



### **The Coastal Stewards Announces Closure of Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center**

*Sea Turtle Rehab Center and Gift Store at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton Closes to the Public*

**Boca Raton, Florida – June 13, 2025:** The Coastal Stewards, a [nonprofit conservation organization](#) dedicated to the protection and study of marine life and the coastal ecosystem, announced today the closure of its Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center to the public, effective immediately. This decision was made by the organization's Board of Trustees following a comprehensive review of its strategic priorities amid ongoing financial challenges.

"Like many environmental nonprofits, The Coastal Stewards has faced increasing difficulty securing consistent and sustainable funding," said Shivani Gupta, Board of Trustee Member at The Coastal Stewards. "This difficult decision allows us to reallocate resources and focus on our long-standing commitment to marine conservation education and empowering the next generation of ocean advocates."

While public access to the rehabilitation center has ended, the 13 sea turtle patients currently under care will continue to receive veterinary attention onsite. The Coastal Stewards is working in close coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to ensure their safe transfer to other licensed rehabilitation facilities. Details will be shared once available.

This closure does not affect the three resident sea turtles housed in outdoor tanks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, which remain on display and available for public viewing.

In addition, the Gift Store operated by The Coastal Stewards inside the Nature Center has closed as part of this transition.

The Coastal Stewards remains steadfast in its mission and will continue to serve the community through educational programming, outreach, and advocacy for ocean health. Over the past few years, the nonprofit has prioritized educational programming, including lectures, educational presentations, scholarships, beach clean-ups and more.

For ongoing updates and information on The Coastal Stewards' future initiatives, please visit [www.TheCoastalStewards.org](http://www.TheCoastalStewards.org) or email [admin@thecoastalstewards.org](mailto:admin@thecoastalstewards.org).

#### **About The Coastal Stewards**

Our nonprofit was established in 1981 as The Gumbo Limbo Nature Center of South Palm Beach and evolved to the Friends of Gumbo Limbo and later to the Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards. Always an

independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, these guardians of the coastal environment and the marine life that call Southeast Florida home have funded education, research, and the sea turtle rehabilitation work since for more than 15 years. The mission of Coastal Stewards is to inspire people to support the stewardship and research of coastal and marine ecosystems. In 2023, The Coastal Stewards expanded its focus on the rescue, rehabilitation, research, and release of sea turtles to aid dolphins, manatees, and whales. The Coastal Stewards' mission's pillars—sustainability, engagement, and awareness—guide us toward a brighter, thriving coastal future. Learn more at [www.thecoastalstewards.org](http://www.thecoastalstewards.org).