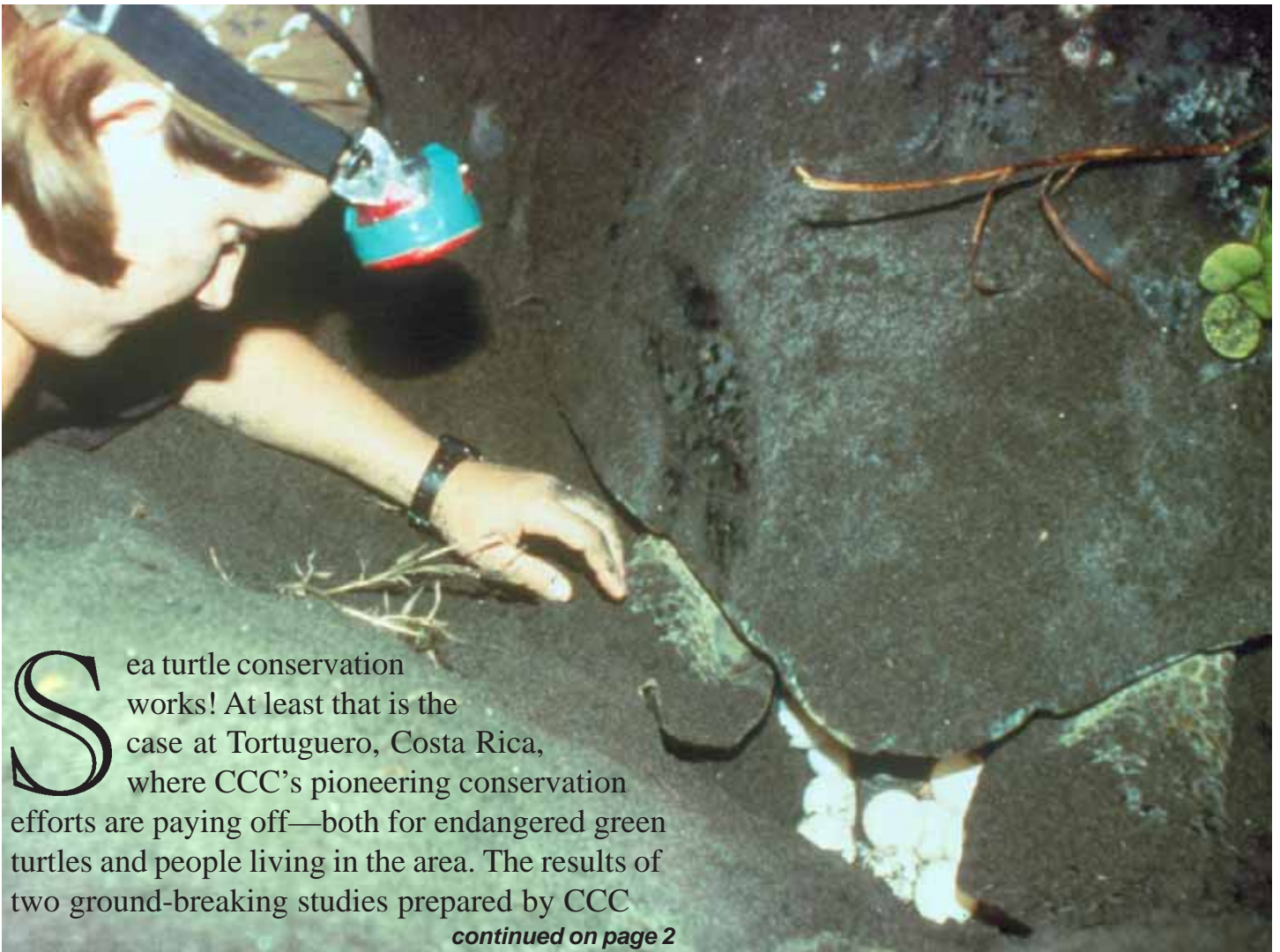


VELADOR

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats since 1959

Issue 2, 2004

Money Talks and Turtles Prosper, CCC's Tortuguero Efforts Have Global Impact



Sea turtle conservation works! At least that is the case at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, where CCC's pioneering conservation efforts are paying off—both for endangered green turtles and people living in the area. The results of two ground-breaking studies prepared by CCC

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from cover

staff in May 2004 emphasize how incredibly successful the cornerstone of the organization's conservation work has really been.

The first study, written by CCC Scientific Director Sebastian Troëng and titled "Money Talks: Economic Aspects of Marine Turtle Use and Conservation," was funded and published by the World Wildlife Fund. This global study analyzed gross revenue from the consumptive use of sea turtles for eggs, meat and other products and compared that to gross revenue from non-consumptive sea turtles use, mainly in the form of tourism to observe turtles on nesting beaches and in the water. Revenue from tourism was nearly three times greater than revenue from consumptive use at 18 case study sites in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Tortuguero, where Dr. Archie Carr began work in 1955 and where CCC has carried out the research and conservation program since its founding in 1959, is the case study site at which sea turtle use generates the greatest revenue. The nesting green turtles are an important tourism attraction in Tortuguero National Park, and each year thousands of tourists come to visit the place to observe endangered green turtles lay their eggs. In 2002, as many as 26,292 tourists paid to go on guided sea turtle walks. On average, these tourists collectively spend \$6.7 million (US) each year during their visits, turning sea turtle tourism into the



Zelmira Williams, a local tour guide, shines a red filtered flashlight to show a group of tourists the eggs as they drop into the nest of a green sea turtle in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

region's most important economic activity. At Tortuguero, local tour guides proudly state that a live green turtle brings in more money through tourism than the hunting of turtles for meat and eggs.

The economic study also pointed out that developing countries stand most to loose from sea turtle decline and have most to win from successful conservation. Two-thirds of the countries studied have at least one species of sea turtle that through tourism and other activities can produce income and employment.

This economic assessment of turtle conservation was the first large-scale study of its kind, and it is having a significant impact around the world. The publication was reported on by newspapers and TV media on six continents, and natural resource managers around the world are accessing the study to help guide decision making.

In addition to the Money Talks report, CCC staff conducted a study analyzing the status of the Tortuguero green turtle colony itself. Green turtle nest surveys conducted since 1971 were analyzed, and the results were reported



VELADOR {bel.a.dor}

In Caribbean cultures, **Velador** translates as "one who stands vigil" — originally referring to turtle and egg harvesters who waited at night for turtles to come ashore. Now CCC claims this title for its newsletter, and around the Caribbean, CCC's researchers and volunteers are replacing poachers as the new veladors.

Velador is published for members and supporters of the nonprofit **Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC)** and its **Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL)** program.

CCC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles through research, training, advocacy, education and the protection of habitats.

STSL is the US-based public awareness, advocacy and education program of the CCC.

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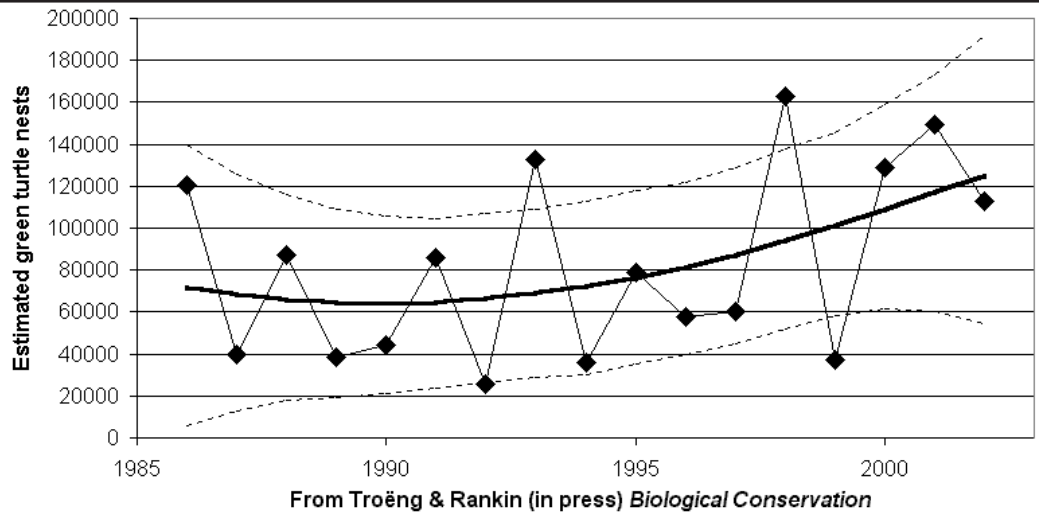
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in a paper published by the scientific journal *Biological Conservation* in May 2004. The trend analysis was based on nest census surveys conducted by locally hired CCC surveyors, most of whom have been members of Tortuguero's Rankin family. Their contribution to the Tortuguero program was recognized by the inclusion of the most recent Rankin track surveyor, Eddy, as one of the study's co-authors.

Centuries of hunting for meat, oil, skins and collection of eggs on nesting beaches reduced global green turtle populations to a point where the species is now considered endangered. In Tortuguero, however, the study found that green turtle nesting had increased an impressive 417% between 1971 and 2003! Major contributing factors to this positive trend include CCC's long-term monitoring and turtle protection program, Costa Rica's commitment to conservation and the country's willingness to take progressive steps to strengthen sea turtle protection within its borders. Since sea turtle research and conservation was initiated in Tortuguero by Dr. Carr and the CCC, the area has been declared a National Park; green turtle hunting and egg collection have been banned; and recent legislation established prison terms for those harming Costa Rica's sea turtles.

The study found that during the last five years an average of 104,411 green turtle nests have been deposited at Tortuguero each year. Since a nesting female turtle deposits several nests each season, it is estimated that between 17,402-37,290 adult female green turtles nest at Tortuguero each year. This establishes the nesting population as one of the two largest remaining green turtle rookeries in the world.

The nesting increase shows that long-term conservation efforts produce results and offers hope that recovery is possible for other species and populations of endangered sea turtles around the world. These findings also demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of CCC's work in



Green sea turtle nesting trend in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

the region.

Although both studies offer very good news, much work remains before the future of sea turtles can be considered secure. Green turtles, leatherbacks, hawksbills and other turtle species continue to face serious threats to their survival.

“Sub-adult green turtles are hunted extensively on their major feeding grounds in Nicaragua,” says Sebastian Troëng, lead author of both studies. “Due to the slow maturity of green turtles, the full impact of the Nicaraguan fishery may not be seen at the nesting beach in Tortuguero for several years. Sea turtles are shared resources that

must be managed through international cooperation. Our findings show that conservation works and that economic benefits from sea turtle tourism can be greater than those derived from turtle hunting.”

The publication of both these studies will mark 2004 as a milestone year in CCC's long-term efforts to protect sea turtles in Tortuguero and to promote sea turtle conservation worldwide. Working together, CCC and its members must build on these recent achievements and work together to recover sea turtles to their

former abundance—only then will sea turtles fulfill their important ecological roles in the marine and coastal ecosystems.

by Sebastian Troëng, CCC Scientific Director

The two studies described in this article are available for free through CCC's website at www.cccturtle.org. Find links to both papers: “Long-term conservation efforts contribute to positive green turtle *Chelonia mydas* nesting trend at Tortuguero, Costa Rica” & “Money Talks: Economics of Marine Turtle Use and Conservation.”



A female green turtle crawls back to the ocean after nesting in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

Adopted Sea Turtles Seen in 2003

Certificate of Adoption

Suzy Snowflake

has adopted a sea turtle named

Myrtle

Scientific Name
Chelonia mydas
Release Date
08/05/01
Location Tagged
Tortuguero, Costa Rica



Shell Length
88.5 cm
Approximate Weight
850-450 lbs
Status of Species
Endangered

Together we can ensure a future for our friends of the sea.



From July to September each year, Caribbean Conservation Corporation researchers and program participants tag and collect data on the green turtles that nest on the beaches of Tortuguero, Costa Rica. To help fund this important research, each tagged turtle is available for adoption with a \$25 contribution (\$35 outside of the U.S.). One of the goals of the Adopt-A-Turtle program is to keep adoptive "parents" informed when their adopted turtles turn up in Tortuguero.

During the 2003 tagging season, 190 of the thousands of green turtles that came ashore to nest had been adopted by our members. The turtles (identified by tag number) that came ashore were:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 21487 - Barlow | • 72282 - Ashley Reynolds | • 81346 - Madeline Singer | • 89784 - Linda Lee & Family |
| 27726 - Nicole Sherey | • 72331 - Danielle Flareau | • 81589 - Izaskun & Melchor Lladre | • 89862 - Jose Felipe & Quevedo Huerta |
| 28817 - Lori Fughum | • 72421 - Shane Robilliard | • 81594 - Lara Maerki | • 89903 - Juan Barnard Avila |
| 31073 - Catherine Edwards | • 72470 - Robert Eggers | • 81622 - Simona Barrovecchio | • 90219 - Patricio Gonzalo & Beltran Molas |
| 35320 - Stephanie O'Connor | • 72500 - Matthew Rochell | • 81626 - Claudia Bevacqua | • 90244 - Judith Epstein |
| 35569 - David Sprachman | • 72534 - Bruce & Deb Yockey | • 81741 - Roman Marecek | • 90302 - Sietshe Gans |
| 36900 - James McAgy | • 72555 - Alex Levitch | • 81840 - Tom Saraceni | • 90306 - Kate Muir |
| 40180 - Erica Brzoska | • 72752 - Hayden's | • 81860 - Jeremy Purcell | • 90399 - Michael Holyoak |
| 45154 - Matthew Morris | • 72768 - Gary Ludi | • 82025 - Eric Smith & Mary Lee York | • 90411 - Peter Jensen |
| 52132 - Mike Olinger | • 72905 - Alan Schulman | • 82049 - Girl Scout Troop 311 Brownies | • 90435 - Emily Poole |
| 52764 - Theresa Giocopasi | • 72967 - Amanda & Jessica Kramer | • 82111 - Tina Frohne | • 90444 - Nari Kennedy |
| 55020 - Tyler Harp | • 73364 - Sigmund Katz | • 82197 - Nicole Gunther | • 90510 - Carol Bustard-Burnside |
| 55888 - Robbie Lofland | • 73403 - Anja & Bernd Roeger | • 82221 - Michelle Cho | • 90522 - Jocelyn Henderson |
| 58411 - Ross Kremsdorf | • 73446 - Sheila Kramer | • 82285 - Lori Foster | • 90551 - Karen Polesir |
| 59056 - Barbara Born | • 73453 - Susie Tofani | • 82307 - Liselotte Van Wickeren | • 90612 - Maxwell Serano |
| 59097 - Chaz Brimie | • 73509 - Barbra Hughes | • 82473 - Dolores Donohoe | • 90637 - Tucan Group |
| 59277 - Bonne Kramer | • 73536 - Garnet Walker | • 82509 - Brownie Troop #157 | • 90675 - Caitlin & Meghan Inderwick |
| 59334 - Bill & Louise Houghton | • 73544 - Christopher & Peter Chace | • 82583 - Rio Torres | • 90692 - Kelsey Lein-Hayes |
| 59391 - Geoff Houghton & Caressa Gullickson | • 73602 - Helaine Isaacs | • 82657 - Matthew Miller | • 90694 - Sarah Lanomark |
| 59436 - Molleen Zanger | • 73720 - Richard Berkley | • 82674 - Kevin Caza | • 90696 - Judy Sturgis |
| 59521 - Leilani Tedeski | • 73933 - Anne Livolsi | • 82690 - Brenda Kivela | • 90760 - Ms. Campbell's Health Classes |
| 59567 - Terri Mitchell | • 74001 - Sue Gilfillan | • 82711 - Kim Whitney | • 90792 - Bruce Kaupanger |
| 59581 - Seamus Kennedy | • 74076 - El Momo Cottages | • 82875 - Glenn Mercer | • 90807 - Miss Siegelman's 3rd Grade Class |
| 59597 - Sandi & Howard Sweetin | • 74146 - Diane Campbell | • 82936 - Marlee & Nathan Galper | • 90834 - Melinda Caughill |
| 59652 - Amy Schwied | • 74334 - Jim & Becky Schroeder | • 83236 - D.K. Lovick | • 90908 - Kendra Svehlek |
| 59663 - Monica Stoney | • 74374 - Kiddy Kersden | • 83654 - Emma Tuskey | • 90920 - Cassandra Dunn |
| 59789 - Justin Slutzky | • 74488 - Matthew Castillo | • 83808 - Pat Harrison | • 90923 - The Greene Family |
| 62659 - Gina Grissom | • 74717 - Ted & Jeanie Dubinsky | • 83960 - Sonia Groves | • 90979 - Jennifer Cameron |
| 64452 - Marcia Reiter | • 74774 - Raymond & Stephanie Dommanschet | • 84260 - Austin Davidson | • 91047 - Zack Armstrong |
| 68583 - Paolo Facchetti | • 74890 - Elizabeth Foster | • 84282 - Michelle Pearson | • 91054 - Beth Novick |
| 69117 - Natalie Hinds | • 75026 - Wolf Elfriede | • 84437 - Tony & Beth Dambriunas | • 91076 - Emeline McHugh |
| 69803 - Allison Bathgate | • 75049 - Jo Beth Elliott | • 84819 - Katja Heinimann | • 91182 - Dan Dufford |
| 69848 - C. Lauren Arnold | • 75138 - Mauri Stott | • 84948 - Jennifer Bateman | • 91236 - Jennifer Erb |
| 69887 - Austin & Jeremy Patsy | • 75264 - Michelle Newton | • 85015 - Mitzi-Sue Marter | • 91504 - Ma. Angels Gil Araña & Antonio Cabrera Reyes |
| 70032 - Dorothy Goldfarb | • 75357 - Kay Spriggs | • 85036 - Michelle Long | • 91536 - Atom Arce |
| 70116 - Andy & Betsy Witthohn | • 75365 - Marie-Claude Gareau | • 85112 - Mrs. Mullens 4th Grade Class | • 91563 - Raymond Ho |
| 70153 - Marsha & Jack Bliven | • 75433 - Sarah & Yannick Fischer | • 85138 - M.J. Hall | • 91593 - Steven Bude |
| 70165 - Isabella E Fabrizio Vezzano | • 75543 - Tobi Sue Davis | • 85142 - Judie Weinstein | • 91629 - Gardiner Hall |
| 70217 - Reina Ellis | • 80459 - Larissa Hass | • 85309 - Carolyn Spence | |
| 70231 - Matt & Margaret Rightmire | • 80465 - Carol Strapple | • 85563 - Art & Diane Krassenstein | |
| 71101 - Patricia Callegary | • 80496 - Laura Trombley | • 85628 - Adriana Puig | |
| 71231 - Stefano Sestili | • 80527 - Sally & Amy Kilner | • 86653 - Jessica Beairsto | |
| 71297 - Claudia Jenni | • 80588 - Diane Hanna & Glenn Keltto | • 87414 - Annette Boehm | |
| 71615 - Jennifer Rutkowski | • 80625 - P.J. Maglione | • 89243 - Glen & Andrea Holman | |
| 71660 - Tina Altweg & Sukvua Grones | • 80875 - Brittany Murchie | • 89423 - Anne Stinson | |
| 71668 - Markus Ullrich | • 81096 - Charron Jocelynt | • 89480 - Ellen Fronik | |
| 71774 - Harry & Giselle Wenban | • 81114 - Chip Caughman | • 89513 - Andrea Mims | |
| 71788 - Mike Fried & Debbie Erickson | • 81256 - Justy & Bob Ragan | • 89515 - Tara Brosh | |
| 72159 - Bret Rycroft | • 81271 - Ingrid Barenthien | • 89665 - Jennifer Long | |
| 72177 - Marie-Rose Rechsteiner | • 81296 - Kelvin Magoon | • 89744 - Kaylie Brogan | |
| | • 81336 - Ardell Morgan | | |

Since green turtles do not nest every year, we don't expect to see these particular turtles again in Tortuguero for awhile.



CCC releases three leatherback sea turtles with satellite transmitters from Tortuguero National Park and Gandoca Nature Preserve, Costa Rica

The first of three leatherbacks released by CCC from Costa Rica in 2004 with a harness and satellite transmitter (left). CCC researchers attach a harness and satellite transmitter to a leatherback in Tortuguero, Costa Rica (bottom).



Photos Courtesy of Jeff Rotman

CCC is continuing its groundbreaking research to track the migrations of leatherback sea turtles after they leave their nesting beaches on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. During the last week of May, 2004, CCC researchers attached satellite transmitters to three endangered leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) after nesting on the Caribbean beaches of Tortuguero and Gandoca, Costa Rica. The study will reveal important information about the turtles' migratory behavior. This will help conservationists and natural resource managers to improve protection efforts for this endangered species and will aid in the development of long-term conservation strategies. CCC is posting the updated migration maps on its website so that school-age kids and the public can follow along as the giant leatherback turtles begin their pelagic journeys.

This research is costly, labor intensive, and not for the sluggish! CCC's staff in Gainesville, Fla. assembled the transmitters and harness equipment. Dan Evans, CCC's

Field Programs Coordinator, traveled with the equipment to Tortuguero, Costa Rica. There he joined Sebastian Troëng, CCC's Scientific Director, and a team of CCC's research assistants. The team spent two long nights on the remote beaches at Tortuguero searching and waiting for nesting females to emerge and then attaching the transmitters and harnesses.

The tagging crew then traveled south by boat, bus, and car to the remote Gandoca Nature Reserve, near the border between Costa Rica and Panama. The team joined biologist Didiher Chacón of the Asociación ANAI, which coordinates leatherback research at Gandoca. The team then spent a hot and buggy night on the beach in Gandoca, finally attaching a third transmitter around 2AM.

CCC would like to thank the British Embassy, PADI, National Aquarium, and Shark Reef Aquarium for their support. For more information and to view the migration maps, go to www.cccturtle.org/sat-leatherback.htm.

New Educational Program

amount of litter found on our beaches, homeowners can work toward an important conservation priority

The Caribbean Conservation Corporation is taking part in a new program in Florida's coastal neighborhoods, NESTS - Neighbors Ensuring Sea Turtle Survival. NESTS is being supported through the efforts of CCC, Disney's Animal Kingdom, The Ocean Conservancy, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Carr Refuge, the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, and the Brevard Zoo.

The NESTS program is a way for homeowner associations and individual homeowners on the barrier island to help protect sea turtles that nest on the neighborhood beaches of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge supports the largest number of nesting sea turtles in the U.S. Through the completion of some simple activities such as turning off lights that shine on the beach, learning more about sea turtles, or reducing the

for the state of Florida – helping to save sea turtles, one NEST at a time!

The program helps homeowners become more familiar with sea turtles and some of the challenges they face through three levels of certification: Partner, Guardian, and Champion. In order to progress from one level to another, participants are required to complete a set of activities designed to benefit sea turtles and their nesting habitat.

CCC hopes that the program will be a success and will expand to other coastal neighborhoods throughout Florida. To learn more, visit www.nests-certified.org



natural slope and reducing the risk of sea turtle nests becoming flooded by high tides.

Beach Nourishment and Turtles Can They Get Along?

Florida's beaches host over 90% of all sea turtle nesting in the U.S. How the state manages its beaches has a profound impact on the long term protection and recovery of sea turtle populations. CCC monitors coastal policies and advocates for policies that improve the long-term outlook for sea turtle survival.

Almost 40% of Florida's sandy beaches are in a state of "critical erosion." In order to protect upland structures and recreational, cultural, or environmental interests, state and local governments look to beach nourishment (renourishment if a beach has previously been nourished), a costly, and often controversial engineering solution.

Depending on sand sources, beach design parameters, monitoring protocols, and surf conditions, nourishment projects can adversely impact sea turtles in many ways. These dredging projects can also impact or bury offshore reefs. During the past two years, beaches in Brevard County, Fla. were nourished. The project area, just to the north of the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge, contains beaches with nationally significant nesting densities for sea turtles. The good news is, it appears the Brevard County project had minimal long-term impacts to sea turtles and their nesting habitat.

The Brevard County Shore Protection Project (BCSPP) contained 2 phases. Phase 1, The North Reach (9.4 miles) was constructed from November 2000 to April 2001. Phase 2, the South Reach (3.8-miles) was built from February to April 2002, before construction was stopped for turtle nesting season. The last mile was completed in April 2003. The project area is expected to need renourishment on a smaller scale every six years.

Sea turtles were given high priority by county officials and state regulators in the design, construction and monitoring of the BCSPP. Close attention was paid to the selection of the off shore borrow areas where sand was obtained to ensure that the sand was compatible with native beach sand and suitable for turtle nesting. The county monitored the constructed beach for excessive sand compaction and scarp formation that could be problematic for nesting.

As the project proceeded, the county and state regulators provided input into the design of the project. In the South Reach for example, construction began during high spring tides. Consequently the constructed beach could be overtopped by waves, resulting in ponding on the beach. The design was modified during the project to allow an increase in beach elevation, resulting in a more

years of post-construction monitoring to look at the new beach's impacts to sea turtles. Results from the Brevard County project show nesting numbers in the first season after construction dipped slightly, but by the second season nesting was at least equal to historical figures. However, the total number of nests laid does not provide adequate information on overall possible impacts to turtles.


The University of Central Florida's Marine Turtle Research Group (UCF) was contracted to study sea turtle reproduction during the 2002 and 2003 nesting seasons. The UCF team monitored three key indicators of sea turtle nesting beach success: overall nest production; nesting success (ratio of nests laid to number of false crawls); and reproductive or hatching success (percentage of eggs hatching and producing hatchlings that emerge).

Nest Production- Loggerhead nest production in 2002 only totaled 972 nests, slightly more than half the pre-nourishment average of 1,794. In 2003, loggerheads laid 1,798 nests, slightly above average.

Nesting success- In 2002 the rate was 0.31, below the average rate. In 2003 loggerhead nesting success was 0.54, reflecting a return to the long term average rate.

Reproductive success- In 2002 the rate was 60.8%. In 2003 the hatching success returned to normal for the project area with a hatching success of 67.9%.

Disorientations- A possible consequence of raising the beach profile is that upland light sources can become more visible to nesting turtles and hatchlings, resulting in increased lighting disorientations. The pre-nourishment average number of disorientations was about 2 per year, far less than the 179 disorientations documented in 2003. It is not possible to prove this dramatic increase was a direct result of the elevated new beach. Nonetheless, the county stepped up enforcement of its lighting ordinance and identification of lighting violations. It also sent lighting information flyers to every beachfront property owner.

The overall assessment of this project's impacts to sea turtles is summed up by comments from Dr. Lew Ehrhart contained in UCF's final monitoring report. "We attribute this quick return to normal nesting success to the equilibration of the beach profile (the process by which the new beach adjusts to wave and wind action). In addition, we are convinced that the relatively high hatching success rates demonstrate that good quality sand and beach construction has resulted in normal to high success rates for marine turtle egg incubation." 

Editors Note: Beach nourishment is one of several possible strategies available to protect upland structures from coastal erosion. Only when these dredging projects are carefully designed and carried out correctly can environmental impacts be minimized.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act

CCC Applauds U.S. Congress for Passing Landmark Legislation to Save World's Sea Turtles

Courtesy of Jeff Rotman



On June 18th, the U.S. Senate resolved the minor differences between the House and Senate versions of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act (MTCA) and passed the House version by unanimous consent. The House bill had included a section on congressional reporting requirements. The Senate first passed the MTCA in October of 2003, with the House passing its slightly different version on June 14, 2004. President Bush signed the bill into law on July 2, 2004. The House bill, the list of sponsors and co-sponsors, and other relevant information can be reviewed on line at www.thomas.loc.gov and typing in "HR3378."

CCC has worked for over a year in support of this legislation and has sent written testimony to both the House and the Senate. CCC worked closely with many members of the Florida congressional delegation to ensure their support. Nine Florida Congressmen signed on as co-sponsors of the Act, more so than from any other state. In addition CCC has worked with several national conservation organizations in a collective effort to pass the bill.

The bill points out that "marine turtle populations have declined to the point that their survival in the wild is in serious jeopardy." It highlights the many threats sea turtles face around the world, including habitat loss and widespread human exploitation. It notes that "the challenges facing marine turtles are immense, and the resources available have not been sufficient to cope with the loss in populations." The Act establishes the Marine Turtle

Conservation Fund. It authorizes an appropriation of \$5 million annually through 2009 to support the protection, restoration, and management of marine turtle nesting habitats in foreign countries. This includes onsite research and monitoring of nesting turtles; the development of national and regional management plans; training of local law enforcement to prevent the illegal killing and trade of nesting turtles; and community outreach and education.

Realistically, by itself \$5 million may not go very far in protecting sea turtles around the world. However, as with other multinational species funds that have been established to protect elephants, tigers, and great apes, the MTCA will attract many millions of additional dollars in private and international support to leverage against the U.S. funds. In doing so the Act has enormous potential for international sea turtle conservation. According to Congressman Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland, the bill's sponsor in the House, "the Act sends a powerful message to the world community that the U.S. strongly supports marine turtle conservation and will not allow these species to disappear from this planet."

Please send letters thanking Congressman Gilchrest, and Senators Inhofe (OK) and Jeffords (VT) who sponsored the legislation in the Senate, and the co-sponsors representing your districts. Senator Jeffords was the initial sponsor of the MTCA and especially deserves our thanks.

by Gary Appelson, STSL Policy Coordinator

Satellite Turtle Update

Mandalay, a.k.a. “Mandy,” an endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was one of three green turtles tracked by satellite from Tortuguero, Costa Rica, in 2001.

Mandy carried flipper tags 91686/91687 and was sponsored by Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay (located in Las Vegas, USA). Shark Reef also sponsored another green turtle in 2002, “Miss Junie 2,” and most recently “Marina,” a leatherback sea turtle, in 2004.



Dan Evans

Mandalay is released from Tortuguero, Costa Rica with a newly attached satellite transmitter in September, 2001.


Tags 91686/91687 were collected by Wildlife Conservation Society biologist Cynthia Lagueur, who works on turtle protection issues along the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast, on October 11, 2003. This suggests that Mandy was captured and killed by fishermen off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua.

“It is sad that it was Mandy. But her capture makes a good point — that sea turtle conservation needs to be an international effort or it won’t work,” said Sebastian Troeng, CCC’s Scientific Director. “Sea turtles don’t recognize borders. Therefore, we are working with country leaders to organize international agreements to better protect sea turtles.”

Mandy was tracked from her release date on September 13, 2001 until May 26, 2002. You can view her migration route on CCC’s website at www.cccturtle.org/sat_mandy.htm. 

Sea Turtle Events

Include Sea Turtles in Your Important Life Events.

Everyone has moments of their life that need celebration or remembrance. A baby’s birth, a young child’s passage into adulthood, two people bonding together in love, and a parent’s final journey home: these are the moments of our lives that define us, that tell the world who we were, are, or will be. When your next life event comes around, why not include a way to make your special day a showcase of your compassion and dedication to protecting sea turtles? CCC offers four options: *Donations in lieu of Celebration Gifts, Sea Turtle Themed Events, Gift Registry, and Memorial Donations.* Learn more on CCC website at www.cccturtle.org/specialevents 



Courtesy of John Moran



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