



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

May 13, 2021

Michael Schneider  
931 Manhattan Avenue, Suite 3  
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Dear Mr. Schneider:

I want to personally thank you for your contribution to the 2020 Massachusetts cold-stunned sea turtle response effort. Your generosity had substantial positive impact to endangered sea turtles, to sea turtle stranding network response and rehabilitation organizations, and to NOAA Fisheries. We could not rescue and care for the hundreds of cold-stunned sea turtles that strand in Massachusetts every fall without the assistance of the “Turtle Fliers” of Turtles Fly Too.

During the fall cold stun stranding season, hundreds of sea turtles need to be transported out of Massachusetts to long-term care facilities where they receive medical care for weeks or months until healthy enough to be released back into the wild. Transporting turtles via flight rather than ground vehicle reduces the duration of transport and, therefore, the stress to these critically ill turtles. In addition, flights do not require as much rehabilitation staff time, allowing key staff to focus on the direct care of the turtles. In the 2020 season, staff limitations were compounded by COVID-19. The number of staff in the facility was limited due to safety restrictions, and travel was significantly curtailed due to state travel restrictions. These additional factors made flights absolutely vital to the success of rescue efforts.

We are very pleased to let you know that the turtle that you transported has been released back into the wild. Your efforts had direct impact on the survival of this turtle. We hope that it will rejoin the reproductive population and, ultimately, help the species to recover. The year 2020 was a challenge in many ways, but it was also inspiring to see the generosity and caring of people like you in donating your time and resources to vital conservation and humanitarian efforts. Thank you again for your invaluable contribution.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

