

Diamondback Terrapins Long Island Work Group

Terrapin Watch: Citizen Scientists Needed

Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) are native Long Island turtles that were once common throughout our estuaries. But habitat modification (i.e. bulkheads) and other impacts such as hazardous road crossings and crab pot entanglement have reduced their populations significantly. To better protect them, scientists and conservationists need help gathering information about their breeding and feeding habitats from late May to early August. Join Terrapin Watch today and help us survey beaches and near-shore waters for these iconic estuarine turtles!

I.D. Tips

Diamondback terrapins get their name from the diamond-shaped plates on their top shell, which can be grey to a brownish black. Their body is light in color with dark spots ranging from their head down to their neck. Look for their webbed feet and large, distinctive lips (that give them their nickname as the “turtle with the clown lips”). Also, if you are out on a boat or paddle board, make sure to keep an eye out for these turtles basking in the sun or a bobbing head in the water, it might be a terrapin swimming (see image on right)!

While walking the shorelines of our bays, look closely for evidence of terrapin activity. Tracks, test holes and nests discovered by predators also tell us about a terrapin's whereabouts and favored nesting sites.



**Become
a Citizen
Scientist
Today!**



Scan or
click this
code to
take part
in Terrapin
Watch

Important Info



Please do not handle wildlife unless absolutely necessary (i.e. road crossing). If you find a turtle is injured, distressed or otherwise in need of assistance, please contact:

Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons
Jamesport, NY
(631) 779-3737

Volunteers for Wildlife
Locust Valley, NY
(516) 674-0982



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