



Conducting scientific research projects that support sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture

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Research Cruise Summary Report 2025

Project Name:	NJ Research and Monitoring Initiative Sea Turtle Tagging
Vessel Name:	Kathy Ann
Departure Date:	6/5/2025
Land Date:	6/9/2025
Port:	Barnegat, NJ
Chief Scientist:	Samir Patel
Scientific Crew:	Cassandra Tillotson, Farrell Davis, Nathan Shivers (CFF) Kate Choate (NEFSC)
Report Completed by:	Samir Patel

BACKGROUND

This is the second June cruise funded by the New Jersey Research and Monitoring Initiative to establish baseline information for sea turtles in the Mid-Atlantic Bight, specifically overlapping the NJ wind lease areas. This is a two year project with five out of the six field expeditions completed and a total of ~75 turtles captured and sampled. Some funding also came from the Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set Aside Program. The project ends in December 2025 and will conclude one of the most thorough assessments of loggerhead movement, biology and ecology in the NW Atlantic.

CRUISE OBJECTIVES

Deploy 10 satellite tags and 10 acoustic tags on sea turtles in the MAB. Collect biological samples, demographic data, and photos from all captured turtles.

OBSERVATIONS & KEY TAKE AWAYS

All ten electronic tracking devices were deployed. Nine turtles received both types of tags, and two turtles received only one type of tag, either satellite or acoustic. Turtles ranged in weight from 60 – 122 kg and sea surface temperature ranges from 64 – 69 °F. We had our first turtle recapture. It was captured in 2024 (2024.21) and then recaptured exactly 1 year later (2025.29). It weighed ~12kg more this year but otherwise had the same body dimensions.

We collected biological samples and will determine if its blood chemistry has remained consistent over the year.

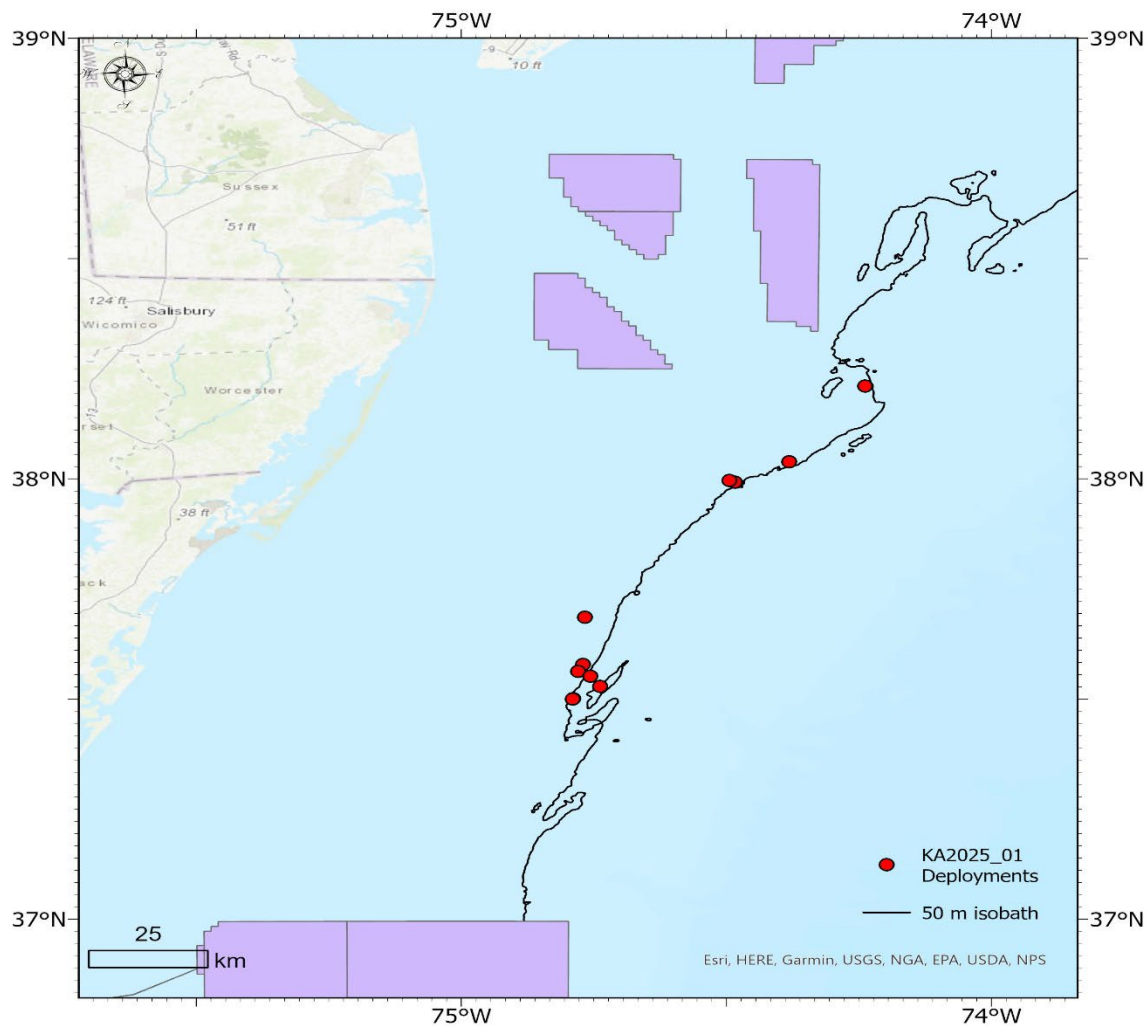


Figure 1. Locations of sampled turtles and tag deployments.

RESULTS

- 11 turtles captured and tagged.
- Biological samples from all 11 turtles.
- First recaptured individual.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

We would like to thank Viking Village and especially Captain Cory Karch and the crew aboard the F/V Kathy Ann!