Some 70,000 turtle eggs to be whisked far from oil

PENSACOLA BEACH, Florida (AP) — An effort to save thousands of sea turtle hatchlings from dying in the oily Gulf of Mexico will begin in the coming weeks in a desperate attempt to keep an entire generation of threatened species from vanishing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will coordinate the plan, which calls for collecting about 70,000 turtle eggs in up to 800 nests buried in the sand across Florida Panhandle and Alabama beaches.

"There's a whole lot of unknowns in what we're doing," Underwood acknowledged, noting many of the hatchlings could die anyway because of the stressful moving process.

"This is an extraordinary effort under extraordinary conditions, but if we can save some of the hatchlings, it will be worth it as opposed to losing all of them," said Chuck Underwood of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We have a much higher degree of certainty that if we do nothing and we allow these turtles to emerge and go into the Gulf and into the oil ... that we could in fact lose most of them, if not all of them," he added. "There's a chance of losing a whole generation."

Dozens of workers are fanned out across the coast marking turtle nests, most of them threatened loggerheads, which nest largely along Florida Panhandle and Alabama beaches.

In about 10 days, they will begin the arduous process of excavating the nests, mostly by hand. The digging must be slow and delicate — aside from making sure the shells don't crack, the eggs can't be rolled around or repositioned to protect the embryo inside.

Then the eggs will be carefully placed in specially designed Styrofoam containers, like coolers, along with sand and moisture to mimic the natural nest. The containers will then be trucked about 500 miles east to a temperature-controlled warehouse at Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

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Some of the dead turtles were oiled, while others showed no outward signs of crude and are being tested to
determine what killed them. The Kemp’s ridleys aren’t in as immediate of danger because oil hasn’t been washing
ashore yet in their nesting places in the western Gulf. But some fear those hatchlings also could eventually make it
into the crude.

Threatened loggerheads, which are currently being considered for the added protection of endangered status, also
have been found oiled and dead since the spill started, along with leatherbacks and green turtles.

David Godfrey, executive director of the Gainesville, Florida-based Sea Turtle Conservancy, agrees this plan is the
only option to save as many turtles as possible.

He said if left alone, the turtles will soon begin emerging from their nests and heading straight out to sea to feed in
masses of oil-soaked seaweed.

Even more unusual, in a field that typically sees division between government entities and conservationists, there is
agreement on what to do. Teri Shore, program director with the California-based Sea Turtle Restoration Project,
said she thought the plan was good given the circumstances.

“If those sea turtles swim out to the Gulf, they’re going to face a massive oil slick which will cause them to perish or
at least significantly decrease their chances of survival,” she said.

Godfrey said he agreed with the strategy and called it a "pretty amazing plan" because conservationists rarely
support relocating sea turtle nests. They often push for a change in human behaviors, such as dimming lights along
beaches at night to avoid disorienting them.

But no one can control the oil, he noted.

“We’re talking about allowing the entire year’s class of hatchlings to emerge and swim to their certain doom, and
are we just going to sit back and let that happen?” he said. “We just can’t.”

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heron67 (46 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 7h ago
Sandy100: Do you work in BP's Public Relations department? Jeez, you don't want to hold them accountable for ANYTHING. "Don't hate on BP." Thanks, Rush. We'll take that under advisement. Actually, why don't we hate on Bush and Cheney, who dodged as many environmental protection regulations as possible during their reign. They even wanted to reduce or eliminate the Clean Water Act...all in the name of profits. And what industry's lobbyists are doing all they can to block exploration of green energies?

Ronne Reagan set the bar when he removed the solar panels from the White House in 1981. The Repubs have been one-upping him ever since.

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gccnc (60 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 13h ago
Salomeh (80 friends, send message) wrote: 1h 35m ago
gccnc (60 friends, send message) wrote: 30m ago
terraquian (3 friends, send message) wrote: 4m ago
Salomeh
I suppose asking these business to operate in a safe manner that didn't destroy everything they
touched would be too much to ask?

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too expensive, that part of the equation is not factored in to their cost/profit estimates.
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/i'd be interested to see how you 2 are employed, to rationalize your demeaning thought for anyone trying to make a living.
=================

So you think wanton pollution of the air, water and general destruction of the environment is
acceptable under the guise of "making a living"???? I do not.

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tell ya what genius, you tell me how they can manufacture plastic (like in that keyboard you use) and
all the other oil based products TODAY without using oil. Really, none of this hocus pocus 50 years
away stuff????
so really what you are saying is that you hate the establishment corporations that employ most
Americans and the world.

get a life, they aint gonna change cuz of your fantasy philosophy.

DeeDee1313 (14 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 15h ago
Hope this works, there's nothing like walking the beach and seeing the loggerhead hatchlings coming
up out of their nest and heading for the water. Loggerheads need all the help we can give them.

Goodgulf (22 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 16h ago
If all the countries that take fish from the ocean, were to take the roe from some of the catch, each
country could release thousands of hatchlings every week. Logging companies replant forests, so it
seems logical. If the population of the ocean were slowly growing, that would be better then slowly
shrinking. Fish hatcheries are not that expensive to operate.

Sandy1000 (26 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 16h ago
Here, I'll tell ya what: The first one who can say they do not use a single component of any of the
products listed below - that are made with oil in some shape, form or fashion - you have the moral
right to castigate BP and tell us what rotten monsters they are for having the temerity to go get the oil
we consumers demand.

If you DO use these products, then you need to back off BP and put things into perspective and
realize these people are doing what they can to remedy this catastrophe.
rubber cement
rubbish bags
running shoes
saccharine
seats
shirts (non-cotton)
shoe polish
shoes
shower curtains
solvents
spectacles
stereos
sweaters
table tennis balls
tape recorders
telephones
tennis rackets
thermos
tights
toilet seats
toners
toothpaste
transparencies
transparent tape
tv cabinets
typewriter/computer ribbons
tires
umbrellas
upholstery
vaporizers
vitamin capsules
volleyballs
water pipes
water skis
wax
wax paper

Sandy1000 (26 friends, send message) wrote: 1d 17h ago
terrapian (3 friends, send message) wrote: 44m ago
I hardly call making tens of millions of dollars while your employees are overworked an underpaid, the
water is being poisoned, the composition of the air is being destroyed and our government being
bribed... making a living.
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You think oil company employees are overworked and underpaid? LOL, do you have any idea just
how much money they make? What stock options they have? The "extra" they are paid due to
hazardous work conditions and the time spent away from their homes/families? They make 6 figure
salaries and live very well. I'm sorry, you're going to have to find a better lie to justify your hatred of
capitalism than "overworked and underpaid" employees.