

Grantee: The Florida Aquarium

Contract Number: Sea Turtle Grant # 05-027C

Project Title: Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility Expansion and Development

Report Period: Final Programmatic Report

Project Manager(s)/Principal Investigator(s): Ilze K. Berzins, PhD, DVM

Tasks:

Improvements to the existing rehabilitation facility including tank dividers, ultraviolet lights, chlorine pumps, scale, and transport sling as well as labor support for our veterinary technician.

Accomplishments:

The Florida Aquarium's sea turtle rehabilitation program has provided care and support for injured and ill sea turtles since 1999. In addition to rehabilitating turtles that are rescued from our Florida waters, The Florida Aquarium also serves as one of the rehabilitation facilities for juvenile sea turtles that suffer from cold stunning off the coast of New England each fall and winter.

Funds were requested for the purpose of improving our facility and program to allow for the care of greater numbers of turtles in an environment that supports even the most complex cases. The addition of chlorine pumps and ultraviolet lights to the existing systems improved sea turtle rehabilitation husbandry conditions.

Removable dividers for tanks were constructed to allow for greater numbers of sea turtles that can be housed at The Florida Aquarium.

A new scale and transport sling have aided in the overall care, management and treatment of Florida's marine turtles, as well as those that may come from other states.

Susan Coy, CVT, was instrumental in the planning and execution of these upgrades and continues to play a major role in the care of injured sea turtles.

With being able to address increasing demands for rehabilitation space, The Florida Aquarium continues to strive to provide advanced care and treatment to as many sea turtles as the facility and staff can accommodate.