

Sea Turtle Stranding Answer Key



South Carolina
Aquarium

Sea Turtle A – Most likely a boat strike victim. Large cracks in shell were made by boat propeller. Human – induced cause

Sea Turtle B – Due to the month (January) and the temperature, this sea turtle is cold-stunned. Natural cause

Sea Turtle C – This sea turtle most likely swallowed a fishing hook or some type of fishing gear. Human – induced cause

Sea Turtle D – This sea turtle was attacked by a shark. The punctures in the carapace are from its teeth. Natural cause

Sea Turtle E – Since the turtle cannot dive, it most likely has floater's syndrome. It is unknown what is causing the floater syndrome. It could be marine debris or a bacterial infection. Human-induced or a natural cause.

Sea Turtle F – Although this cannot be confirmed until blood work is taken, it is most likely that this turtle has debilitated turtle syndrome (DTS). It's underweight, covered in organisms, and very lethargic. Unknown whether it is human-induced or natural.