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	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR: GEORGIA'S COASTAL WATERS CONTAIN A VAST ARRAY OF INCREDIBLE MARINE LIFE. WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR MOST NOTABLE MARINE ANIMALS, AS WELL AS A FEW THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE AWARE OF. NEXT ON GEORGIA OUTDOORS</p>
	<p>>> FEMALE NARRATOR: FUNDING FOR GEORGIA OUTDOORS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MARY HALL SINGLETON, AND BY THE IMLAY FOUNDATION</p>
	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR: MOST OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE IS COVERED BY WATER...OVER SEVENTY PERCENT. THE ALLURE OF WHAT LIES BENEATH OUR OCEANS - THE ENDLESS PARADE OF SPECIES, COMPLEX ECOSYSTEMS, AND UNCHARTED HABITATS, HAS INSPIRED WONDER, AWE, FEAR, AND RESPECT FOR CENTURIES.</p> <p>THOUGH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE LIFE IS FAR MORE REFINED TODAY THAN IN TIMES PAST, MYSTERIES STILL REMAIN ABOUT THE DELICATE WEB OF LIFE BENEATH THE OCEAN'S SURFACE. GEORGIA'S COAST HOSTS A VARIETY OF SPECIES, SOME WELL KNOWN AND OFTEN SEEN, OTHERS MORE OBSCURE BUT NO LESS FASCINATING. MUCH OF THE DIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S MARINE LIFE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO OUR UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY...</p>
	<p>>> Woodward: Georgia is located in an area that's referred to as the central south Atlantic bite, Because of our location in the central south Atlantic bite.. That mixing zone creates a range of habitats all the way from fresh tidal to ocean water salinities, so just about anything you can think of we've got a little bit of it in coastal Georgia.</p>
	<p>The wide diversity of sea life in Georgia, you can divide it out into the vertebrates and invertebrates...typically the vertebrates are a more advanced animal life form, less abundant than the invertebrates. The invertebrates are things we think about like crustaceans such as blue crabs, sand dollars...sea pansies, just a whole variety of organisms who their populations probably numbers in the millions billions and trillions of animals, and then the vertebrates you move over to the fishes, the modern fishes..., king mackerel, species like that. Then the reptiles...sea turtles are the most prominent in the reptile fauna in the ocean...the sharks are sort of in between the vertebrates and invertebrates because they have cartilaginous skeletons but they are still classified as vertebrates. Then you've got the marine mammals, the bottlenose dolphins, the variety of whales that transit through our waters. The right whale being the one that most associated with coastal Georgia</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: FROM CORALS, TO JELLYFISH, TO CRABS AND SHRIMP, INVERTEBRATES INHABIT EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF OCEAN HABITAT, AND FORM THE FOUNDATION OF THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM. MARINE INVERTIBRATES IN CLUDE MOLLUSKS LIKE CLAMS AND OYSTERS, ECONODERMS SUCH AS STARFISH AND CRUSTACEANS. SHRIMP AND CRAB ARE TWO CRUSTECEANS THAT HAVE BECOME SYN ONOMOUS WITH COASTAL GEORGIA...WHETHER SHRIMPING WITH A CAST NET, A SANE NET, OR SETTING A CRAB TRAP, SHRIMPING AND CRABBING HAVE LONG BEEN TRADITIONAL PASTTIMES ON THE COAST, BUT JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, POPULATION OF THESE CREATURES SEEMED IMPERIL PARTICULARLY ONE OF OUR MOST RECOGNIZED CRAB SPECIES, THE BLUE CRAB.</p>
	<p>>> Woodward: The prolonged drought that we experienced in coastal Georgia</p>

	<p>from the late 90's to the early part of the 21st century had a devastating impact on the blue crab. Our scientific surveys indicated that the population declined to about 90 percent off the long-term average. We took some extra measures to protect the blue crab population; we prohibited the harvest of egg bearing females. That prohibition is currently still in effect...population is back now, we've got an abundance of blue crab in our waters, but it's a keystone species, and during the drought people became a lot more sensitive to the fact that an animal that once appeared to be virtually unlimited in abundance could drastically decline when environmental conditions were unfavorable.</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: ONE OF OUR COASTAL CRABS ISN'T A CRAB AT ALL. GEORGIA'S BEACHES ARE HOME TO THE HORSESHOE CRAB.</p>
	<p>>>Brochman: Well, they are a very ancient creature ...been around for literally millions and millions of years. Externally physically unchanged...got through all of those mass extinctions. There's nothing that's really closely related. They're not crabs at all, they're more closely related to arachnids and scorpions and things like that.</p>
	<p>For some reason people have this belief that they can be harmed by them and this is completely untrue, that tail, that long tail is so that they can right themselves. They stick the tail into the ground and flip themselves over so it's not a defensive thing at all...</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: THOUGH THEY SPEND MUCH OF THEIR LIVES IN OFF-SHORE WATERS, HORSESHOE CRABS CAN OCCASIONALLY BE FOUND WANDERING OUR BEACHES... IN THE SPRING, HORESESHOE CRABS COME TO THE BEACH IN VAST NUMBERS TO SPAWN.</p>
	<p>>>Brochman: Horse shoe crabs nest on the highest tides that are available during a month. The sort of basic pattern is that there's a female who swims toward shore The males are swimming around off shore, they're attracted to these females, they grab a hold, they hold on to the spines on the back of the females and then the two of them go ashore...when they get to the shore, the female digs down into the sand...when she gets down a little ways, she starts to lay eggs.... The eggs are actually fertilized outside the body. Males will come in on many tides, so there are always more males than females. And those extra males, they come and gather around this spawning pair...they sit there and just dump sperm underneath here so that when she lays eggs there's sperm both from the attached male and the satellite males.</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: EACH FEMALE LAYS UP TO 80,000 EGGS IN THE SAND AT A TIME, A DELICIOUS MEAL FOR MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS. IN THE UNITED STATES, DELAWARE BAY IS FAMOUS FOR ITS HORSESHOE CRAB SPAWNING EVENT. THOUSANDS OF BIRDS DESCEND UPON THE BEACHES EACH YEAR. RECENTLY, BIOLOGISTS HAVE DISCOVERED GEORGIA IS HOME TO A SIMILAR PHENOMENON.</p>
	<p>>>Winn: It's a well studied phenomenon up in the mid Atlantic states, but we didn't have a clue that it was actually going on here. <i>But</i>, we started seeing large concentrations of shorebirds in remote areas on the Georgia coast clearly feeding on horseshoe crab eggs.... We still know very little about it. We know that horseshoe crab spawning sites are dispersed throughout the coast There isn't one huge concentration area, but the shorebirds know about it. it's a matter of timing with the shorebirds coming north and getting ready to fly even further north up into Canada and the high arctic, even as far away as Alaska...</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: THIS GROUP OF TEACHERS IS GETTING A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THIS AMAZING PHENOMENON AT THE GREEN EGGS AND SAND WORKSHOP, LED BY SOME OF THE TOP HORSESHOE CRAB EXPERTS IN THE COUNTRY.</p>
	<p>>>Kunce: Horseshoe Crabs are really interesting because they are considered to</p>

	<p>be living fossils...and to know that this little critter has survived for so long and we've had so many other species become extinct and things that it's interesting now to see how humans have affected it. And they've also been able to really put up with humans...and they're just cool, I mean you flip them over and it's like whoa, what is this thing? It's got all these legs and pincers...so, we should definitely study and get to know more about them...</p> <p>>>They're coming up from the southern part of South America, Argentina, (?), the very south tip. They're working their way north now; imagine they're coming up probably in Brazil, or a little bit farther north.</p>
	<p>>>Graves: Just being out on the beach with them while they're spawning, seeing the eggs, seeing how the shorebirds are utilizing the eggs and being able to be in the presence of some of the most well- respected horseshoe crab biologists as all this is going on.</p>
	<p>>>Brochman: Horseshoe crab blood for some reason...there's a biochemical reaction from hsc blood with any toxins that come off of bacteria. Bacteria produce toxins, horseshoe crab blood is able to recognize those toxins, and it's extremely sensitive, so it is now used as the standard....so any type of injection...anything that goes into your body, hip replacements...all of those things are now tested to make absolutely certain...so it's a very accurate and valuable test for picking up on whether things are being produced in a completely sanitary way.</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: THE HORSESHOE CRAB IS NOT THE ONLY CREATURE ALONG THE GEORGIA SHORELINE THAT HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. STURGEON ARE SOME OF OUR OLDEST FISH. BECAUSE OF ITS VALUE FOR CAVIAR, STURGEON POPULATIONS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE BECOME ENDANGERED. DOUG PETERSON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA HAS BEEN CONDUCTING LONG-TERM RESEARCH ON THE POPULATION OF STURGEON AT THE MOUTH OF THE ALTAMAHA RIVER.</p>
	<p>>>PETERSON: Sturgeons are different from other fishes in that they're a very primitive species. Sturgeons have been around for hundreds of millions of years dating back to the age of dinosaurs. They're unlike our traditional bony fishes like small mouth bass or large mouth bass because they have a cartilaginous skeleton and large armored plates called scoots on the outside of their body that gives them that prehistoric dinosaur-like appearance.</p>
	<p>We have two sturgeon projects currently underway in the Altamaha river system. The first of these is focusing on the Atlantic sturgeon. The species is federally protected now and has been since 1996. Unfortunately, over fishing pushed many populations to the brink of extinction...</p>
	<p>We're also looking at shortnosed sturgeon...they're federally protected under the endangered species act and have been since the 1970's...short nosed populations suffered from exploitation and habitat destruction, primarily the construction of dams...so our study on shortnose is focusing on the current status of the population, their biology, their life history and their habitat requirements here in the Altamaha river system</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: IN ORDER TO TRACK THE POPULATION, PETERSON AND HIS TEAM OF STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA CONDUCT A NUMBER OF TESTS, AND AFFIX RADIO TRANSMITTERS TO SOME OF THE LARGER SPECIMENS.</p>
	<p>>>Peterson: What we learn from this data is not only how many fish are in the river, but we also learn what their probable population growth will be...now it looks like the altamaha population is recovering after a century of commercial exploitation. They've been protected for 10 years and we're seeing lots of juveniles and lots of young adults returning to spawn each year...</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: LIKE OTHER ANCIENT FISH, STURGEON DO NOT HAVE</p>

	<p>TRUE BONES...INSTEAD THEIR SKELETON IS MADE UP OF SOFT CARTLIDGE. ANOTHER, MORE INFAMOUS FAMILY OF CARTILAGENOUS FISHES ROAM THE SEAS AS WELL...SHARKS, RAYS, AND SKATES HAVE ALSO BEEN OCEAN RESIDENTS FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS. SHARKS IN PARTICULAR ARE TRUE MARVELS OF EVOLUTION, HAVING ADAPTED TO PERFECTLY FIT THEIR IMPORTANT NICHE IN THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM.</p>
	<p>>>Belcher: They're basically an apex predator...top of the food chain, so they help maintain an ecological balance...when you think about a cascade pyramid, obviously you start at the bottom with bait fishes, there's lots and lots of bait fishes because you're feeding the next tier up so it goes on up the line. If you remove the top of the chain or remove the sharks, you end up with problems at your middle levels where you wouldn't have a species that was normally dominant...all of a sudden it would take off and could be causing a problem in the ecological system</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: THOUGH SHARKS OFTEN INSPIRE FEAR, YOU ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTENING THAN ATTACKED BY A SHARK. IN FACT, SHARKS WILL GENERALLY AVOID HUMANS. STILL, IT'S BEST TO AVOID SWIMMING OR WADING IN THE OCEAN AT DAWN OR DUSK. HUMAN - SHARK INTERACTION IN GEORGIA IS RARE...YOUR BEST CHANCE OF SEEING A ONE OF THESE MAGNIFICENT CREATURES IN OUR STATE IS ON THE END OF YOUR FISHING LINE.</p>
	<p>>>Woodward: Sharks are one of those things that are universally appealing to fishermen...especially those who grew up fishing in fresh water. They always sort of equate salt water fishing to matching wits with a shark. And species like black tips and spinners, they get up to five and six feet, is the common size, and can weigh 50 to 75 pounds which is a pretty formidable foe on the tackle we typically use...30 pound clasp tackle. We see a lot of other sharks in coastal Georgia that don't grow as large as black tips and spinners, the scalloped hammerheads, the bonnetheads, Atlantic sharp nose...we have a wide diversity of shark species in coastal Georgia</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: EVEN IF SHARKS AREN'T WHAT YOU'RE OUT FISHING FOR, YOU'RE LIKELY TO HOOK ONE OF THESE DETERMINED FISH IN GEORGIA WATERS...</p>
	<p>>>Woodward: Well today we're out. We're shark fishing and tarpon fishing out on Ossabaw Sound. The tarpon occur in the same habitats that we find a lot of our larger coastal sharks. So any time you go out for a day of tarpon fishing, you can pretty much assume that you're going to have an opportunity to catch sharks too.</p> <p>One thing that anglers need to always consider is safety when they're handling sharks and their cousin, stingrays. Sharks obviously have sharp teeth and lots of them, So the best way to handle a shark, if you're not going to keep the shark is to cut the leader as close to the hook as you can and leave the hook in the shark unless it is very easy for you to remove the hook from that shark</p>
	<p>>>NARRATOR: AS MOST ANGLERS WILL TELL YOU, HOOKING A STING RAY IS ALSO QUITE A CHALLENGE. THESE BOTTOM DWELLING COUSINS OF THE SHARK ARE ALSO A COMMON SIGHT ALONG OUR COAST.</p>
	<p>>>Woodward: Stingrays are another one of those animals that lives in coastal Georgia waters that people kind of have a love/ hate relationship with. They're really cool animals to look at, but yet people are justifiably a little fearful of them because of the potential for injury. Pretty much all of our stingrays, with a few rare exceptions, have a barb on their tail, so they have the potential to inflict a wound to a human being. The conventional practice is to shuffle your feet along the bottom so that you can make contact with the stingray in a non-threatening</p>

	<p>manner. Instead of stepping directly on the top of it, you sort of bump it and they'll swim off harmlessly. They're not aggressive to human beings. We've got several species. Some of them grow to very large sizes: cow nosed rays, spotted eagle rays. Southern stingrays can be 4 or 5 feet across in the wings.</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE RAY SPECIES IN COASTAL GEORGIA IS THE MANTA RAY... THESE WERE SPOTTED AROUND GRAY'S REEF, A NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY. MORE THAN MERE OUTCROPS, REEFS ARE A LIVING PART OF THE OCEAN ECOSYSTEM. TEAMING WITH A WIDE DIVERSITY OF CORALS, ANEMONES, AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES AND REEFS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL HABIT FOR FISH AND OTHER VERTEBRATES.</p>
	<p>>> Bohne: Gray's reef is an area that is 17 miles off of Sapelo Island. The central portion of the Georgia Coast, and it's 60 to 70 feet deep, a beautiful area of live bottom habitat which is rock outcroppings that are covered with invertebrates and other sea life. A very colorful area to visit if you're a scuba diver, and that habitat in turn creates a whole food chain so you have a variety of fish and even marine mammals that you'll find at gray's reef, and sea turtles. Just a great area to dive and explore.</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: GRAY'S REEF ISN'T THE ONLY STRUCTURE ON GEORGIA'S OCEAN FLOOR. OVER THE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS CREATED A SERIES OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS WHICH ALSO PROVIDE FOR FISH.</p>
	<p>>> Ansley: Why do we need artificial reefs? Well for Georgia, our outer continental shelf until you get to the gulf stream is about 80 miles wide. And, most of the shelf is just gradual, it's flat, mostly sand and shell. There's very little natural reef area on there – basically we needed more reef communities near shore, for fishermen.</p>
	<p>Well, the main purpose of Georgia's reef program has been to provide more accessible fishing opportunities – offshore fishing opportunities for fishermen. And, that continues to be our primary purpose.</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: FISHERMEN IN GEORGIA KNOW THAT ARTIFICIAL REEFS AS PRIME LOCATIONS FOR CATCHING GAME FISH LIKE KING MACKEREL AND SHEEPSHEAD. SALT WATER FISHING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF COASTAL LIVING, BOTH CULTURALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT GAME FISH IN GEORGIA. ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER IS THE RED DRUM, RECENTLY NAMED THE STATE SALT WATER FISH BY THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE.</p>
	<p>>> Woodward: The red drum, also known as the red fish or spot tail bass to local anglers is one of our most popular salt-water sport fish species in coastal Georgia. It's a very unique animal in that it's a very long-lived fish. In Georgia we documented red drum to live in excess of 40 years. Fishermen like them because they're a hard fighting fish, but yet they can be caught in a variety of matters. So it's got a little bit of something for everybody.</p>
	<p>>> FEMALE NARRATOR: WHETHER IT'S SHRIMPING AND CRABING, MATCHING WITS WITH A KING MACKEREL OR ANGLING FOR LARGE MOUTH BASS, A GEORGIA FISHING LICENSE ALLOWS YOU TO ENJOY ALL THE DIVERSE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES GEORGIA HAS TO OFFER. FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES CAN BE PURCHASED AT OVER 1000 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. AND PROCEEDS HELP PAY FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS, LIKE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND GAME POPULATIONS, (?), MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING OF PUBLIC FISHING AREAS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BUYING A FISHING LICENSE, VISIT THIS WEBSITE...</p>

	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR: SOME OF THE MOST HEART WARMING SIGHTS ALONG THE WATERS OF GEORGIA'S COAST ARE GLIMPSES OF OUR CLOSEST RELATIVES IN THE OCEAN...THE MARINE MAMMALS. THOUGH A RARE SIGHT, WHALES AND MANATEES CAN OCCASIONALLY BE SEEN NAVIGATING GEORGIA WATERS. A FAR MORE COMMON SIGHT IN COASTAL GEORGIA IS THE PLAYFUL AND CURIOUS ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN. THIS GROUP IS WITH THE DOLPHIN PROJECT, A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION TRACKING THE POPULATION OF BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS IN GEORGIA.</p>
	<p>>>Lapolla: In the mid 1980s there was a dolphin die off along the east coast, and literally dozens of dolphin were washing up dead on the shores. At the time, nobody knew what was happening or why. There were theories, and as it turns out, there really wasn't a lot of information concerning dolphin at this time. So in 1988, a group of people in Atlanta got together and actually pulled together some of the leading scientists in dolphin research and developed the dolphin project as an all-volunteer organization.</p>
	<p>>>Keenoy: The dolphin project does two different types of surveys. One is the abundance survey, and that is for the purpose of counting the relative number of dolphin in a specified zone. The abundance survey not only counts the relative number, but also their behavior. We observe if there are any infants or juveniles and all of it is then transposed into a database for the scientific community to use. The photo survey is specifically to get close-up shots of their dorsal fin, which serves as their fingerprint.</p>
	<p>>>Albrecht: I got involved with the dolphin project because I saw an article in our local paper <i>about</i>, 13 years ago; went to the training; found it very interesting, and I've been a part of it ever since.</p>
	<p>>>Fielder: This was my first trip. The fact that it was kind of a non-profit organization and it was volunteers and all of the information was coming to the science center was really interesting to me.</p>
	<p>>>Keenoy: Um, for me, I think it's their face for me. I mean they look like-- when you look at them, and sometimes I've had encounters where it's eye-to-eye encounters, and it's totally awesome.</p>
	<p>>>Bedell: Probably because they're just so friendly and they always seem to look like they're smiling, even though that's just the shape of their mouth. But I think that and just that they will approach humans and that they're just such a friendly animal.</p>
	<p>>>Lapolla: when you're in a boat and and the dolphin comes up and makes eye contact with you, You know the dolphin is looking at you--- and it's just a one-to-one connection that you don't find with most animals.</p>
	<p>>>Keenoy: For me, the selling point is contributing to the knowledge. Whether it be their numbers, whether it be observing whether they're resident pods, resident individuals or traveling. we work, but it's very enjoyable.</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE, AN ENDANGERED SPECIES, IS ANOTHER GEORGIA MARINE MAMMAL THAT GETS A LOT OF ATTENTION. STUDIES SUGGEST THAT ONLY 300 TO 350 OF THESE COUSINS TO THE BLUE AND GRAY WHALE REMAIN. GEORGIA WATERS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL REPRODUCTIVE HABITAT FOR THESE CREATURES</p>
	<p>>>George: Each Fall, the right whales that are pregnant, migrate all the way down the Atlantic Coast hugging closely along the continental shelf, and they come down here to spend the winter months and give birth to calves, and once the calves are to the point where they can make the migration back, they return in March and April back to the waters off New England and the Canadian Maritimes.</p>
	<p>>> NARRATOR: THE RIGHT WHALE POPULATION WAS DECIMATED</p>

	DECADES AGO DUE TO OVER HUNTING, BUT THE RIGHT WHALE IS NOW A PROTECTED SPECIES.
	>>George: The right whales are a federally endangered species. The primary issue that the public needs to be aware of is actually the 500-Yard No Approach Rule. Which means, if you're on the water boating and you see a right whale and you feel that you're in close proximity to it, you need to back off and keep your distance from it or you're actually technically breaking federal rules.
	>>NARRATOR: GEORGIA WATERS ARE ALSO HOME TO ANOTHER CHARISMATIC THREATENED SPECIES – THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE.
	>>Dodd: The life cycle of loggerheads is really something fantastic, and really, up until very recently, there were several chapters of the story that we just had no idea what happened., the lifecycle sort of begins on a Georgia beach at night, and these large nesting females, that can weigh up to 300 pounds, lumber out of the water, and dig a hole in the sand, and drop approximately 115 eggs. They might do that, uh, four or five times during a three-month period. And then they leave for the season. And so the eggs develop in the sand for approximately 60 days., the hatchlings emerge at night, so as soon as they emerge, there's just a whole series of threats that they face. The hatchlings move pretty quickly once they come out of the nest.
	We've actually done quite a bit of work looking at the status of the population. So on some of our beaches, we have data that goes back 30 years, what the data suggests is approximately a 1.5% decline annually over that time period. And that doesn't sound like a lot, but when you look over 30 years, you've lost a significant portion of your population. And it's like a compound interest rate; it just multiplies on itself. And so there's a lot of concern about the status of the loggerhead's population in Georgia.
	>>NARRATOR: LOGGERHEADS, LIKE ALL SEA TURTLES, ARE REPTILES AND MUST BREATHE AIR TO SURVIVE, BUT THEY CANNOT SURVIVE OUT OF WATER FOR VERY LONG. OCCASIONALLY, SICK LOGGERHEADS LIKE THIS ONE ARE FOUND STRANDED ON THE BEACH. IF RESCUED, STRANDED TURTLES MUST UNDERGO A PROCESS OF REHABILITATION BEFORE RETURNING TO THE WILD. NORMALLY, SICK OR INJURED GEORGIA TURTLES ARE SENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA OR FLORIDA FOR REHABILITATION, BUT CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY TO BUILD A SEA TURTLE REAHABILITATION CENTER ON JECKYLL ISLAND. DR. TERRY NORTON HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN GETTING THE CENTER ESTABLISHED.
	>>Norton: We probably get about 10 to 15 turtles a year. We expect that the Georgia Sea Turtle Center will probably see turtles from northeastern Florida as well as potentially other surrounding states as needed. ...
	>>NARRATOR: ONCE THE CENTER IS ESTABLISHED, TURTLES LIKE THIS ONE WILL HAVE A PLACE TO GO IN GEORGIA...AS WE'VE SEEN, THE SEA TURTLE IS BUT ONE OF GEORGIA'S MAJESTIC SEA CREATURES, AND UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF SPECIES LIKE THIS HELPS US TO BETTER UNDERSAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS.
	>>Woodward: The diversity of life in the oceans has always been something that's been very intriguing to man. When you look at wildlife on the land and in the air and in fresh water, but when you move into the ocean, it comes in all shapes and sizes and descriptions...Over time we've become much more knowledgeable and much more sensitive to the fact that our life on dry land is linked to life in the ocean and if we're good stewards of what's in the ocean, then the benefits are going to come back to us and our life on land is probably going to be very enriched by that.
	>>FEMALE NARRATOR: FUNDING FOR GEORGIA OUTDOORS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MARY HALL SINGLETON, AND BY THE IMLAY FOUNDATION

