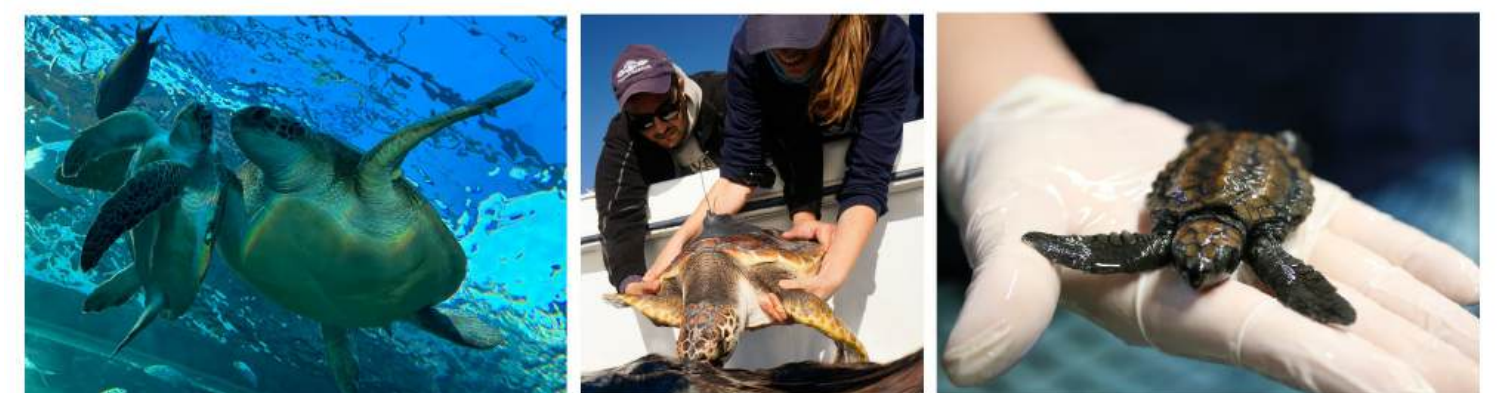




Turtle Tales

Our **Turtle Conservation Centre** is turtle-y busy, caring for loggerhead hatchlings and sub-adult green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles. Keep reading for some flipper-tastic news!

Meet our newest rescue: Amber, the hawksbill turtle

On 7 September 2026, a subadult hawksbill turtle was found stranded on the beach in Betty's Bay by members of our **Turtle Rescue Network**. Interestingly, the hawksbill had a completely healed flipper amputation!



When the turtle arrived at the **Turtle Conservation Centre**, the team was heartened to see that she was in good condition and weighed a solid 71.kg. The turtle was given a freshwater bath to help her rehydrate, started on a course of antibiotics to treat a minor infection, and given a glucose injection to balance her blood sugar levels.

The turtle was soon adopted by our longtime supporters, Morukuru Goodwill Foundation, who named her Amber for her beautiful colouration. As Habanero's adopters, too, we're starting to wonder if Morukuru Goodwill Foundation has a soft spot for our three-flippered turtles...



Amber has recovered remarkably well - she's finished her course of antibiotics and is diving and eating well. "It's almost like she shouldn't be in hospital!" says our vet, Dr Bernice.

In fact, Amber recently had her first target feeding session! One of our Turtle Aquarists, Razaan, placed a patterned "paddle" in the water with Amber's food in front of it. This teaches Amber to associate food with the target, and not with humans. With this method, our turtles will be less likely to approach humans for food once they are back in the wild ocean.



Amber is one of our **"green season" turtles**. Just like turtle hatchlings tend to strand more frequently at particular times of the year, we experience a similar phenomenon with subadult turtles from September to February. This period is nicknamed "green season" within the turtle community because green turtles make up the majority of these strandings, but other species, including hawksbill, olive ridley, and loggerhead turtles, are also found on our shores during this period.

[Learn about green season](#)

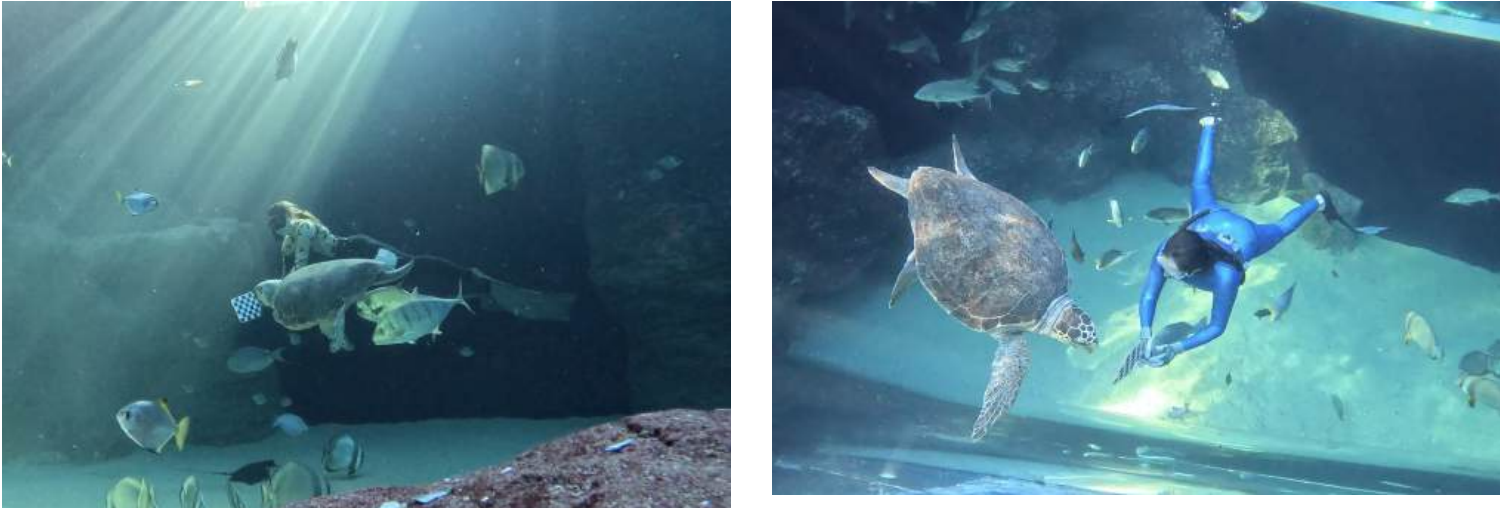
How is Habanero?

Loggerhead turtle Habanero was **reintroduced into the *I&J Ocean Exhibit*** just a few weeks ago, and he's been adjusting super well!

Since his **successful flipper amputation** in December 2025, one of the focuses of Habanero's rehabilitation has been helping him adjust to life with three flippers. Swimming around this larger space is helping him get fitter, stronger, and more agile. Like with all our patients at the Turtle Conservation Centre, our aim is to release Habanero back into his ocean home one day. The move into the *I&J Ocean Exhibit* is a vital step in this journey, as it simulates the natural ocean environment that Habanero will eventually rejoin - our job is to make sure he is ready.



Despite having only three flippers, Habanero is just as speedy as before and very food-motivated - he certainly keeps the team on their toes during feeding time. He doesn't appear to be very fussy with his food (Habanero will eat anything), but his favourite is definitely the sustainably sourced Cape redfish from our friends at Abalobi!



[Read Habanero's story](#)

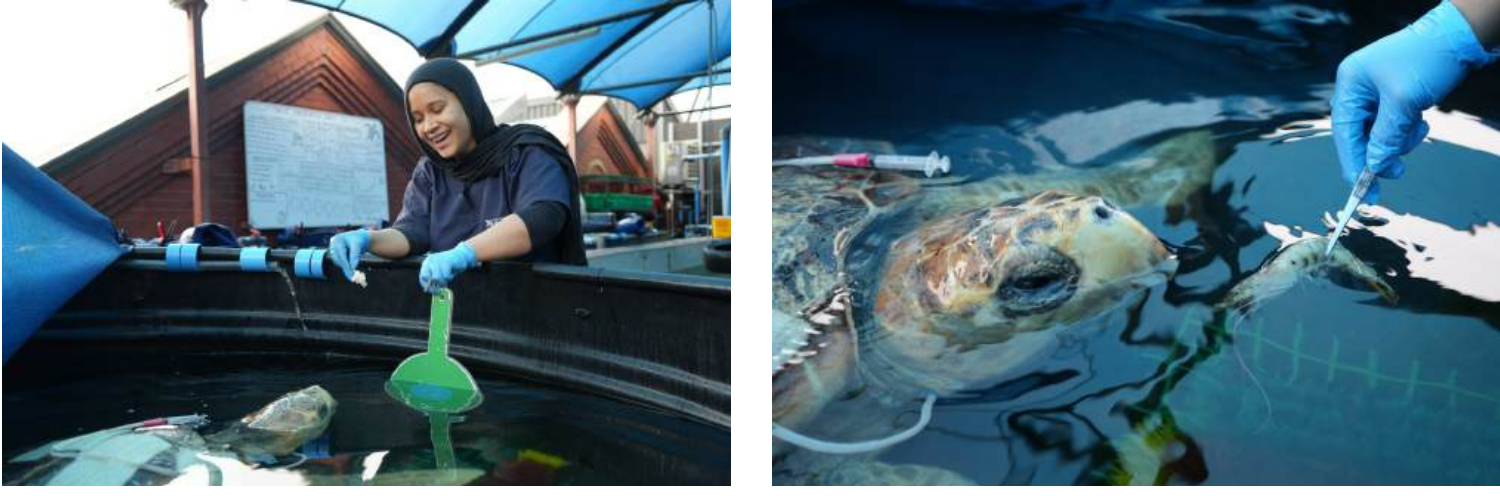
Prawns for big mamma Pearl

"Big mamma" Pearl, an adult female loggerhead turtle, has had an incredibly tough rehabilitation journey so far.

She is still considered a critical care patient and has had a feeding tube in place since late April because a severe bone infection in her jaw prevents her from eating independently. The feeding tube provides Pearl with good nutrition while her antibiotics fight the infection.

The turtle team offers Pearl small pieces of sustainably sourced prawns, hake, and squid every day, and cheers her on whenever she manages to eat a few pieces. Recently, she's been eating more and more solid foods on her own! Her favourites appear to be de-shelled prawns.

Pearl's future is still uncertain, but moments like these remind us of turtles' resilience.



[Read Pearl's story](#)

Stay in the loop with our turtles!

Turtle Tales is a regular mailer from the **Turtle Conservation Centre**, packed with tons of turtle news, information, and fun! If you want to be a part of our turtle community, this is the space for you.

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