place on Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 am. We will begin setting up at 6:00 am and have all everything cleaned up by 12:00pm.

We are seeking the LOP for use of the beach for the following:

1. 10x10 canopy, with table, for speaker and laptop all battery operated.
2. Start/finish line with time strip on the sand for runners to cross.
3. Single table at the halfway point for a water station. Volunteers will clean up this area when finished.
4. Possible turtle release area at the middle crossover at North Beach. Same as before. DPW would set up the post with rope to mark off the release area. DPW or Lifeguards would transport the turtle if needed in a vehicle.

The race will start at the Taylor Street crossover unless we have a turtle release. If we have a turtle to release, the race start/finish line would move to Gulick Street crossover. If the start/finish line is moved, the distance for the turnaround point would change. The halfway point will be 1.5 miles from the start/finish line.

I have attached the map showing the two starting points. Runners will run ½ south turn around at the water station and return to start/finish line.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Tammy Smith

Tybee Sea Turtle Coordinator

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Legend

- TIMSC Access Start
- Gulick St Access Start

