Causes of Sea Turtle Strandings

Sea turtles strand for many different reasons. Some causes are natural and some are human-induced. Below is a list of each:

**Natural**
- Shark attack
- Stingray barb punctures
- Floater syndrome (bacterial infection)
- Cold stunning
- Disease/parasites

**Human-Induced**
- Boat strike
- Fishing gear entanglement
- Pollution (example: oil spill)
- Marine debris ingestion
- Floater syndrome (impaction)

**Unknown**
- Debilitated Turtle Syndrome (DTS)
- Cataracts

*For more information on all of these stranding causes, read the background section of the South Carolina Aquarium’s online activity, “Sea Turtle Strandings”.*