

TWO for the sea

local features

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center releases two loggerheads

By **KATHRYN RUMBLEY**

Provided to The Courier Newsweekly

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center representatives on Tuesday, Dec. 29 released two loggerhead sea turtles from its facility in Juno Beach.

Gru is a subadult loggerhead that was hooked by a fisherman at the Juno Beach Pier. The turtle arrived with two small hooks in the base of its right front flipper, and one larger hook in the mouth.

Jax is a juvenile loggerhead sea turtle that was found floating in the surf at Jensen Beach Park, in Martin County. The turtle was lethargic, underweight and had barnacles on its carapace and leeches on its skin.

Fortunately, after months of medications and close monitoring by LMC staff, the sea turtles were deemed ready to be released.

Gru and Jax were prepared for release on the nearby beach at 10 a.m. A history of the sea turtles' journeys and final arrangements were conveyed to visitors by one of the center's education docents.

The procession to the beach release into the ocean followed.

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center is located at 14200 U.S. 1 in Juno Beach. For more information about Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center visit our website: www.marinelife.org or call 561-627-8280 ext 115.

Kathryn Rumbley represents Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center.

PROVIDED PHOTO/KATHRYN RUMBLEY

ABOVE: There were lots of fun, sand and faces at the release!

AT RIGHT: Gru yawns before the release.

