

Animal Care and Life Support Board Report

March 2020:

- All Sea Turtles are in turtle pool to allow easy training and observation.
- We are awaiting gate options for flow control/ backflow prevention at discharge culverts for GFL (currently using wood planks on both sides North and South) **Shaun is working with Murray Logan?**
- Ocean pump is running well, all alarms are functioning properly both at the pump house and on main site- accessing the pump has become an increased issue with beach closures but at this point I have still been able to check it regularly with little interference with law enforcement.
- Plumbing and Electrical piping has been run under pavers to location of new pump for saltwater supply to EcoCenter building
- Special Activities License will be renewed in March— Application sent new license pending from Covid-19
- Florida Oceanographic was broken into on January 24th and February 8th, multiple fish were stolen and others were injured, one resulting in a death. The Martin County Sheriff's Department will be issuing warrants on either Monday the 2nd or Tuesday the 3rd. We know the identities of all involved through researching social media and matching it with security camera evidence. I will provide more information once I know the offenders have been arrested so they do not destroy evidence proactively. - No arrests have been made yet

Covid-19 Updates

- Animal Care staff is still coming to the Florida Oceanographic property 7 days a week to provide care to the animals
- Staffing is being staggered to limit excessive contact between staff members- Wednesday being the only day the entire team works onsite (for food deliveries, projects that require more hands etc)
- We are attempting to collect new animals twice a week - this may be restricted now with new "stay in place" orders
- FWC has requested confirmation from all sea turtle facilities that they are still able and willing to care for the sea turtles in their care. I have assured them that we are, and have no intention of relocating our animals.
- Providing care to animals in captivity has been deemed essential by the governor so we should be able to continue coming to work without issue

Brittany Biber

Director of Animal Care and
Life Support

