

STSSN Posthatchling Reporting Protocol

A posthatchling (any species) is ≥ 5 cm and ≤ 10 cm in curved or straight carapace length. Please do not complete a form for a turtle < 5 cm in curved or straight carapace length even if hair algae is present.

- A stranding form (always include a carapace measurement and photos) should be completed for posthatchlings (live or dead) as follows:
 - **Kemp's ridleys** = all
 - **Hawksbills** = all
 - **Leatherbacks** = all
 - **Loggerheads**
Only 10 reports are needed per day. Photos and measurements must accompany each report. If you have ≤ 10 recovered in one day, complete a report for every loggerhead posthatchling. If you have >10 recovered in a day, you can randomly pick the 10 you want to document, however, try to document those you have a good location for. No additional reports need to be completed unless time allows.
 - **Green turtles** (same sampling scheme as loggerheads)
Only 10 reports are needed per day. Photos and measurements must accompany each report. If you have ≤ 10 recovered in one day, complete a report for every green posthatchling. If you have >10 recovered in a day, you can randomly pick the 10 you want to document, however, try to document those you have a good location for. No additional reports need to be completed unless time allows.
- Only curved length measurements (nuchal notch to posterior marginal tip) are needed. If you have calipers and time allows, please take a straight length measurement (nuchal notch to posterior marginal tip).
- No width measurements are needed for posthatchlings.
- Cuts, scrapes, and notches on posthatchlings do not need to be noted on the stranding form. Only major anomalies like amputations and/or shark bites should be recorded on the stranding form.
- As in the case of larger, live-stranded sea turtles, the rehabilitation facilities will submit the reports for live posthatchlings. Dead posthatchlings can be documented by all STSSN participants.
- **No posthatchlings will need to be salvaged this year for FWC.**