

## Washed up marine turtle identified

The unidentified sea turtle which was handed over into the capable hands of those at the Shark Aquarium situated at the Point in Mossel Bay after it washed up onto Wildernis beach two weeks ago, has been identified.

The Hawksbill, cold-blooded marine turtle has recovered well and will soon be transferred to the Port Elizabeth Bayworld Marine Aquarium where they have the best equipment and facilities for this type of rehabilitation.

Hawksbill marine turtles are rarely found in this area. They are from the tropical and subtropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. The species is widely distributed in the Caribbean Sea and western Atlantic Ocean.

As an adult, the hawksbill may reach up to 3 feet in length and weigh up to 300 pounds, although adults more commonly average about 2½ feet in length.



Adam Johnstone from Oceans Research in Mossel Bay holding the Hawksbill marine turtle which will soon be transferred to PE after being rehabilitated at the Shark Aquarium in Mossel Bay.

*Photo: Melissa Hills*