



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

September 10, 2026

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), 2026
Turtle Release, 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 10, 2026, to conduct a Sea 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 26, 2026, and be completed the same day.

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

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,



Doug Haymans
Director

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

LOP20260073

 Tybee Island
MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
... an authentic coastal experience.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520

8/10/2026

To whom it may concern,

The Tybee Island Marine Science Center will be releasing our three year old loggerhead sea turtle resident into the ocean on Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 AM. We have released three sea turtles in the past as public events from the beach. We will be set up between 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM. These public release events help to inform the public about endangered sea turtles and help to create a strong connection that we hope will carry on with them in making informed decisions that may affect sea turtles.

As in previous public releases, we will create areas to block the public from interfering with a safe release while also allowing them access to observe the release. During the event, educators will be delivering content about sea turtles and the rules for the release.

Along with our staff, the Tybee Department of Public Works (DPW) will help in transporting the sea turtle, via a DPW truck, to the release site. We are also requesting temporary barriers from DPW to help create designated areas for the public, staff, and the media. They will set these up by 8:00 AM. Below is a map of what we are planning. The barriers will be removed right after the release by DPW around 10:30 AM. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Beth Palmer
Beth Palmer
Operations Director
Tybee Island Marine Science Center



Tybee Island Marine Science Center

Ossie's Release

Saturday, September 26, 2026 - 10:00 am

GOAL: To safely release Ossie, 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, Ossie, is being released back into the Atlantic Ocean right here off Tybee Island. Ossie was housed and raised at the Tybee Island Marine Science Center for three years.

LOCATION: Center Crossover (North Beach)

