Sea Turtle Necropsy Report

Observer's Name ________________________________________________

Species (codes) □ Loggerhead (CC) □ Green (CM) □ Leatherback (DC) □ Hawksbill (EI)
□ Kemp's Ridley (LK) □ Olive Ridley (LO) □ Unknown (UN)

Estimated age class  ● hatchling  ● post hatchling  ● juvenile  ● adult  ● other

Date found ___________ Time found ___________ (international time - i.e. 9:00, 21:00)

Stranding Location

LatITUDE ____________________________

Longitude ____________________________

Descriptive Location

(include state, county and specific locality) ____________________________

FOUND DEAD ______________________  FOUND ALIVE ______________________

FOR TURTLES FOUND ALIVE:

Clinical Condition: ________________________________________________

Physical Exam Findings: _____________________________________________

Treatment: _________________________________________________________

Manner of Death:  □ Spontaneous   □ Euthanized   □ Accidental/ traumatic   □ Unknown

Date died _______________ Time died ________________________________

Euthanasia method _________________________________________________

Necropsy date ____________________________

Necropsy time ____________________________

Necropsy Condition □ Code 1 (Fresh dead) □ Code 2 (Moderately decomposed)
□ Code 3 (Severely decomposed) □ Code 4 (Dried carcass)
□ Code 5 (Skeleton)

Person(s) conducting necropsy _______________________________________  

Other Information _________________________________________________

Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taken with calipers</th>
<th>Taken with flexible tape</th>
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<td>SCL: notch-tip _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
<td>CCL: notch-tip _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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<td>CCL: notch-notch _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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<td>CCL: tip-tip _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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<td>Straight Width _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
<td>Curved width _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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<td>Head Width _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
<td>Circumference _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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<td>Plastron Length _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
<td>Body Depth _____ □ cm / □ inches</td>
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### Sea Turtle Necropsy Sample Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Code 1</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Histo</th>
<th>Parasite</th>
<th>Bact/Fung</th>
<th>Virol/Sero</th>
<th>Chem Tox</th>
<th>Bio-Tox</th>
<th>Life hist</th>
<th>Storage Location</th>
<th>Sample Distribution (where &amp; when sent)</th>
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<td>Carapace ..................</td>
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*Histology; ^Bacteriology/mycology; ^Virology/serology; ^Chemical toxicants; ^Biotoxins; ^Life history.
# Sea Turtle Necropsy Sample Checklist

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## Sample Storage Chronology (Storage technique, freeze-thaw cycles (times), where tissues were sent, etc.)

**What was done?**

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**Where taken / stored?**

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## Ancillary diagnostics:

- Photos
- Radiographs/X-ray
- Other Imaging

**Blood**: Green top tube - lithium heparin - for complete blood count

- Red Top tube - no anticoagulant - for biochemicals
- blood film

**Tissue Samples and Fluids**: Chemistry

- Bacteriology
- Virology

- Mycology
- Other

**Cytology/Impression smears**: fixed

- unfixed

**What / Where analyzed?**

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</table>

Where stored? ______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
## Sea Turtle Necropsy Report

---

### EXTERNAL EXAM

Ab = Abnormal, NF = No Findings, NE = Not Examined

Descriptions include color, number, size, distribution, texture of lesions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carapace</th>
<th>Ab</th>
<th>NF</th>
<th>NE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Propeller wound</td>
<td>Puncture wounds</td>
<td>Missing scutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnacle</td>
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### MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

**Eyes**
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- **Location:** □ Right  □ Left  □ Both
- **Description/additional comments:**

**Discharge**
- □ Oral
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- **Location:** □ Ocular  □ Nasal
- **For ocular:** □ Right  □ Left  □ Bilateral
- **Color:**
- **Description/additional comments:**

**Cloaca**
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- □ Swollen
- □ Prolapsed
- □ Mucosal pseudomembrane
- **Feces color:**
- **Check for sex:**
  - cloaca beyond carapace □ yes □ no
  - Glans penis □ yes □ no
- **Description/additional comments:**

### Code 1 Only

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM**

**Skeleton and joints**
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- **Joint/synovial fluid:** **Color:**
- **Characteristics:** □ Blood tinged  □ Cloudy/flocculent material  □ Plaques
- □ Other  □ Viscosity:
- □ Fractures  □ No  □ Yes, where?
- □ Dislocation  □ No  □ Yes, where?
- □ Deformities  □ No  □ Yes, where?
- **Description/additional comments:**

**Musculature**
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- **Characteristics:**
  - □ Abcesses
  - □ Clotted blood
  - □ Pale
  - □ Gelatinized
  - □ Necrosis
  - □ Parasites
  - □ Cysts
  - □ Other (Specify)
- **Description/additional comments:**

**Coelomic cavity**
- □ Ab
- □ NF
- □ NE
- **Fluid amount:** ________ ml
- **Color:**
- **Characteristics:** □ Clear  □ Cloudy/flocculent material  □ Blood tinged  □ Hemorrhage
- □ Blood clots  □ Adhesions  □ Plaques  □ Gritty material (hard)
- **Peritoneum:**
  - **Characteristics:**
  - □ Tumors
  - □ Abcesses /granulomas
  - □ Congested
  - □ Hemorrhage
  - □ Clotted blood
  - □ Parasites (trematodes in mesenteric arteries)-SAVE__________ Number
- **Description/additional comments:**
I.D.#: _______________________________

### RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

**Trachea/Bronchi □ Ab □ NF □ NE**
- **Abnormal Tissue:** □ Trachea □ Bronchi
- **Characteristics:**
  - **Mucosa:** □ White □ Vessels congested with blood □ Hemorrhage □ Ulcers
  - **Trauma:** □ Punctures □ Lacerations
  - **Fluid:** □ Serous □ Mucoid □ Purulent

**Fluid or foam:**
- **Color:** ___________________________
- □ Parasites (SAVE): _______ Number

**Description/additional comments:**

### Lungs □ Ab □ NF □ NE
- **Characteristics:**
  - **Color:**
  - **Lesion location:** □ Left □ Right □ Both □ Cranial □ Caudal □ Dorsal □ Ventral □ Middle
  - **Distribution:** □ Diffuse □ Focal □ Multifocal
  - **Severity:** □ Mild □ Moderate □ Severe

**Description/additional comments:**

### ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

**Thyroid □ Ab □ NF □ NE**
- **Characteristics:** □ Normal □ Enlarged □ Atrophied □ Friable
  - **Dimensions:** __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
- **Weight:** ____________gm

**Description/additional comments:**

**Parathyroid(s) □ Ab □ NF □ NE**
- If unable to find, save lining over left thymus
- **Characteristics:** □ Normal □ Enlarged □ Atrophied
  - **Dimension(s):** __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
  - **Weight:** ____________gm

**Description/additional comments:**

**Adrenal gland(s) □ Ab □ NF □ NE**
- □ Normal □ Enlarged □ Atrophied
  - **Dimensions:** __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
  - **Weight:** ____________gm

**Description/additional comments:**
# CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

## Pericardial sac
- **Ab**: □
- **NF**: □
- **NE**: □

**Fluid amount**: _________ ml
**Color**: ___________  **Viscosity**: ___________

**Characteristics**:
- □ Clear
- □ Cloudy/flocculent material
- □ Blood tinged
- □ Hemorrhage
- □ Blood clots
- □ Adhesions
- □ Plaques
- □ Caseous material

**Description/additional comments**:

## Pulmonary arteries
- **Ab**: □
- **NF**: □
- **NE**: □

**Characteristics**:
- □ Thrombi
- □ Plaques
- □ Ruptures
- □ Parasites (Trematodes--SAVE) _______ Number, _______ Size

**Description/additional comments**:

## Atria
- **Ab**: □
- **NF**: □
- **NE**: □

**Left**: □
**Right**: □
**Both**: □

**Characteristics**:
- □ Flaccid
- □ Stiff
- □ Thickened
- □ Dilated
- □ Hemorrhage
- □ Pale areas
- □ Parasites

**Dimensions (cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h))**: _______ left, _______ right
**Thickness of wall**: right ______cm, left ______cm
**Color**: ___________
**Surface**: ___________  **Lumen**: ___________

**Description/additional comments**:

## Ventricle
- **Ab**: □
- **NF**: □
- **NE**: □

**Characteristics**:
- **Dimensions**: _____________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
- **Thickness of wall**: ____________ cm
- **Weight**: ___________ gm
- □ Abscess/granulomas
- □ Masses
- □ Scars (fibrosis)
- □ Friable

**Color**: ___________

**Description/additional comments**
LYMPHOID SYSTEM

**Spleen**

- **Characteristics:**
  - Enlarged
  - Atrophied
  - Friable

- **Dimensions:** __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)

- **Weight:** __________ gm

- **Lesions:**
  - Abcesses/granulomas
  - Masses
  - Scars (fibrosis)

- **Color:**

**Description/additional comments:**

**Thymus**

- **Characteristics:**
  - Enlarged
  - Atrophied
  - Friable

- **Color:**

**Description/additional comments:**

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM

**Liver**

- **Characteristics:**
  - Enlarged
  - Atrophied
  - Friable

- **Dimensions:** __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)

- **Weight:** __________ gm (or lbs/oz)

- **Lesions:**
  - Abcesses/granulomas
  - Cysts
  - Fibrosis

- **Color:**

**Description/additional comments:**

**Gall Bladder**

- **Bile:** amount __________ ml

- **Characteristics:**
  - thick
  - thin

- **Color:**

- **Diameter:** __________ cm

- **Lesions:**
  - Abcesses/granulomas
  - Cysts
  - Masses

- **Color:**

- **Parasites (SAVE):** __________ Number

**Description/additional comments:**

10
### Oral Cavity & Pharynx

**Ab** | **NF** | **NE**
---|---|---
Characteristics:
- Ulcers
- Fluid
- Vomitus
- Congestion
- Parasites
- Barnacles
- Broken beak
- Mandible
- Maxilla
- Foreign bodies

**Description/additional comments:**

### Esophagus

**Ab** | **NF** | **NE**
---|---|---
Characteristics:
- Dilated
- Constricted
- Perforated
- Fluid filled
- Foreign bodies

**Mucosa:**
- Congested
- Hemorrhagic
- Ulcers
- Necrosis
- Thickened
- Blunted papilla*
- Film on surface of mucosa

**Color:**
- mucosa: __________
- serosa: __________

*Common in green sea turtles

**Description/additional comments:**

### Stomach

**Ab** | **NF** | **NE**
---|---|---
Characteristics:
- Clotted blood
- Thickened
- Ruptures/laceration
- Volvulus (twist)
- Erosions
- Ulcers:
  - Mild
  - Moderate
  - Severe
  - Focal
  - Multifocal
  - Focally-extensive
- Color:
  - mucosa: __________
  - serosa: __________
- Contents:
  - Empty
  - Fluid
  - Dilated with gas
  - Mucus
  - Sand
  - Rocks
  - Other
  - Foreign bodies

**Food:**
- Fish
- Bivalves
- Crustaceans
- Cephalopods
- Gastropods
- Other

**Parasites:**
- Yes
- No
- <50
- >50

**Description/additional comments:**

---

*Common in green sea turtles
### Mesentery

**I.D. #:** ________________________________

**Characteristics:**
- [ ] Hemorrhage
- [ ] Clotted blood
- [ ] Masses
- [ ] Parasites (trematodes in mesenteric arteries)-SAVE___________ Number

**Description/additional comments:**

---

### Pancreas

**Characteristics:**
- [ ] Loss of lobulation
- [ ] Necrotic
- [ ] Edema
- [ ] Inflamed

**Color:** _______________________

**Description/additional comments:**

---

### Small Intestine

**Characteristics:**
- [ ] Empty
- [ ] Bile
- [ ] Digesta
- [ ] Other ________________
- [ ] Foreign bodies______________ (SAVE)
- [ ] Parasites (SAVE): ___________ Number

**Color:**
- [ ] mucosa: ___________
- [ ] serosa: ___________
- [ ] contents: ___________

**Description/additional comments:**

---

### Colon

**Characteristics:**
- [ ] Torsion/volvulus
- [ ] Perforation
- [ ] Masses
- [ ] Abcesses
- [ ] Constrictions
- [ ] Empty
- [ ] Feces
- [ ] Fresh blood
- [ ] Tarry
- [ ] Other ________________
- [ ] Ulcers (#)_________
- [ ] Pseudomembrane
- [ ] Parasites (SAVE): ___________ Number

**Color:**
- [ ] mucosa: ___________
- [ ] serosa: ___________
- [ ] contents: ___________

**Description/additional comments:**
### URINARY TRACT

#### Kidneys

**Characteristics:**
- Dimensions R: __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
- Dimensions L: __________ cm (l) x cm (w) x cm (h)
- Cortex color: ____________________________
- Medulla color: ____________________________
- Lesions:
  - Dialated with blood
  - Hemorrhage
  - Clotted blood
  - Abcesses/granulomas
  - Parasites
  - Cysts
  - Dialated with urine
  - Masses
  - Calculi
  - Congestion
  - Necrosis (focal, multifocal, diffuse)

**Left weight:** ________ gm

**Right weight:** ________ gm

**Description/additional comments:**

#### Ureters

**Characteristics:**
- Dilated
- Strictures
- Granulomas
- Calculi (SAVE)

**Bilaterally symmetrical:**
- Yes
- No

**Description/additional comments:**

#### Urethra

**Characteristics:**
- Patent:
  - Yes
  - No

**Lesion:**
- Ulcers
- Calculi
- Strictures

**Description/additional comments:**

#### Urinary bladder

**Characteristics:**
- Empty
- Dilated
- Thickened
- Tumors

**Color:**
- Mucosa: ____________________________________________
- Urine: ____________________________________________

**Mucosa:**
- Hemorrhagic
- Ulcerated
- Masses
- Plaques
- Necrotic

**Urine:**
- amount: __________ ml
- Consistency: ______________________________________
  - Gritty material
  - Clear
  - Cloudy/flocculent material
  - Blood tinged

**Parasites:**
- Yes (SAVE)
- No
- <5
- 5-20
- >20

**Urinalysis strip (dip stick):**

**Description/additional comments:**
**REPRODUCTIVE**

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<td>□ Involved</td>
<td>□ Masses</td>
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<td>□ Dilated with fluid</td>
<td>□ Hemorrhagic</td>
<td>□ Friable</td>
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<td>□ Masses</td>
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**NERVOUS SYSTEM**

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<tr>
<td>□ Hemorrhage</td>
<td>□ Clotted blood</td>
<td>□ Abcesses/Granulomas</td>
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<td>Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF): ________ ml  color:_______________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinal Cord Fluid (SCF): ________ ml  color:_______________</td>
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<td>Characteristics: (denote location of change in comments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Distended red vessels</td>
<td>□ Abcesses/Granulomas</td>
<td>□ Clotted blood</td>
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<td>□ Asymmetry</td>
<td>□ Edema</td>
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<td>□ Spinal Cord ________ (location)</td>
<td>□ Pituitary</td>
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<td>Weight: brain________gm  pituitary________gm</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Granulomas</td>
<td>□ Hemorrhage</td>
<td>□ Asymmetry</td>
<td>□ Edema</td>
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<td>Description/additional comments:</td>
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**Other:**

| Internal Auditory Meatus: | Ab | NF | NE |
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Other information or description continuation page:

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TERMS

ABSCESS-A circumscribed collection of pus in an acute or chronic localized infection.
ADHESIONS-The process of adhering or uniting two surfaces with fibrous bands.
CALCULI-Plural for concretions composed of salts of inorganic or organic acids or other material.
CALVARIA-skull cap; roof of the skull.
CASEOUS-A form of necrosis in which the necrotic tissue resembles cheese.
CIRRHOTIC-Progressive liver disease characterized by scarring and shrinking tissue.
CONGESTION-Presence of an abnormally large amount of fluid in the vessels or passages of a part or organ.
CONSTRUITION (STRUCTURE)-Binding or contraction of a part.
CYST-An abnormal sac containing gas, fluid, or a semisolid material.
DIFFUSE-Involving the majority or all of the structure. General distribution.
DIVERTICULA-A pouch or sac opening from a tubular or sacular organ, such as the gut or bladder.
EDEMA-An accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in cells, tissues, or serous cavities.
EROSIONS-A shallow ulcer limited to superficial tissue layers.
FIBROUS-Tissue composed of slender threads or filaments. Extracellular filamentous structures such as collagenic or elastic connective tissue.
FLACCID-Relaxed; flabby; without tone.
FLOCCULENT-Flaky material.
FOCAL-A single point of involvement.
FOCALLY-EXTENSIVE-Comprised of many lesion foci or points spreading over the surface of an organ.
FOLLICLES-Spheroid cell aggregations in the ovary.
FRACTURE-A break or rupture especially as it relates to bone.
FRIABLE-Easily torn when touched or manipulated.
GELATINIZED-An accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in cells or tissues.
GRANULOMA-A circumscribed chronic localized infection containing necrotic tissue resembling cheese.
HEMORRHAGIC-Relating to marked bleeding.
INFLAMED-Abnormal swelling and redness.
INVOLUTED-The turning inward of the edges of a part. The return of an enlarged organ, as the postpartum oviduct, to normal size.
LACERATION-A wound made by tearing. A rent.
LOBATION-The production of rounded projecting parts.
MASSES-A lump or aggregation of coherent material.
MUCOSA-The mucous membrane (tunica mucosa) of any organ (e.g. stomach lining).
MUCOID-Material which resembles clear viscous secretions.
MULTIFOCAL-Consisting of many lesion foci or points.
NECROSIS*-Tissue damage. Can be focal, multifocal, focally extensive or diffuse (throughout the organ).
*If the turtle condition is not class 1, then this can be confused with autolysis (postmortem tissue decay)
PAPILLAE-Finger-like projections or elevations.
PATENT-Open, unobstructed.
PERFORATION (Punctures)-A hole pierced through a structure.
PLAQUES-A patch or small differentiated area on a surface.
PROLAPSE-protrusion of a part of viscus from normal orientation.
PSEUDOMEMBRANE-False membrane covering and/ adherent to true surface.
PURULENT-Inflammation characterized by pus.
RUPTURE-Forcible tearing or breaking of a part.
SCARRED- Fibrous tissue replacing normal tissues destroyed by injury or disease.
SEROSA- The serous membrane (tunica serosa) covering viscera.
SEROUS- Material that has a watery consistency.
TARRY STOOLS- Black thick feces which could indicate bleeding in the stomach or upper intestinal tract.
THROMBI- Blood clot which adheres to the wall of the blood vessel.
TUMOR- A lump or aggregation of coherent tissue which grows independent of surrounding structures.
ULCERS- A lesion on the skin or lining of the intestinal tract caused by superficial or deep loss of tissue, usually with necrosis and inflammation.
VOLVULUS- A twisting of the intestine causing obstruction.