



Cold Stun Beach Monitor Protocol

Monitoring beaches:

1. Check the tides and determine the best time to walk the beach (after high tide is recommended).
2. Check the weather and dress appropriately.
3. Bring gloves, a reusable bag, and your cell phone. If possible, bring a tarp, plastic sled, or tote to transport an animal or marine debris found on the beach.
4. Once on the beach, record the time you start walking and the time you finish, and estimate the distance walked.
5. Record any debris collected on a marine debris datasheet.
6. Please report the following information to education@amseas.org:
 - a. Location walked
 - b. Start and end time of walk
 - c. Estimated distance covered
 - d. Weight of marine debris collected
 - e. Scan/send photo of marine debris datasheet
7. If an animal is encountered, suspend beach cleanup immediately. Assume every animal is alive if it has a head.

If you find a sea turtle:

1. Call the NYS Stranding Hotline at **(631)369-9829** and have the following information ready:
 - a. Location (latitude and longitude if possible)
 - b. Your name and contact phone number
 - c. Size of turtle (use hand or shoe for reference)
2. After calling the NYS Stranding Hotline:
 - a. Follow instructions provided from the person on the hotline.
 - b. If the animal is in danger of washing out with the tide and it is safe for you to move the animal, you may move it higher up on the beach. The plastron (bottom of the turtle) must be oriented down, and the flippers must be free to move.
 - c. Shelter the animal from the wind without covering the animal.
 - d. Record the location, time of encounter, and air and water temperatures.



- e. If possible, wait for responders. If you cannot wait, clearly mark the location so that the responders can easily locate the animal.
3. If you are asked to transport the animal:
 - a. Record the location, time of encounter, and air and water temperatures if not already done.
 - b. Transport the animal with the plastron facing down.
 - c. Carry the turtle with the head facing away from you. They can bite!
 - d. Watch for flipper movement. They can be strong and hit your hands while being carried.
 - e. Keep flippers free to move and record any activity, or lack of activity, before and during transport.