

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

18 March 2009

### **GREATER CHANCE AT SURVIVAL FOR 114 TURTLE HATCHLINGS**

UnderWater World is today preparing for the release 114 Loggerhead turtle hatchlings which were brought in to their Turtle Rehabilitation Clinic this morning.

Turtle nests around the Sunshine Coast have been closely monitored by local Turtle Care Groups after the beaches became polluted with oil when a container ship lost its load in the cyclonic conditions north of Stradbroke Island.

UnderWater World General Manager, Julie Cullen, explains that the cyclonic conditions and oil pollution would drastically affect the number of turtle hatchlings that make it out to sea alive.

“Turtle nests around the coast have been caged off and constantly checked to prevent turtle hatchlings from entering the affected waters,” she says.

Under direction of the EPA, Under Water World has been lending their support by housing any turtle hatchlings in their Turtle Rehabilitation Clinic until the waters are clear and their safe release assured.

The Loggerhead hatchlings were collected from Point Cartwright, Buddina at Beach Access 3 at approximately midnight last night.

Julie O’Connor, Coordinator of the Turtle Conservation Project for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, kept a watchful eye on the turtle hatchlings through the night, after which they were taken to the Turtle Rehabilitation Clinic at UnderWater World.

“The turtles are all healthy and are extremely active. It’s not everyday we have 114 healthy turtles brought in to the Clinic. We are very excited to be involved in their release,” Mrs Cullen says.

UnderWater World staff and volunteers are working directly with the EPA and will await their advice before releasing the turtles.

For more information regarding the release of the turtle hatchlings, please contact UnderWater World on (07) 5458 6280.

**-ENDS-**

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