

Dear Sea Turtle Patrol Volunteers,

In our last update we mentioned that volunteers should expect another possible delay beyond May 1st. After conferring with TAMUG and getting guidance from USFW and Padre Island National Seashore, Joanie and I are reluctantly delaying Sea Turtle Patrol until May 18th. We do this out of an abundance of caution for your health and safety

Please know that USFW and TPWD have agreed to assist us on the Upper Texas Coast with patrolling and responding to sea turtle strandings and nests. Their assistance is most welcome. As we mentioned in our last update, our own TPWD members from the Dickenson lab have received training and are permitted to do the work. These folks are uniquely qualified to conduct this work in our current situation. TPWD members that are participating are from the “Kills and Spills” team and are equipped with personal protection equipment that protects them from chemical and oil spills as well as the COVID-19 virus. They will be following Center for Disease Control and Prevention and are used to following these protocols.

We will continue to monitor the news, models and will be receiving guidance from our own organizations (as well as USFW and Padre Island National Seashore) as to how to proceed. The situation will likely begin to change quickly day-to-day and Dr. Marshall is in constant contact with TAMUG administration, USFW and NPS and continues to press our case so that we can get out patrolling as soon as it is deemed safe to do.

Once again we ask that you take precautions to keep yourself healthy in your daily lives. We urge you not to conduct personal patrols and to follow the guidance from our local governments. Again thank you for your patience and your passion for sea turtle conservation.

Stay Healthy,
Dr. Christopher Marshall
Joanie Steinhaus