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Turtle Rescue

SEA LIFE has a long history working with the rescue and care of injured, sick and stranded sea turtles and many of our SEA LIFE centres provide long-term homes for non-releasable turtles. In the U.S.A, our SEA LIFE centre in Grapevine, Texas, has a rehabilitate and rescue program, recently releasing Flip, a juvenile female Kemp's ridley sea turtle found stranded on the shores of the Netherlands in December 10th, 2011, roughly 5,000 nautical miles from her natural home in the Gulf of Mexico. She was taken to SEA LIFE Scheveningen in Holland to begin a long rehabilitation process before being flown to America. She was then transported by the SEA LIFE Aquarium Grapevine team to the Port Aransas Animal Rehabilitation Keep, where a health assessment was conducted and Flip was deemed in excellent health for her release into the Gulf of Mexico on November 9th, 2012. (learn more about Flip's journey link?) SEA LIFE also works closely with sea turtle rescue centres across the globe having raised nearly \$50,000 to help develop facilities at Georgia sea turtle rescue in the U.S.A and fund raising for a new sea turtle rescue centre in Zakynthos in Greece for the swift rehabilitation and treatment of injured turtles. With no other such facility on the island of Zakynthos and with more and more injured turtles every year, this is a crucial step towards securing the endangered loggerhead turtles in Zakynthos a better future. (Link to external website? Find out more: <http://earth-sea-sky-global.org/turtle-rescue-centre/>) Our SEA LIFE aquariums in Australia and New Zealand also have a wealth of knowledge and experience in turtle rescue with Manly SEA LIFE Sanctuary having dedicated rescue and rehabilitation facilities allowing a number of rescued animals to be cared for at one time as well as a larger variety of animals. Learn more about the Turtles we rescue at <http://www.manlysealifesanctuary.com.au/get-involved/breed-rescue-protect/rescue/>. (Link to site website?)

As well as sea turtles, SEA LIFE also works hard in freshwater turtle rescue, rehabilitation and breeding programmes. Many of our aquariums are home to discarded freshwater turtles and terrapins that have been released into the wild by pet owners and our German SEA LIFE centres lead a breeding programme for the European Pond turtle. These small and cute turtles were once the only native turtle in Germany and are now among the country's rarest species. They were all but wiped out in the Middle Ages, when they were a popular delicacy, and since then have been devastated by river management programmes. SEA Life centres are now breeding the species with the aim to boost the population in the old Rhine area known as Bebenheim-Roxheim near Ludwigshafen and in 2012 made a 7,5000 Euro donation to the project run by the German nature and biodiversity body NABU.