

WILD HOPE
Turtle Trackers

	TIME CODE	VIDEO	AUDIO
1.	01:00:04;18		<p>EMILY TURLA:</p> <p>These are leatherback sea turtles. We know so little about leatherbacks, especially at the hatchling and juvenile sizes. So, it's really incredible to get to work with them at those life stages that you would not see out in the wild.</p>
2.	01:00:22;13		<p>EMILY TURLA:</p> <p>We've seen the populations of other sea turtles increase over time, especially due to different kinds of protections. But the leatherbacks especially are very mysterious and unknown and you need to know about a species before you can help it.</p>
3.	01:00:38;02	<p>GRAPHIC: TITLE</p> <p>WILD HOPE</p> <p>Turtle Trackers</p>	<p>TITLE</p> <p>Turtle Trackers</p>
4.		ACT ONE	ACT ONE
5.	01:00:45;13	<p>GRAPHIC:</p> <p>Map of Florida showing Boca Raton</p>	<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>BOCA RATON IS A CLASSIC FLORIDA BEACH TOWN, WHERE RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ENJOY LEISURELY DAYS OF FUN IN THE SUN, ON THE SUNSHINE STATE'S SOUTHEAST COAST.</p> <p>BUT BEACHGOERS HERE OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES SHARING THE SAND WITH SOME SURPRISING NEIGHBORS: NESTING SEA TURTLES!</p>
6.	01:01:07;09	<p>GRAPHIC: L3</p> <p>DAVID ANDERSON</p> <p>Biologist</p>	<p>DAVID ANDERSON:</p> <p>Here in Boca Raton we have five miles (8.05km) of sandy beach, and we get three species of sea turtles leatherback, loggerhead and green, nesting on our</p>

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			beaches. And some people even come here specifically-to see sea turtles.
7.	01:01:20;22		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>ONCE, THE PRESENCE OF SEA TURTLES ON BEACHES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD WAS COMMONPLACE.</p> <p>RESEARCHERS ESTIMATE THAT IN PRE-COLONIAL TIMES, THERE WERE AROUND 40 MILLION IN THE NEARBY CARIBBEAN ALONE.</p> <p>BUT SINCE THEN, <i>SOME</i> SPECIES THERE HAVE LOST UP TO 97% OF THEIR HISTORIC POPULATIONS. GLOBALLY, OTHERS HAVE SEEN SIMILAR DECLINES.</p> <p>FLORIDA TURTLES HAVE BEEN HARD-HIT, TOO.</p>
8.	01:01:52;04		<p>DAVID ANDERSON:</p> <p>There was a time in the past where some species of sea turtles were pretty much extinct in Florida. They were overharvested, overfished, and they were pretty much nonexistent as far as nesting on our beaches.</p>
9.	01:02:03;15		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>TWO OF THE THREE SPECIES NESTING IN BOCA ARE LISTED AS VULNERABLE, WHILE ONE IS ENDANGERED. BUT IN THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY, CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON FLORIDA BEACHES HAVE VASTLY IMPROVED THE OUTLOOK FOR <i>MOST OF THESE EMBATTLED</i> CREATURES.</p>

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			ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL STEPS HAS BEEN PROTECTING THE TURTLES DURING THEIR SHORT BUT CRITICAL TIME ON LAND.
10.	01:02:30;22		DAVID ANDERSON: How we're going to help the species recover is by protecting nests and, and protecting hatchlings so they can one day grow up and be adult turtles and come back to these nesting grounds.
11.	01:02:42;20		NARRATOR: AROUND FLORIDA, TEAMS LIKE THIS ONE LED BY DAVID ANDERSON FOLLOW THE TURTLES' TRACKS TO FIND AND PROTECT EVERY NEST.
12.	01:02:52;06		DAVID ANDERSON: It is really important we get an early start every morning before people come out onto the beach. We mark every single nest with wooden stakes and orange flagging tape. So, all of our nests, we're confident that the eggs are inside that perimeter.
13.	01:03:08;04		NARRATOR: SECURE IN THESE LOCATIONS, THE EGGS CAN INCUBATE, SAFE FROM HUMAN TRAFFIC. THE TEAM KEEPS AN EYE ON THE NESTS UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH, AND THEN LENDS A HAND IF THERE ARE ANY STRAGGLERS.
14.	01:03:22;01		DAVID ANDERSON: Oh look! A live hatchling.
15.	01:03:23;06		REBECCA GERMANY: Aw.
16.	01:03:23;23		DAVID ANDERSON: Alright, hey little guy!

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17.	01:03:25;19		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>ACROSS FLORIDA, THESE EFFORTS ARE MAKING AN IMPACT.</p> <p>IN 1985, THE THREE SEA TURTLE SPECIES MADE JUST UNDER 27,000 NESTS IN THE STATE. LAST YEAR, THAT NUMBER WAS OVER 150,000.</p> <p>AS SOON AS THE HATCHLINGS HIT THE WATER, OTHER PROTECTIONS FOCUS ON THE COASTAL AREAS WHERE MANY OF THEM GROW UP.</p>
18.			ACT TWO
19.	01:03:57;09	<p>LOWER THIRD:</p> <p>CODY MOTT</p> <p>Biologist</p>	<p>CODY MOTT:</p> <p>The site here gives these little green turtles all they need and that's the food they're looking for in these shallow waters, and then also places to hide at night and sleep.</p>
20.	01:04:06;01		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>GREENS ARE THE ONLY VEGETARIAN SEA TURTLES, SO THE COASTAL SEA GRASSES PROVIDE THE PERFECT HABITAT.</p>
21.	01:04:13;20		<p>CODY MOTT:</p> <p>So, this turtle, we're going to give it a full assessment. This is the same assessment we do on every turtle we catch.</p>
22.	01:04:18;14		<p>CODY MOTT:</p> <p>These turtles will come in when they're small, and then they'll move off into deeper sea grass beds in the Keys or within the, the Greater Caribbean.</p>
23.	01:04:25;09		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>LOGGERHEADS FOLLOW A SIMILAR PATH.</p>

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			<p>BY KEEPING TABS ON THE TURTLES NEAR SHORE, CONSERVATIONISTS CAN HELP MITIGATE THREATS, LIKE BOAT STRIKES, LOSS OF KEY HABITAT AND POLLUTION.</p>
24.	01:04:43;03		<p>CODY MOTT:</p> <p>I am hopeful for this turtle, and I think the conservation efforts that we've put in place, uh, give this a really good chance for this animal to make it to maturity and have a successful life.</p>
25.	01:04:57;04		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>FOR GREENS AND LOGGERHEADS, THINGS ARE LOOKING UP, BUT PROTECTING LEATHERBACKS PRESENTS SOME ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES.</p>
26.	01:05:08;01		<p>DAVID ANDERSON:</p> <p>Leatherbacks are very interesting animals. They're very mysterious because they spend most all of their lives out in the open ocean. We don't know as much about them as we do the other two species, which we see all the time off the coast and in the intracoastal waterway.</p>
27.	01:05:24;04		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>IT CAN BE 20 TO 30 YEARS FROM THE MOMENT LEATHERBACKS ENTER THE SURF AS HATCHLINGS, UNTIL THEY RETURN TO LAND TO LAY EGGS.</p> <p>SCIENTISTS HAVE DATA ABOUT THE ADULT LEATHERBACKS' YEARS AT SEA FROM SATELLITE TAGS THEY PUT ON THEM WHEN THEY COME ASHORE.</p> <p>THEY'VE LEARNED THAT LEATHERBACKS HAVE THE WIDEST DISTRIBUTION OF ANY REPTILE, MIGRATING FROM THE TROPICS ALMOST TO THE POLES. THEY CAN SWIM OVER 10,000 (16093.44KM) MILES A YEAR.</p>

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			<p>BUT THEY KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT WHERE THESE TURTLES GO IN THE FIRST FEW DECADES OF THEIR LIVES, THEIR SO-CALLED “LOST YEARS.”</p> <p>SCIENTISTS AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY ARE TRYING TO SOLVE THAT MYSTERY.</p>
28.			ACT THREE
29.	01:06:17;13	<p>GRAPHIC: LOWER THIRD: JEANETTE WYNEKEN Biologist</p>	<p>JEANETTE WYNEKEN:</p> <p>This is a very unique marine lab. We have the facilities to bring in hatchling sea turtles, raise them for days to weeks to even months, the reason why we bring those animals in is to understand their early life. When the hatchlings come out, the hatchlings are about this big. We don't see it again till it's a six (1.83m) or seven foot (2.13m) long turtle. That's a lot of biology that's going on between this and this. So, it's really hard to know a lot about these animals.</p>
30.	01:06:58;20	<p>GRAPHIC: LOWER THIRD: EMILY TURLA Biologist</p>	<p>EMILY TURLA:</p> <p>This lab is the only one in the world that raises these little leatherbacks, and we've learned so much in the few years that I've worked with them.</p>
31.	01:07:06;05		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>IN THE TANKS, RESEARCHERS STUDY THEIR GROWTH, BEHAVIOR AND FEEDING HABITS. BUT RAISING THESE OPEN-OCEAN TRAVELERS HAS ITS CHALLENGES.</p>
32.	01:07:16;12		<p>EMILY TURLA:</p> <p>We've learned that they need to be on a tether type system in their tank.</p>
33.	01:07:21;01	<p>LOWER THIRD: SAWYER WILES</p>	<p>SAWYER WILES:</p> <p>They're just constantly swimming anyway, so that would mimic them swimming in the open ocean. If</p>

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		Marine Laboratory Assistant	these guys were off of their Velcro tethers, they'd be constantly running into the wall.
34.	01:07:32;17		EMILY TURLA: We've also learned what their dietary needs are, and different recipes that fit those dietary needs.
35.	01:07:42;10		SAWYER WILES: Their natural diet is jellyfish, so here in the lab we do try to replicate that. When feeding them, we do undulate the food like a jellyfish, so that movement, uh, they can detect and see in the wild as well.
36.	01:07:59;14		SAWYER WILES: So, he's coming for the piece.
37.	01:08:03;20		NARRATOR: THEIR TASTE FOR JELLYFISH MAY LEAVE LEATHERBACKS VULNERABLE AT SEA.
38.	01:08:11;01		EMILY TURLA: One threat that leatherbacks face is plastic pollution, especially things like plastic bags that look like jellyfish in the water.
39.	01:08:18;20		NARRATOR: LEATHERBACKS ALSO FALL PREY TO LONG LINES AND ABANDONED FISHING GEAR THAT CAN ENTANGLE AND DROWN THEM. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY SPEND THEIR EARLY YEARS. TO FIND OUT, JEANETTE'S LAB IS WORKING ON A PIONEERING TRACKING PROGRAM WITH THE NON-PROFIT UPWELL, WHICH FOCUSES ON TURTLE CONSERVATION AT SEA.

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40.	01:08:43;09		JEANETTE WYNEKEN: They've got the ability to help us with the satellite tracking of where our little turtles go.
41.	01:08:50;14		NARRATOR: THIS IS THE FIRST-EVER TRACKING PROJECT FOR SUCH SMALL, YOUNG LEATHERBACKS.
42.	01:08:56;14		EMILY TURLA: Oh it's red! It's blinking.
43.	01:08:58;02		NARRATOR: RAISING THE TURTLES IN THE LAB FOR TWO TO THREE MONTHS, ALLOWS THEM TO GROW BIG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE TRACKERS.
44.	01:09:04;21		JEANETTE WYNEKEN: Oh that sounded!
45.	01:09:05;15		GEORGE SHILLINGER: That was a beep.
46.	01:09:06;00		EMILY TURLA: Yeah! I heard the beep.
47.	01:09:06;18		JEANETTE WYNEKEN: Okay.
48.	01:09:07;09		NARRATOR: JEANETTE AND EMILY HELP ACTIVATE A SATELLITE DEVICE
49.	01:09:11;02		JEANETTE WYNEKEN: Okay. Alright. Who's taking this turtle out?
50.	01:09:13;03		NARRATOR: AND RETURN THIS LITTLE TURTLE BACK TO THE WILD.

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			AS THE YOUNGSTERS SWIM OFF, THE TAGS WILL SEND BACK DATA ON THEIR LOCATION, DEPTH AND DIRECTION FOR ABOUT A MONTH.
51.	01:09:33;02		EMILY TURLA: Go team!
52.	01:09:35;06		GEORGE SHILLINGER: Good job team.
53.	01:09:37;00		JEANETTE WYNEKEN: Once you know where they're going then we can share that with the regulatory agencies that protect those habitats. We're starting to learn what route the turtles are going to take and what they're going to encounter along those long migrations, and each year we get a little more information about where these little turtles go.
54.	01:10:03;20		NARRATOR: SO FAR, THEY'VE TRACKED THE TURTLES RIDING THE GULF STREAM ALONG THE COAST, THEN, HEADING OUT TO SEA. AS THE SUCCESS ON LAND ALREADY SHOWS, THE MORE WE LEARN, THE GREATER THE POTENTIAL TO KEEP THESE AMAZING ANIMALS SAFE, EVEN IF THAT'S FAR FROM SHORE.
55.	01:10:26;10		EMILY TURLA: I'm hopeful for the future of sea turtles. I think there's enough people that are passionate about them and are putting in efforts to protect them and increase their numbers.
56.	01:10:40;15	GRAPHIC: CREDITS	
57.	TRT: 01:11:25;15		OUT

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