

## Newsletter #1

**SUPPORT  
PROJECTWHOI**  
TurtleCam Tidbits



**FIRST TURTLE  
TAGGED AND  
FOLLOWED BY AUV**



**RICK GALAT'S IDEA  
OF THE TURTLECAM  
TEAM**



**ENDANGERED  
LEATHERBACKS  
NEED CONSERVATION**

# PROJECT TURTLECAM



## UPDATE

Kara and I wanted to write you with an update on Project TurtleCam. It has been a busy fall for me, with son #2 arriving and the development of a deeper diving SharkCam-600 complete. We've also been able to write three proposals to federal agencies this fall, thanks to our donors in getting our project off the ground. With the \$10,795 (way to surpass our goal!) we raised with your generous support, the TurtleCam team was able to tag its first turtle in the open ocean. It was truly an amazing experience and we proved that it was possible to

**Kara and Mike  
Dodge along with  
Amy Kukulya head  
out at sunrise to  
tag our first turtle**

track and film these beautiful creatures with REMUS. Now I know why there aren't many people out there who can do it....it isn't easy!! But our efforts are needed to do our part to help conserve these majestic turtles.

## What we accomplished:

- ▶ Tagged one Leatherback in two days of operations thanks to the watchful mariners who reported sightings in the Cape Cod area. For our local supporters, please report sea turtle sightings to 1-888-SEA-TURT or use your phone to submit an online report at <http://www.seaturtlesightings.org/>. *These reports have been integral to our success in finding these elusive turtles!*
- ▶ Learned that we need to create a suction cup sleeve (versus a tether) for the tag in order to get better results with acoustic tracking and have minimal to no impact on the turtle's natural behavior. We want to eliminate movement of the tag so the turtle doesn't even notice that it is there!

What we have in the works:

- ▶ Develop tether-free suction cup tag mount
- ▶ 3 days of operations are possible thanks to the generous support of a WHOI Trustee in field season 2016
- ▶ Many talks are in the works to discuss our project results and plans (please check our websites for updates if you are interested in attending)

## Talks and other items:



▶ February 10 from 6-8 pm - Cape Wildlife Lecture Series - Kara Dodge will be the keynote speaker discussing turtle research off Cape Cod. This event will be held at the Cape Cod Brewery

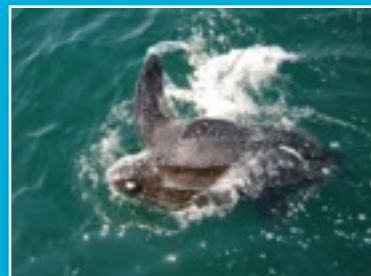
▶ We were invited to submit our TurtleCam video to Ocean 180 video challenge, thanks to UnderCurrent Productions

- ▶ If you haven't yet, please watch our project video:

<https://vimeo.com/142507420>

On a similar and very exciting note, I am currently traveling to a remote white shark destination where TurtleCam will get some good exercise testing brand new algorithms and capabilities. Some things that we hope to accomplish are night tracking, dynamic speed control and longer tracks. Discovery Channel is funding this effort and we hope to be able to share exciting data with you in the new year. Happy holidays to all and thank you for your support!

## Robots, Jellies and Turtles, oh my



Atlantic sea nettles (pictured here) are just one "flavor" of jellyfish eaten by leatherbacks. These turtles travel thousands of miles every year to feast on jellyfish in New England. Understanding feeding behavior is critical to conservation efforts.