



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

March 25, 2025

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 2025 Turtle Trot in the State's Shore Protection Act (SPA) Jurisdiction, North Beach Area, Atlantic Ocean, Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia

Dear Ms. Smith:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request to host the 2025 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 26, 2025, and be completed the same day.

The project includes the placement of directional signage, traffic cones and race amenities to identify the 5k course on the beach seaward of the Tybee Island Marine Science Center for a distance of 1.55 miles. The race will begin and end on the hard packed sand seaward of the Taylor Street dune crosswalk on North Beach. A rubber mat with remote sensors will be placed directly on the sand at the starting line. There will also be a battery powered time clock to display race times at the finish line. A hydration station will be placed on the beach near 11th Street. All equipment will be set up the day of the event and removed as soon as the race is complete. Race committee will be responsible for clean-up along the race course.

In addition to the 5k, this one-day event may include 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 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,

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

LOP20250006

From: [Tammy Smith](#)
To: [Barreiro, Deb](#)
Subject: LOP for Tybee Turtle Trot
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 8:48:53 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.

Good Morning Deb,

I am letting you know we are planning to hold the Turtle Trot on April 26, 2025. Not planning a turtle release at this time.

The 5K beach run will start at the Taylor Street crossover. Runners will run south to 11th Street, turn around the water station and finish at Taylor Street. I have attached the map showing the route. Runners will run on the hard packed sand.

We will begin set at 6:30 am and have the beach clear by 12:00. The race will start at 9:00 am due to high tide. The awards ceremony will be held at the science center following the run. Participants will enter the beach from the Taylor Street crossover. On the parking lot side of the crossover, we will have an inflatable arch showing participants where to go to reach the start/finish line. We will clear the beach by noon on 4/26.

The following is part of our request for the Trot set up:

1. Start/finish line on the hard packed sand at Taylor Street. Removable mat for runners to run across to activate timing device.
2. Removable canopy with table to hold computer and speaker. Both are battery operated.
3. A battery operated clock to show run times
4. A water station with table and box water at 11th Street. All materials will be disposed of properly. DPW or Code Enforcement assist with transportation of the water station supplies via pickup truck or mule.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Thank you,

Tammy Smith

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Legend

- TIMSC Access Start
- Gulick St Access Start

