

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

SANDY NECK NEWSLETTER

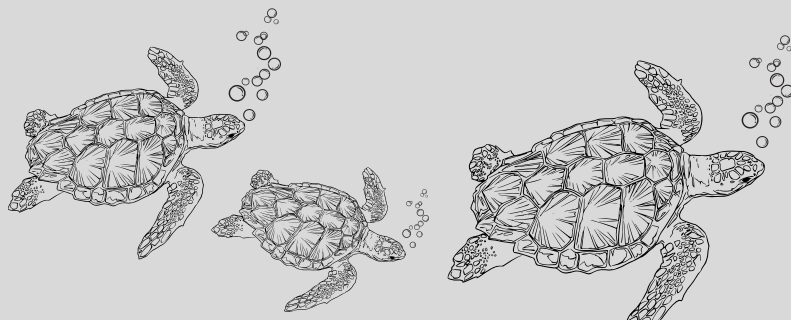
November 2024

From the Staff,

November is a great time of year at Sandy Neck. Fall is in full swing which means fall activities are abundant. Many people wait for this time of year to fully explore the property through our hiking trails. On the front beach you'll be able to see a variety of wildlife. Rafts of thousands of Eiders (sea ducks) have already been seen floating on the ocean. Now is also the time of year when snowy owls may start to show up to spend the winter on the Cape.

During this time of year as the water starts to get chilly, you may start to find sea turtles on the beach in a state called "cold stunning", which is a condition in which sea turtles become very weak and inactive from exposure to cold temperatures. When the ocean temperatures fall below 50F you may start seeing many different species of sea turtles such as Greens, Leatherbacks, Loggerheads and even Kemps Ridley's!

We ask those who hike on the front beach to call the Sandy Neck Gatehouse if any sea turtles are found so they can be rescued!



The Kemp's Ridley is the smallest known species of sea turtle on the planet. They are also one of, if not the most endangered sea turtle. NOAA has kept track of the Kemp's for decades and unfortunately; their population continues to dwindle. For a time, their numbers were steadily improving but due a myriad of reasons they are again on the decline. During this season, rescuing these turtles is imperative for their numbers to improve. Something as little as keeping your eyes peeled for turtles while looking for sea glass can make a difference. When water temps fall below 50 degree and we have strong northern winds, be on the look out. You may just stumble upon a turtle in need!

Learn more about sea turtles!

Curious about sea turtles? Wanna know more? You can find a lot of fantastic information and even track some turtles on their journeys in real time, all can be found below at the New England Aquarium!

<https://www.neaq.org/conservation-and-research/studying-and-protecting/sea-turtle-rescue/sea-turtle-tracker/>

Important!

Hunting Season

Hunting season is in full swing! You may see hunters on the marsh trail hunting for species such as Ring-necked Pheasants, Cottontail Rabbits and wild Turkey. You are more than welcome to hike the marsh during this time, we do recommend wearing orange clothing during this season for safety.

No Hunting On Sundays

Beginning November 1st, NO campfires allowed. ORV Beach hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm. The Gatehouse is open by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call (508)362-8300.