



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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

WALTER RABON  
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS  
DIRECTOR

August 12, 2025

Beth Palmer (by email)  
Tybee Island Marine Science Center  
37 Meddin Drive  
Tybee Island, Georgia 31328

**Re: Letter of Permission (LOP), Tybee Island Marine Science Center (TIMSC), 2025  
Turtle Release in Shore Protection Act (SPA) Jurisdiction, North Beach, Atlantic  
Ocean, Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia**

Dear Ms. Palmer:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request received August 5, 2025, to host the Westie Turtle Release in Shore Protection Act (SPA) jurisdiction, on North Beach, Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia. The one-day event combines educational outreach and a sea turtle release that will occur on Saturday, September 6, 2025, and be completed the same day.

The one-day outreach effort on Tybee Island includes the release of a rehabilitated Loggerhead sea turtle as depicted in the TIMSC Plans and description, seaward of the North Beach Center Dune Crosswalk.

The designated Release Alley will be set up by City of Tybee Island staff. Temporary crowd barriers will be used to line a path approximately 50 feet long to provide the turtle protected access to the Atlantic Ocean. Release Alley fencing will be installed the day of the event using hand tools only. 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. TIMSC staff will coordinate with City of Tybee Island Department of Public Works to use a City of Tybee Island vehicle to transport the sea turtle from the staging area to the release area. The vehicle will use the DNR-approved vehicular access point at Gulick Street for ingress and egress to the location. Release Alley fencing will be removed as soon as the sea turtle is released.

The Department authorizes the temporary activities associated with the events as depicted in the attached project description and location map. This LOP is not meant to exempt the above referenced activities from future environmental laws. 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 projects.

If you have any further questions or concerns as it pertains to this, or any other project, 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

Enclosure: 2025 Turtle Release Site Plan and Description

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

Brett Bell  
City of Tybee Island  
City Manager  
P.O. Box 2749  
Tybee Island, GA 31328

LOP20250060



# Tybee Island Marine Science Center

## Westie's Release

Saturday, September 6, 2025 - 9:00 am

**GOAL:** To safely release Westie, a three year old Loggerhead sea turtle, back into the ocean after their stay at the Tybee Island Marine Science Center.

**NARRATIVE:** As local children are heading back-to-school, and the busy summer season slows down, our marine debris ambassador, Westie, is being released back into the Atlantic Ocean right here off Tybee Island! On Saturday, September 6th, Westie will be released back into the ocean after being housed and raised at the Tybee Island Marine Science Center.

**LOCATION:** Center Crossover (North Beach)



