

# Cycle of Life: Sea Turtle Glass Sculpture - Environmental Art Education Project



Kathleen Sheard & Team 2015 - 2017



# The Events that inspired the direction of my sculpture

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Gulf of Mexico April 2010

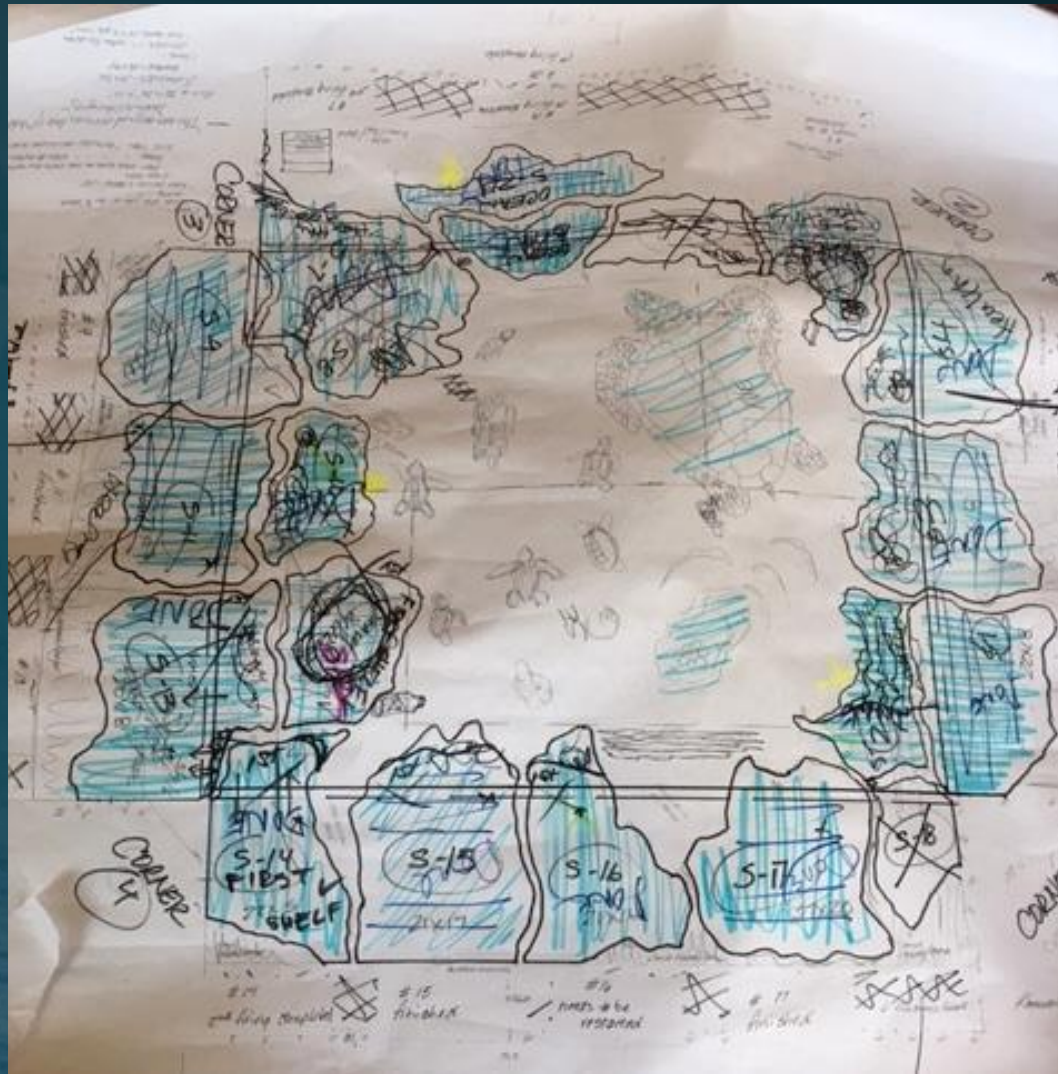


Plastic and other debris in mass  
on most every beach





- \* Well used initial cartoon draft - 2011  
Finished size – 5'x6'x21"
- \* Prototypes (mini and full size) of sea turtle base with models





# Sea Turtle Glass Sculpture – Environmental Art Education Project

## Artist/Designer Kathleen Sheard





## *The Process...*



Full scale drawing for sculpture and a few wee models



The photo inspiration for *Mrs. Loggerhead*. Alligator Point, FL.

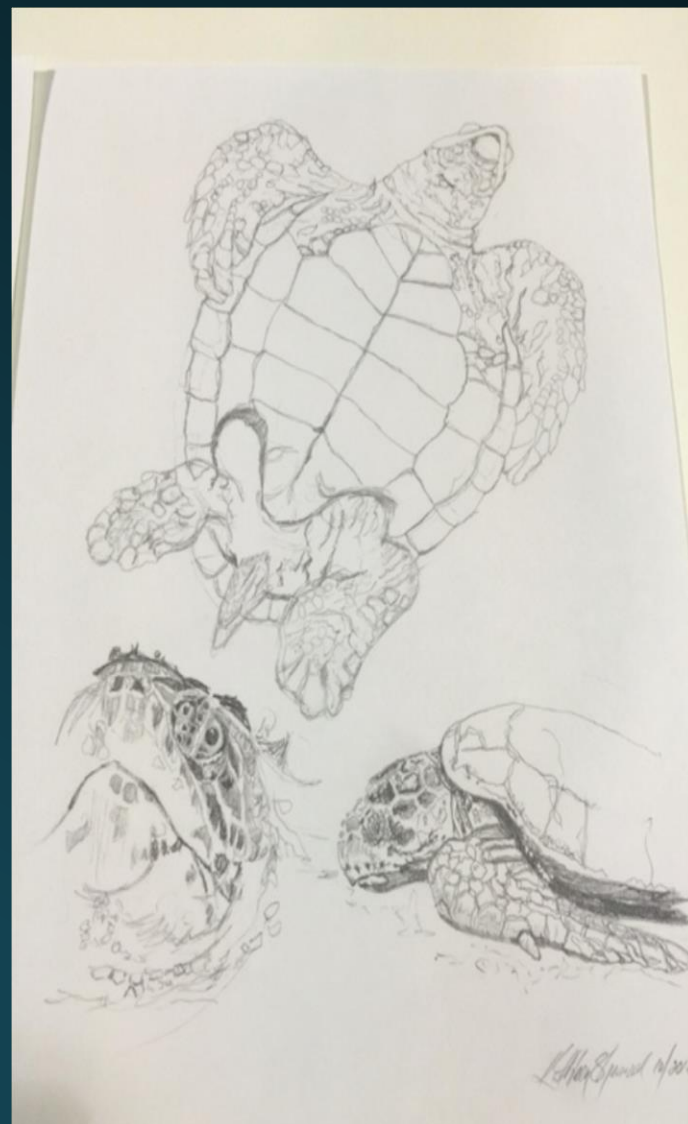
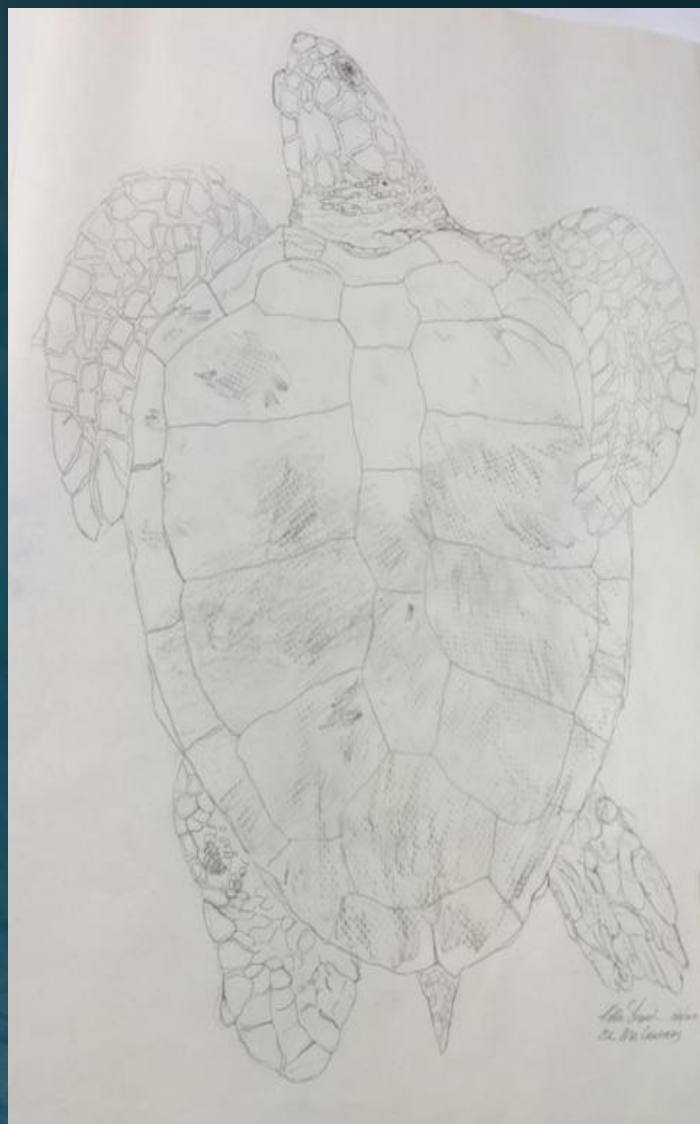




Reference photos for Mrs. Loggerhead .  
Estimated cast glass size - 31" x 18" x 8".







Mrs. Loggerhead on paper – a step towards her 3D clay model



Team member Cathy Coverley working on the miniature clay model of Mrs. Loggerhead.



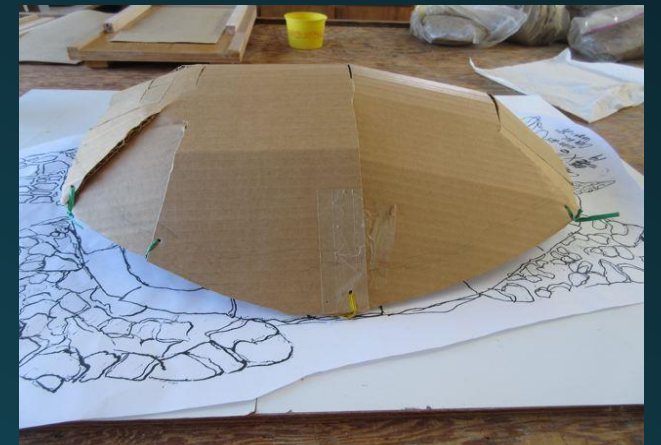


Mrs. Mini Loggerhead created by team member, Cathy Coverley, Phoenix Art Glass, prefabbed prior to Corning.



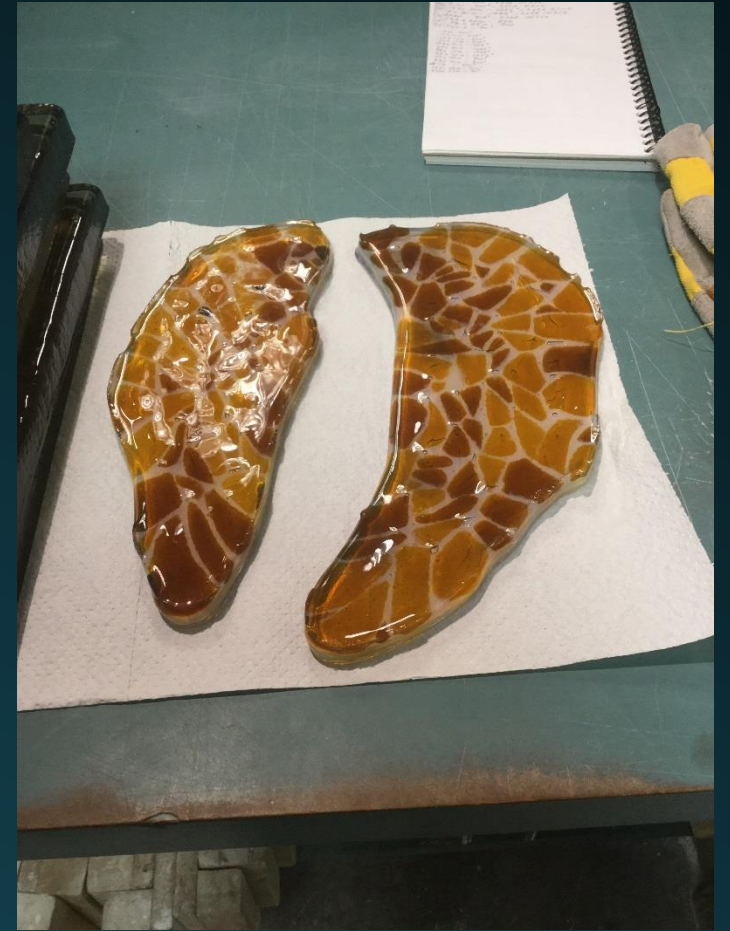


Cathy Coverley started the full size Mrs. Loggerhead in her studio in San Diego.





Test for scute colors and creating the head, flippers and tail pre-fused inserts for the mother sea turtle sculpture.





Filling the plaster plastron mold with Bullseye Glass Company billet.





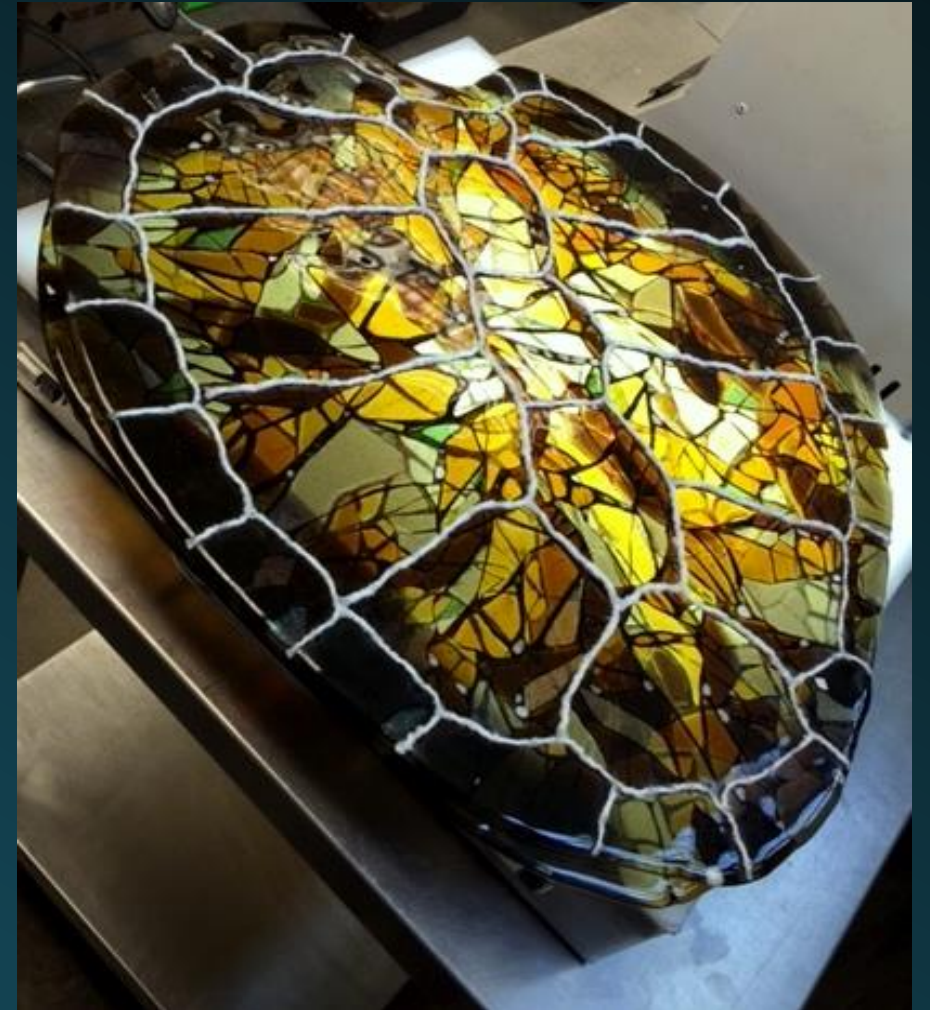
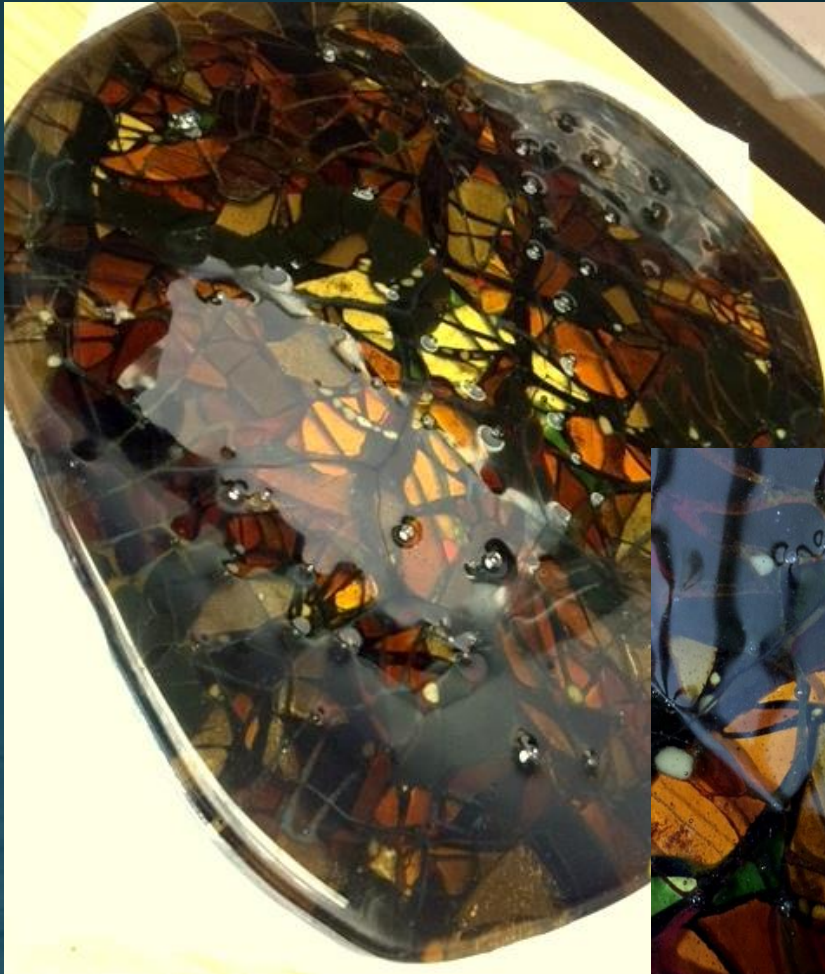
With the cast glass plastron done Cathy begins the multiple layered fused glass carapace.



Team member Katie Patten  
working in background

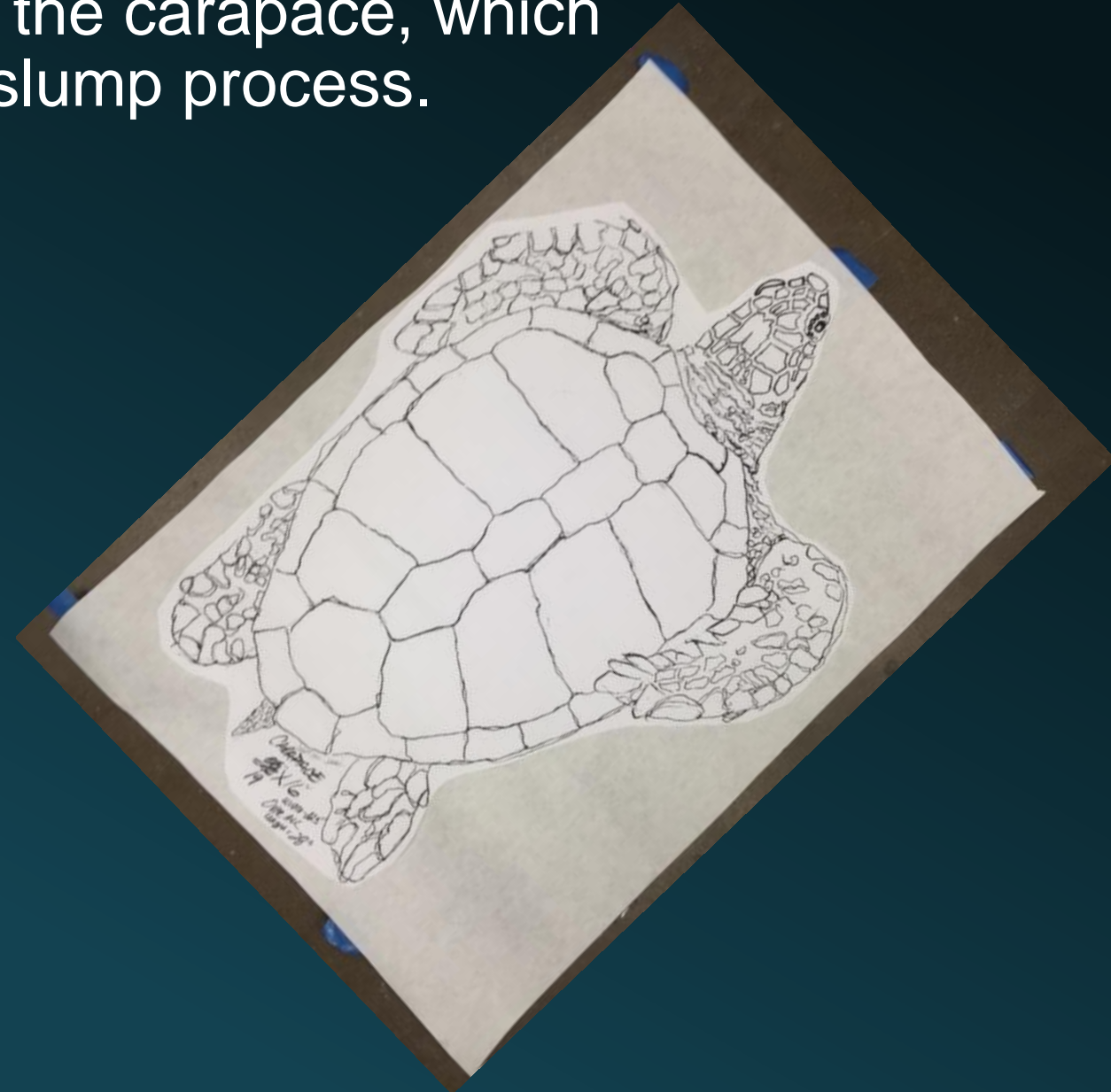


The fused glass carapace waiting to be slumped  
into bisque ware and fiber molds.





Marissa Loose, ceramic artist and teacher from Georgia made the bisque mold for the carapace, which would be step one of the slump process.





# A few of the steps to slumping the carapace in a custom made plaster mold







Mrs. Loggerhead finished! Hallelujah!!



Cycle of Life portraits the story so that all will be watchful in our preservation of wildlife.





# *The Frenzy Begins...*

First Color Studies circa 2002 for  
my life size sea turtle



Chelonia mydas –  
Grandfather  
2002.  
Towards the Light  
– 2015.



Mrs. Loggerhead  
releasing her clutch  
of eggs into her  
nest.



Hawksbill hatchlings  
emerging from nest.

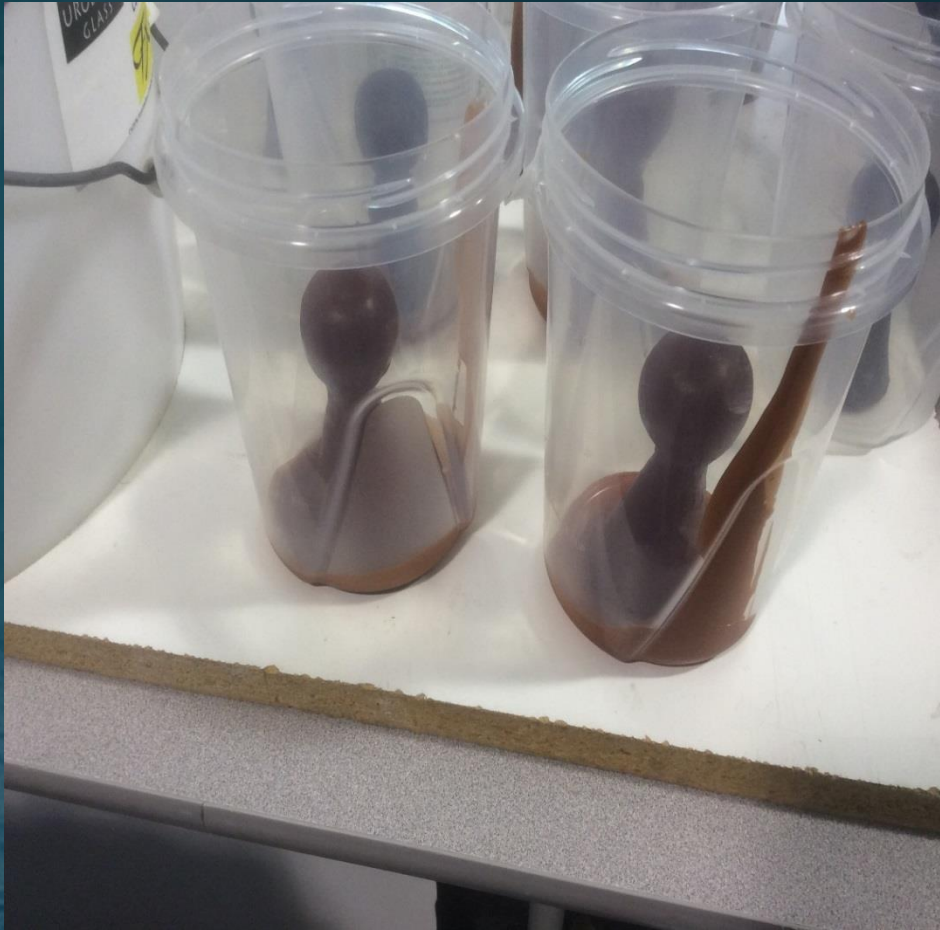


Nature's Process watched over by volunteers.  
Alligator Point Sea Turtle Patrol Volunteer –  
Heather.





Before the Hatchlings –  
comes the nest and eggs



- \*Wax mold
- \*Plaster molds for eggs, hatchlings, and tire tread
- \*Glass melted in egg molds







Clay to Wax to Glass Sea Turtle Egg Studies



Cast glass artist studies of tire tread, sea turtle eggs and rudimentary hatchling.





Fused and slumped sea turtle nest and cast glass eggs.





# Team members Carol and Katie and their own Les Schwab story





Glass sea turtle nest with cast glass eggs, a four wheeler tire track, little sand berms, and in foreground a pipped hatchling.





Empty sea turtle eggs on Atlantic Ocean beach.





To borrow a phrase – "HELLO WORLD"





# Plastilina clay hatchlings in a frenzy of growth



Clay sculpture in  
silicon rubber  
mold to make  
multiple waxes





# Cast glass mini blocks for color studies of hatchlings





Clay models to silicon rubber molds to wax  
pipped hatchlings, hatchlings, rocks and shells.





# Prepping for cast glass hatchlings.



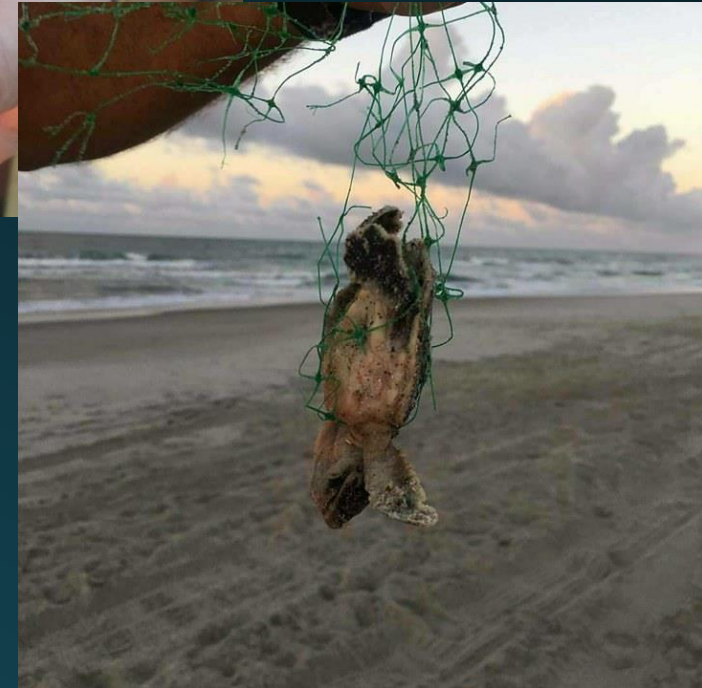


# Hatchling waxes and the first whole cast glass hatchlings. Another Hallelujah!!!



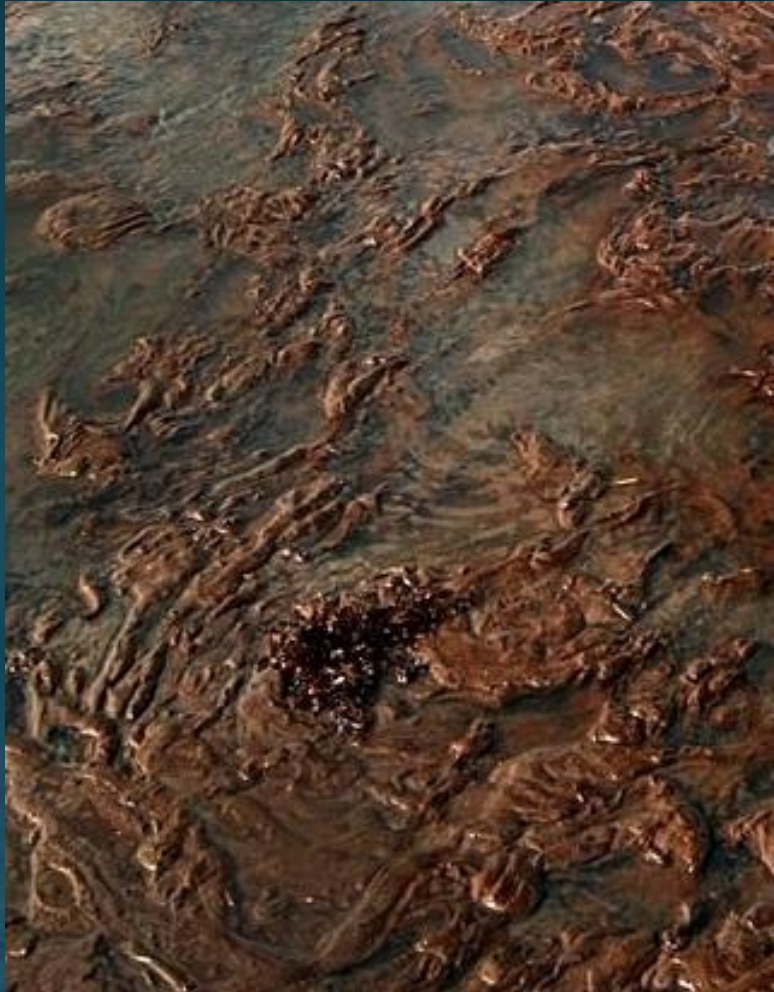


Healthy hatchlings race towards the light and the ocean. A bucket hatchling. A hatchling that loses its race for life before it gets to the water.





The oil that will never again be totally removed from our oceans or beaches. World wide contamination.





Oil spill as a predator that not only kills sea turtles but the full cycle of life from the tiniest plankton to the behemoth whales.



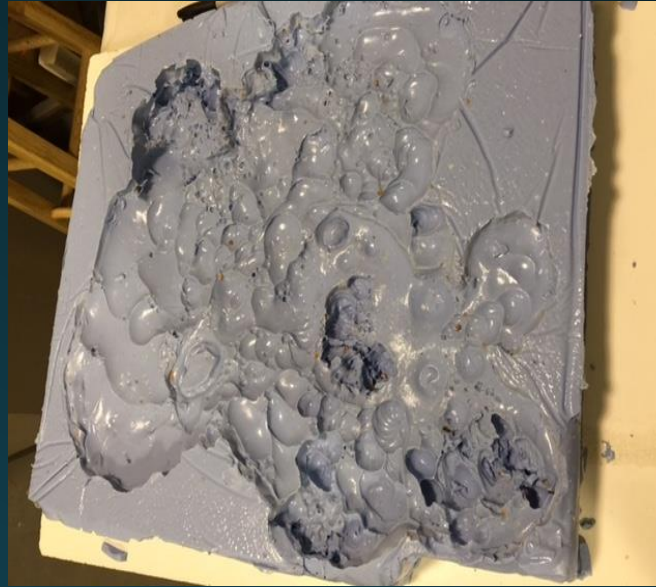




Initial glass oil spill studies by team member Carol Webb

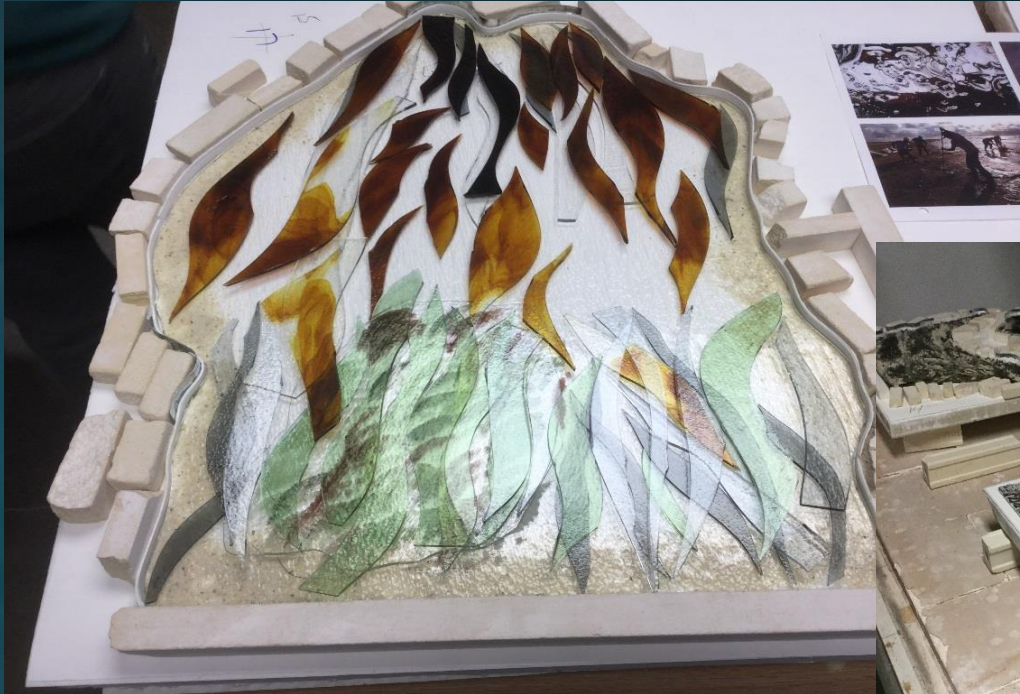


# Alginate molds to make wax oil sludge





# Oil Sections cut, laid out, fused and slumped.



Team member Katie Patten  
from Missoula, MT.



Carol Webb in her studio working on glass oil spill sludge.







A glass oil spill section in progress.





Glass oil spill artist study successfully slumped.

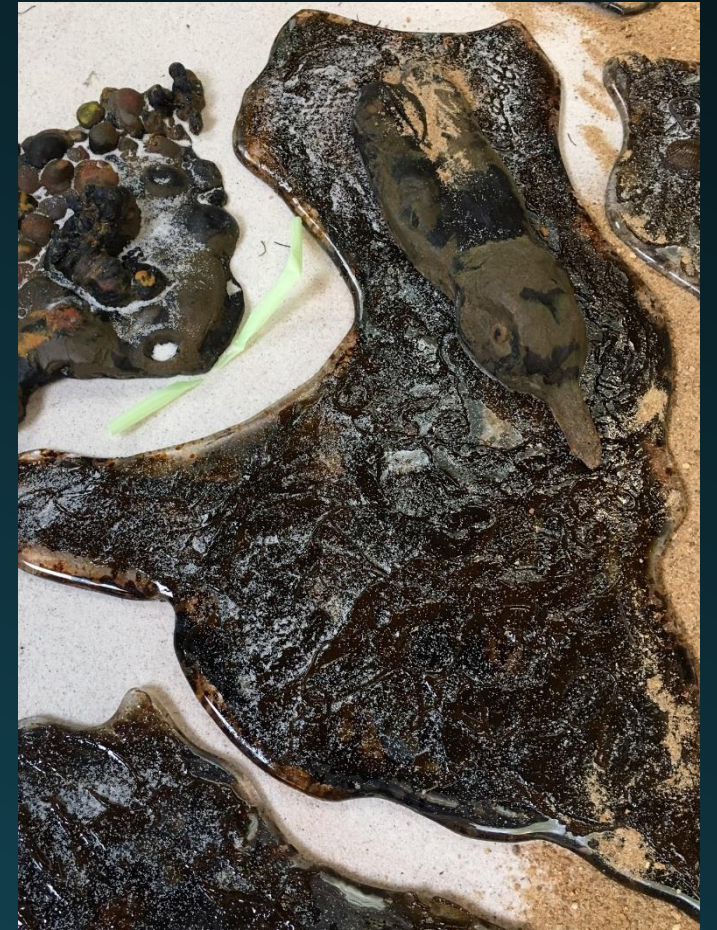


Carol Webb, C3 Studios, Duluth, Georgia, engineered the process to achieve the oil spill sections. We included some healthy ocean in our Cycle of Life.





Working on final placement decisions.





Oil spill victims albeit the ghost crab is a sea turtle hatchling predator.





Time for the sculpture to have a finished base





Initial sculpture base consultation with Lee and Diana Tracy and Fritz Muntean.



First base prototype interior.





The prefabbed sculpture base sections arrive at Corning in their crates. Kathleen and Dennis McCloud, engineer and builder of the base, discussing stanchion barrier possibilities.





Dennis McCloud, set up to stain base sections. The completed base set up in place at Corning.





# The final assembly and dress rehearsal.





The Cycle of Life Team assembled at The Studio, Corning Museum of Glass. I am very grateful for this team that helped me bring this first conservation sculpture to fruition.



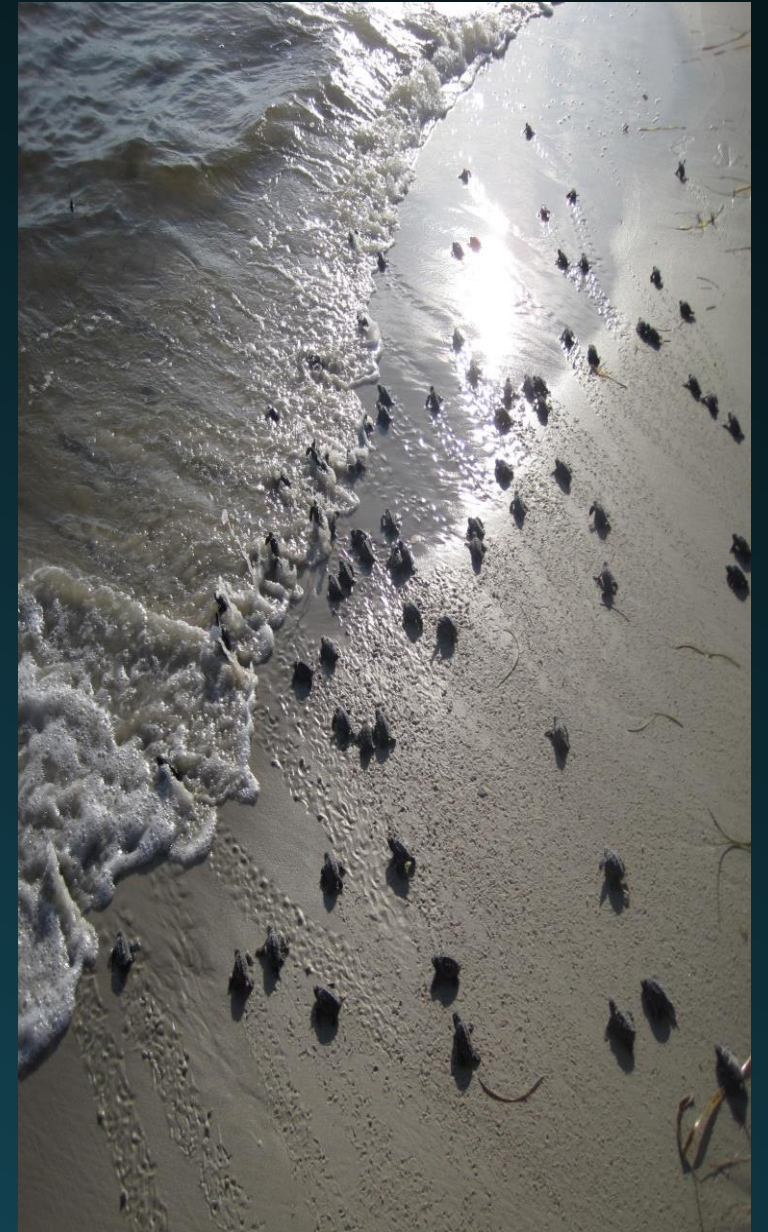


With the mother sea turtle the Cycle of Life begins....



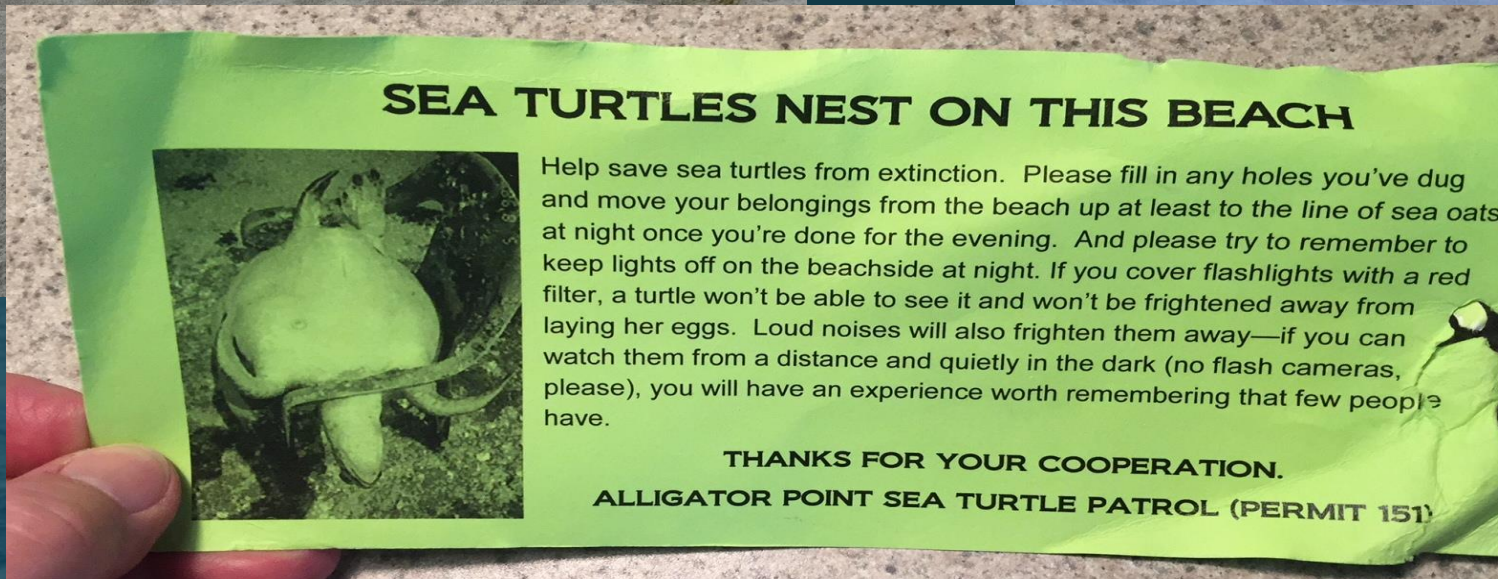


# A Frenzied Hatch





Hatchlings can be dispatched before they ever reach the water





All sea turtles and other marine life face death traps in the ocean daily.





Images shown courtesy of [BalloonsBlow.org](http://BalloonsBlow.org)

Latex balloons are not biodegradable and the ribbons deadly.







Plastic is deadly nutritious. Please use less.



Remnants of oil spills **contaminate** the ocean and our beaches years after they occur.







A pristine beach at first glance – in reality is not





[illegible]



Please be a trustee of the ocean so the Cycle of Life continues....





*“The beauty of art has the ability to draw people in and touch the soul in ways that education becomes seamless and brings many dividends in public awareness. No time should be lost in bringing greater awareness to the harm and even eradication of sea turtles and indeed, all marine life, caused by oil spills, pollution, and trash, almost exclusively brought on by human action. Ever prevalent oil spills only serve to remind and further highlight how fragile and vulnerable our wild native spaces are. I feel a special need to bring attention to how our actions negatively affect ocean life.” Kathleen Sheard*



## How You Can Help Make a Difference

At Clearwater Marine Aquarium they have 3 Rs: [Rescue](#), [Rehab and Release](#); but there are also 3 R's to remember for conservation: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

- Avoid using disposable plastics whenever possible.
- Don't use personal-care products containing "microbeads."
- Never litter, and always make sure trash is properly disposed.
- Pick up any plastic bottles or trash you find.
- Get involved in and organize beach cleanups.
- Use reusable groceries bags and other reusable items.
- Carry a reusable to-go beverage container instead of disposable cups or water bottles.
- Try reusable metal or glass straw alternatives.
- Recycle as much as possible.

Learn more specific ways you can help keep our oceans free of marine debris at [marinedebris.noaa.gov](https://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov)






A tremendous thank you to my team who worked with me to bring this project to its completion. Without the support and passion of these individuals, who believe in conservation, saving turtles and taking care of this earth, I would have not been able to finish this vision to help educate the next generation on preserving wildlife.

Thank you to the marine conservation groups and multitude of volunteers that work tirelessly to preserve all oceans daily.





SPECIAL THANKS to all the photographers who graciously let me use their images, for this presentation.

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- And the countless others who have donated in kind or donations so that this conservation art educational project continues its journey. THANK YOU.





On to my next Sea Turtle Conservation Art and Education Adventure.....