



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



## **Statement on Sea Turtles from Eric Schwaab, NOAA Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service**

May 7, 2010

NOAA Fisheries Service has worked for many years with the shrimp industry in the Gulf of Mexico to protect sea turtles while allowing sustainable fishing for shrimp. Fishermen have been leaders in developing techniques and devices to exclude turtles from shrimp fishing gear.

Each year, NOAA responds to thousands of sea turtle strandings around the country and we are responding to strandings in the Gulf of Mexico. We are looking into the possible causes of the recent strandings. The condition of most of these stranded turtles has been severely decomposed, and the necropsies we have conducted to date have not allowed us to conclude a cause of death. At this point, there is no direct evidence that fishing activities caused the strandings. Additionally, no external or internal oil was visibly present on the turtles necropsied to date.

For more information contact: Monica Allen, NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs, 301-713-2370.