

## **The Oceanic Movements of Yoshi, an Adult Female Loggerhead Turtle, Released After 20 Years in Captivity**

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1. Two Oceans Aquarium

The Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town, South Africa, was home to a female loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) for just over 20 years. The juvenile turtle, named Yoshi, was rescued in 1997 and weighed only 2 kilograms on arrival. By 2009 the Two Oceans Aquarium increased its turtle rehabilitation efforts significantly and over the following 8 years rescued, rehabilitated and released more than 450 sea turtles of all 5 species found along the Southern African coastline. In 2015 two adult hawksbill turtles were satellite tagged before release and successfully tracked for 14 months post release. These positive results gave the Two Oceans Aquarium confidence to prepare Yoshi, by then weighing 170 kilograms, for release. Yoshi was tagged with a SPOT-293A satellite transmitter and released off Cape Point (34°31'44.72"S; 18°7'18.24"E) on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. Since her release Yoshi has moved up the west coast of Africa covering more than 5000 kilometers. She has maintained an average speed of 1.1 km/hr. The media coverage and support the Two Oceans Aquarium received due to the release of this legendary sea turtle has been tremendous and has contributed greatly to increasing marine conservation awareness and the plight of sea turtles worldwide.