

VELADOR

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats since 1959

Summer 2002

Cuba Withdraws Hawksbill Trade Proposal New Threat Emerges from the Cayman Islands



Schrichte's Underwater Photography

For much of this year, Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) has actively opposed a proposal from Cuba and Japan to reopen the international trade of shells taken from critically endangered hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Specifically, Cuba had proposed a change in regulations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

(CITES) that would allow it to sell and ship several stockpiled tons of the valuable shell to Japan. Currently, all international trade in sea turtle products is banned under CITES.

Every two and a half years, countries from around the world convene a two-week-long "Conference of the

see Proposal Withdrawn on page 4



Sea Turtle Survival League Update

6



Turtle Heroes

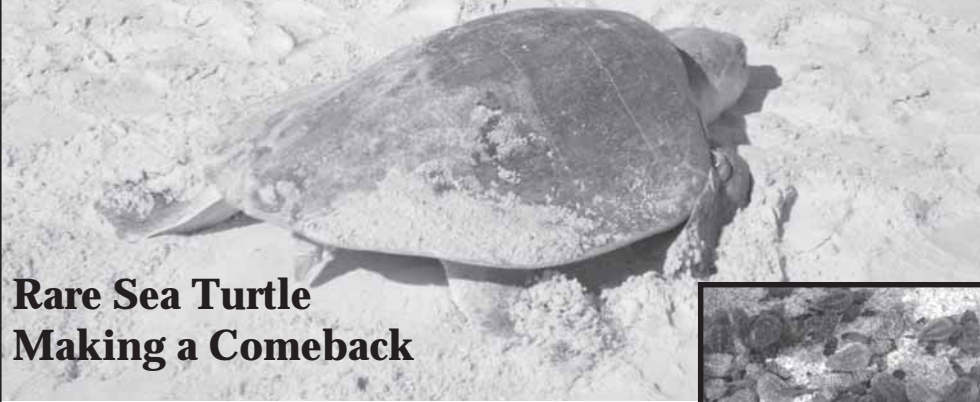
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Gift Catalogue

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Glenn Harman, Clearwater Marine Aquarium



Rare Sea Turtle Making a Comeback

A female Kemp's ridley returns to the water after laying a nest of eggs in Pinellas County, Fla. during broad daylight (above). The nest successfully produced 75 hatchlings (right).



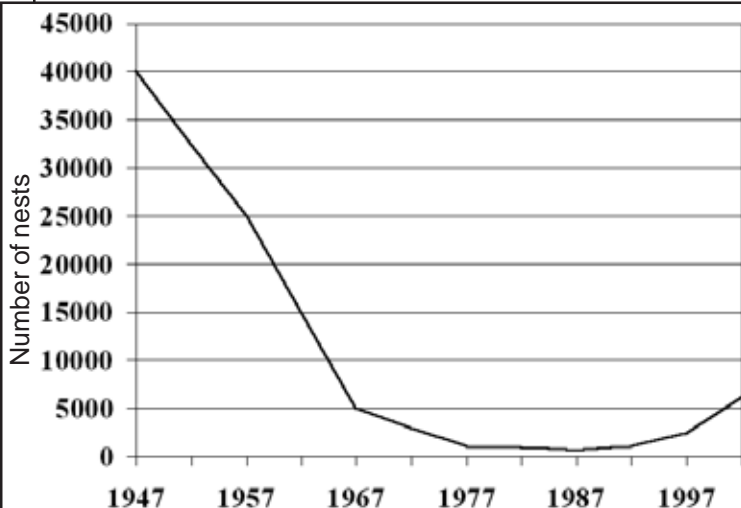
The rarest sea turtle in the world, the Kemp's ridley, is showing encouraging signs of a rebound. Recent findings from the ridley's primary nesting beach in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico, show that over 6,430 nests were deposited during the 2002 nesting season. This is a triumphant increase from the tragically low 702 nests that were documented in 1985. The Kemp's ridley was listed as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act in 1970. As part of the recovery plan for the species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working with the Mexican government and non-profit organizations to increase nesting for the past 20 years.

In addition to the productive season at Rancho Nuevo, it was also

a great season for Kemp's ridley nesting on Texas beaches. Thirty-seven nests were documented in the vicinity of Padre Island National Seashore. While not a traditional nesting site for Kemp's ridleys, nests were also documented on Florida's Gulf coast beaches. Apparently, a few ridleys occasionally stray from nesting along the western edge of the Gulf of Mexico to lay the odd nest in Florida.

According to the Kemp's ridley Species Recovery Plan, 25,000 nests must be documented in any one year before the species can be downlisted to "threatened." In the late 1940s, nearly 40,000 Kemp's ridleys were documented during a single nesting season in Rancho Nuevo. The use of Turtle Excluder Devices on shrimp trawls, increased law enforcement

efforts by the U.S. Coast Guard and Texas Parks and Wildlife, the annual federal closure of waters to shrimping, and continued protection of the beach at Mexico are contributing to the recovery of Kemp's ridleys.



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 in Tortuguero, CCC's researchers and volunteers are replacing poachers as the new veladors.

Velador is published quarterly 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 natural areas.

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

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Ecotourism Project Explores Alternatives for Turtle Fishers



In 1999, in response to a case brought by Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) and other organizations, the Costa Rican Constitutional Court banned all green turtle hunting in Costa Rica. Following the ban, CCC initiated a project in partnership with former turtle hunters from the fishing community of Limón to develop sustainable sources of income.

In June 2002, CCC and the Fishermen's Association of Cieneguita and Portete (ASCIENPE) of Limón completed a feasibility study and a master plan for an ecotourism project that could be implemented by Limón's former turtle fishermen. The study, entitled "Developing Non-Consumptive Use Alternatives for Former Turtle Fishermen Through Ecotourism,"

was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Firedoll Foundation, CCC and ASCIENPE.

For nearly a year, CCC and ASCIENPE worked with the design firm Concepto Visual Integrado to produce the feasibility study and master plan. Project methodology included organizing consultative meetings with the local fishers

to obtain their input on the project. The study, which is available in PDF format (English and Spanish versions) on CCC's web site at www.cccturtle.org/centralprogs.htm, provides a complete background of the project, analyzes the potential for ecotourism in Limón, and makes master plan recommendations for the eventual implementation of the project. Larger format architectural renderings of the master plan are also available.

The fishers are eager to develop the tourism project and ASCIENPE has already begun seeking partners and funding for its full implementation. The port of Limón is on the cusp of a tourism boom with increasing cruise ship arrivals, and is desperately in need of short excursions and nearby attractions to occupy increasing numbers of visitors. Furthermore, the newly elected government in Costa Rica has pronounced its commitment to ecotourism and conservation as well as to attending to the development needs of Limón province.

Contributed by Cindy Taft

Cindy Taft, CCC's former Director of International Programs, now works as an independent consultant to conservation and tourism organizations in Costa Rica.

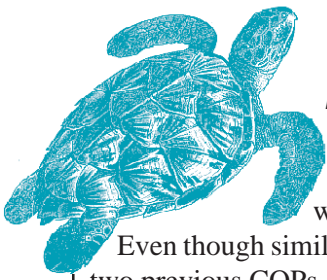
Oil Company Threatens Lawsuit

Citing loss of revenue, Harken Costa Rica Holdings LLC is threatening to sue the government of Costa Rica for not being allowed to drill for oil off the country's Caribbean coast. In February, SETENA (The National Technical Environmental Secretariat) rejected the company's Environmental Impact Assessment on the basis that the project was not environmentally acceptable. A major consideration in the decision was the proposed drilling area's importance as sea turtle habitat. Harken appealed the ruling. In May, Elizabeth Odio, Costa Rica's former Minister of Environment and Energy, upheld SETENA's decision.

Harken claims it has lost an estimated 7.4 billion dollars, but says it would settle for 74 million dollars in compensation from the Costa Rican government, as long as no other companies are permitted to extract oil from the area for the next 22 years.

The Costa Rican government is currently analyzing the legal aspects of the concessions in order to provide an adequate defense against future lawsuits for compensation. Costa Rica's northern neighbor, Nicaragua, stated in early July that US oil companies will be allowed to explore its Caribbean and Pacific coasts for oil and natural gas. CCC is closely monitoring oil development issues affecting Nicaragua's Miskito Coast, where vast seagrass beds vital to the survival of Caribbean green turtles are located.





Proposal Withdrawn from cover

Parties” (COP) to debate and vote on proposed changes to CITES that would affect a wide range of species.

Even though similar proposals had been voted down in two previous COPs, Cuba submitted a third hawksbill proposal for consideration at the COP to be held this November in Santiago, Chile. Regular readers of the *Velador* will recall that CCC played a critical role in defeating Cuba’s last hawksbill proposal, which was voted down at the CITES conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2000.

In preparation for the 2002 COP, CCC staff and advisors published and distributed a detailed analysis of the Cuban proposal, including evidence showing that hawksbills killed in Cuban waters migrate from throughout the Caribbean, including from CCC research sites in Bermuda and Tortuguero, Costa Rica. CCC staff also participated in “regional dialogue meetings” in Mexico and the Cayman Islands, where countries from the Wider Caribbean and Latin America met to discuss CITES proposals affecting species in the region. In addition, this summer CCC Scientific Director Sebastian Troëng traveled throughout Europe to discuss the Cuban proposal with CITES delegates within the influential European Union. By late summer, it appeared that CCC and a handful of other international conservation groups were successfully re-building opposition to Cuba’s hawksbill trade proposal. As a final measure, CCC and groups such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Species Survival Network, the Humane Society, The Ocean Conservancy and others began coordinating our lobbying efforts for the upcoming conference in Chile.

Then the unexpected happened; Cuba officially withdrew its proposal! The country gave no clear indication as to the reason for the withdrawal, but the move is cause for great celebration among all of us who value the protection of sea turtles, especially the critically endangered hawksbill. CCC would like to commend Cuba for making this bold step, regard-

Even though legal trade would be limited to just those turtles raised at the Cayman Turtle Farm, the pressure in poorer countries to start illegally harvesting would be too great.

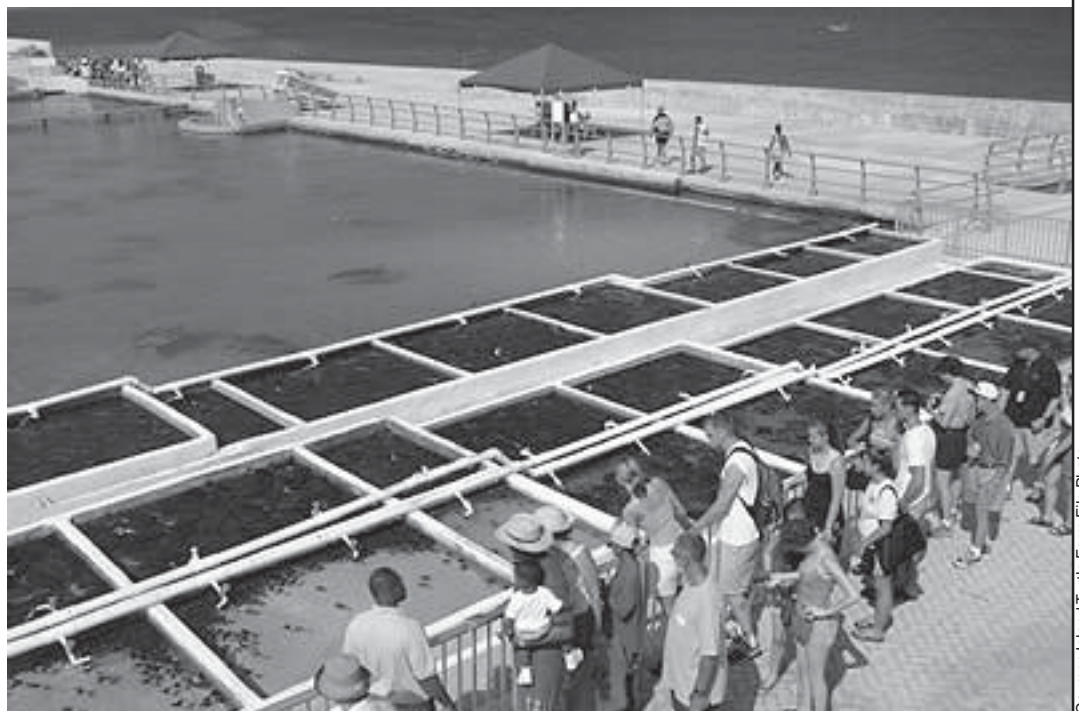
less of the reasons. Clearly, opposition to the hawksbill proposal was growing. However, it is also possible that concerned scientists and experts within Cuba succeeded in bringing about a true change of heart. Regardless, CCC gladly extends its hand of support for helping Cuba with

any of its sea turtle research and conservation efforts. As a first step toward building relations with the scientific community in Cuba, CCC selected and financially sponsored a young Cuban scientist, Douglas Crispin, to participate in our 2002 turtle research program in Tortuguero. Douglas is already in Tortuguero assisting with the nightly monitoring and tagging

studies. His experiences in Tortuguero will undoubtedly be of benefit when he returns to Cuba later this fall, and CCC hopes to collaborate with Douglas on future sea turtle research projects.

A New Threat Emerges

While CCC and other groups celebrate the resolution of the hawksbill issue, a new trade proposal from the United Kingdom and the Cayman Islands poses an equally disturbing threat to sea turtles. In this case, the UK delegation is attempting to register the Cayman Turtle Farm as a legal captive-breeding facility for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Under CITES regulations, animal parts produced in a registered captive-breeding farm are allowed to be traded internationally. Thus, if the measure is approved at the upcoming COP, the Cayman Turtle Farm would become the world’s only legal source for



Tourists view small pens of hatchlings at the Cayman Island Turtle Farm. While some eventually will be released, the majority are used to make food and shell products.

Cayman Island Turtle Farm File Photo


internationally traded green turtle products.

Since its founding in 1959, CCC has been dedicated to studying and protecting sea turtles, especially the Caribbean green turtle. Indeed, the very formation of CCC was inspired out of concern over the rapid decline of green turtles occurring as a result of over-harvesting for international consumption. At the time, green turtles were under great pressure due to worldwide demand, especially in Europe, for green turtle meat and fat, which is used in the making of green turtle soup.

In the 1970s, CCC was actively involved in the development of CITES regulations that banned commercial trade in sea turtle products. The trade ban slowly eased worldwide pressure on green turtles, as generations of people in Europe were raised never having developed a taste for green turtle. These international sanctions, combined with ongoing conservation programs at important green turtle nesting beaches and developmental habitats, have helped stabilize green turtle populations in many parts of the Caribbean. Recent CCC data show that green turtle nesting at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, has been increasing for over a decade. Similar trends are


being seen in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. These positive steps toward recovering green turtle populations would be seriously jeopardized if international trade is reopened. Even though legal trade would be limited to just those turtles raised at the Cayman Turtle Farm, the pressure in poorer countries to start illegally harvesting would be too great — especially as international demand for turtle products is rekindled.

CCC is actively opposing the UK/Cayman Islands proposal. Already, we have helped Costa Rica craft its formal opposition, and we will be sending one or more representatives to the CITES conference in Chile. The withdrawal of Cuba's proposal regarding hawksbills was a great victory for sea turtle conservation, but the reopening of green turtle trade looms large as a major threat to this species. CCC will do everything possible to convince CITES delegates that the Cayman Farm proposal would pose an unacceptable risk to green turtles.

Visit the CCC website at www.cccturtle.org/cites for more information about these issues. 

By David Godfrey
CCC Executive Director

New Bill Eliminates Requirement to Report Bycatch in U.S. Fisheries

 On July 10th, the House Resources Committee endorsed and moved to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, legislation which significantly weakens current legal protections for U.S. ocean fish. Entitled the “Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendments of 2002” (H.R. 4749), the bill weakens fish conservation standards established by Congress in 1996. Today, as fish population collapses are driving fishermen out of business, the bill authored by Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) rolls back the conservation and sustainability provisions of the original Magnuson-Stevens Act and will further hasten the destruction of America's fish populations and the industry that depends on them.

Among the most troubling of the bill's provisions is its elimination of the current fishery management plan requirement to assess and report on bycatch, the catching and killing of non-target ocean wildlife including sea turtles. If the bycatch provisions in the current law are weakened, sea turtles will not only be unprotected under fisheries law, there will no longer be records of the number of animals caught.


“A recent federal report showed that nearly one-third of assessed federally managed fish stocks are overfished, experiencing overfishing, or both,” says Lee Crockett,

executive director of the Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN), a national coalition

of more than 150 commercial and recreational fishing groups, environmental organizations and aquariums. “To consider rolling back any of the conservation standards that were put in place six years ago is irresponsible and dangerous to the future of fish and sea turtles.”

CCC is a long-time member of the MFCN and regularly participates in efforts to improve federal fisheries regulations.

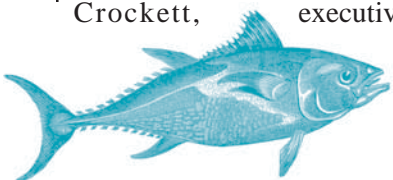
Please call your elected representatives to urge their support for conservation amendments to H.R. 4749. Unless the Gilchrest bill is significantly amended to restore existing legal requirements to identify and rebuild overfished stocks, report and minimize bycatch, protect essential fish habitat, and incorporate meaningful standards, urge them to VOTE NO on the House Floor.

For more information on this issue please visit www.conservefish.org. 



Marine Fish Network File Photo

Sea turtles and other marine wildlife are accidentally caught and killed by nets and other equipment used in the fisheries industry.



New TED Rule Needed Now

Despite the release three years ago of a study that recommended U.S. shrimp boats in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic be required to use larger Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) to protect sea turtles, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) still has not issued a permanent rule requiring the use of larger TEDs. The research confirmed that the openings were too small to allow leatherbacks and large mature greens and loggerheads to escape.

The NMFS study was released in late 1999, the same year that saw a record 17 critically endangered leatherback turtles wash ashore dead in northeast Florida. The leatherbacks, which are the largest species of sea

turtle, were believed to have drowned in shrimp nets. The agency has been considering issuing a rule requiring shrimp boats to use larger TEDs since the spring of 2000. The proposed rule would increase the height of the TED opening from 35 inches to 71 inches to allow larger turtles like leatherbacks and loggerheads to escape shrimp nets. Unfortunately, the rule making process has been bogged down by opposition from commercial shrimping interests and US Congressmen from Louisiana and Texas.

Meanwhile, mass sea turtle strandings continue to be reported in Florida and Georgia. In 2000, more than 75 dead loggerheads were reported along the shores of one Florida county during a four-month period, almost three times the yearly average. In fact, 2000 was a record year for sea turtle strandings, with 3,165 dead turtles reported.

In May 2002, CCC's Advocacy Coordinator Gary Appelson discovered several dead loggerhead and leatherback turtles during a trip to Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia. He counted over 70 shrimp boats just offshore. During the next few weeks more than 90 sea turtles washed ashore in Georgia, five times the average for May. The turtle deaths coincided with a shrimp run that attracted nearly 150 shrimp boats from Georgia and Gulf of Mexico states.

Without the permanent requirement to use larger TEDs, the NMFS has been responding to mass sea turtle



Countless loggerhead, green and leatherback sea turtles are caught and die in the smaller TEDs. Biologists estimate that only 25% of sea turtles that drown in shrimp trawls ever wash ashore.

Marine Fish Network File Photo

strandings with temporary orders requiring shrimpers to install and use larger TEDs. The orders, however, often come too late for countless turtles that are caught in the smaller TEDs. Georgia biologists estimate that only about 25% of sea turtles that drown in shrimp trawls ever wash ashore, so the total number of turtles affected by the small TEDs is higher than what has been documented.

NMFS officials in St. Petersburg, Fla, are working to finalize the proposed rule and hope to send a draft of the new rule to the agency's national headquarters by the end of August. If the proposed rule receives agency clearance, the rule and supporting documents will be sent to the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Commerce, where an

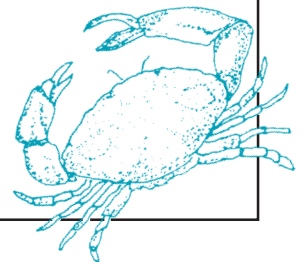
accompanying analysis of the economic impact of the rule will be scrutinized. Barring congressional intervention, the rule will be published in the Federal Register and will take effect.

CCC has been asking for the new rule since 1999. In June, CCC and a handful of other national conservation groups met with federal officials from NOAA and NMFS to try to speed up the rule-making process. We are continuing to monitor this process and push for the new rule to be in force in time for the 2003 sea turtle nesting season.

What you can do to help:

Georgia and Florida Senators recently sent a joint letter to NMFS, asking the agency to move quickly to finalize the new rule in order to prevent more strandings. Please thank them for their continuing support for sea turtle protection and ask that they send a similar letter to the Department of Commerce and work to stop any Congressional effort to block the new TED rule. Their letter can be read at www.cccturtle.org/senators_urge_nmfs.htm.

Sen. Max Cleland (D - GA)
461 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3521





Sen. Bob Graham (D - FL)
524 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3041

Sen. Zell Miller (D - GA)
257 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3643

Sen Bill Nelson (D - FL)
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5274

Please write the Department of Commerce and insist it move quickly to complete a rule review supporting the larger TED requirements for all shrimp trawlers. Explain that any further delay will result in more dead sea turtles during the 2003 sea turtle season.

Secretary Donald Evans
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
14th and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20230

The following Congressmen from Louisiana and Texas are leading the charge to prevent the new TED rule from being implemented. Please contact them and remind them that shrimpers from their states now travel wherever the shrimp are; therefore, it is essential that ALL trawlers be equipped with larger TEDs. **Ask them to drop their opposition to the rule**, which is needed in order to protect the mature greens, loggerheads and the critically endangered leatherbacks.

Representative Billy Tauzin (R-La.)
2183 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Ron Paul (R-Tx.)
203 Cannon Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Solomon Ortiz (D-Tx.)
2304 Rayburn Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

For more information, please contact Gary Appelson,
(352) 373-6441 or gary@cccturtle.org

Sea Turtles May Get More Protection

In 1978, shortly after the passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), loggerhead sea turtles were listed as "threatened," while other sea turtles found in U.S. waters were designated as "endangered." Both designations

For decades commercial fisheries, and especially shrimping, have been blamed for the bulk of sea turtle deaths in North America. As a result, in the fall of 1987 the NMFS began seasonally requiring Turtle Excluder Devices on Shrimp trawl nets operating in ocean waters. TEDs are most simply described as screened trap doors at the back of shrimp nets that open when they come in contact with sea turtles, allowing them to escape.

Full implementation of TEDs was delayed until 1989 in offshore waters and was finally applied in all areas (including inshore) at all times by 1994. TEDs, in order to be acceptable to the NMFS, must by law be 97% effective in excluding sea turtles. By the late 1990s it was becoming clear that TEDs were not adequately doing their job. Data revealed that many turtles were just too large to get through the TED opening.

ensure federal protections, but the endangered status is reserved for those species most vulnerable to extinction. Over the last two decades much has been learned about the genetic make up of the U.S. population. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recognizes three genetically and geographically distinct loggerhead nesting subpopulations along the southeastern U.S. coast: the Southeastern Florida, the Northern Florida, and Florida Panhandle subpopulations.

NMFS is now considering a plan to increase protections for loggerheads that nest in North Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. In January the Earthjustice Legal Foundation, representing a handful of conservation groups, filed a petition to the NMFS requesting the agency reclassify the Northern and Panhandle Florida subpopulations as "distinct population segments" and uplist them to endangered species status under the ESA. The petition also requests that critical habitat for the subpopulations be designated. On June 4, in response to the petition, the NMFS announced "we find the petition presents substantial scientific information... and are initiating a review of the status of the species to determine whether the petitioned action is warranted."

The South Florida subpopulation of loggerheads is one of the largest remaining in the world. It's robust size and increasing nesting numbers confuse many into thinking that all loggerheads are on the rebound. For example, in 1998 nearly 83,000 nests loggerhead nests were deposited on South Florida beaches—most of these on the central east coast. In contrast, the Northern subpopulation, which includes nesting from North Carolina to northeast Florida, accounted for about 7,500 nests, or 9% of the U.S. nesting population. The Florida Panhandle subpopulation, concentrated around Eglin Air Force Base and Panama City, is considered the most vulnerable with 1,200 nests

see STSL Update on page 19

Gift Catalogue



A

A. An original mock-batik print - A beautiful, colorful sea turtle creation graces the front of this 100% cotton t-shirt, STSL logo on sleeve. Teal green color available in S, M, L, XL. **\$19.95**

B. Wear your support - Our beautiful teal and purple logo looks great on these colorful shirts. Available in white, ash, sand, iris, goldenrod or terra cotta. White and ash available in S, M, L, XL. Sand, iris and goldenrod available in M, L, XL. Terra cotta available in L, XL. **\$19.95**

C. New STSL Baseball Cap - This ball cap is a high quality soft, brushed twill, adjustable cloth strap with a sandwich layer brim. One size, khaki color only. **\$19.95**



B



The Book Store (items D-I) Our selection includes four books by Archie Carr, the founding Scientific Director of CCC.

D. *The Windward Road* - Archie colorfully describes his travels to Caribbean beaches in the 1940s and 50s, where he looked for clues in his effort to unravel the mysteries of the enigmatic sea turtle. This book alerted the world to the decline of sea turtle populations, and won several awards. **\$19.95**

E. *High Jungles and Low* - A vivid and passionate discourse of the four years that Archie Carr and his family spent in Honduras in the 1940s. **\$19.95**

F. *Ulendo--Travels of a Naturalist in and out of Africa* - Archie's passion for the natural world shines through in this brilliant text that continues to inspire naturalists. **\$19.95**

G. *A Naturalist in Florida--A Celebration of Eden* - This volume is a compilation of essays written by Archie and edited after his death by his wife, Marjorie Carr. **\$19.95**

H. *Sea Turtles* by Jeff Ripple - This spectacularly illustrated book profiles all the species of sea turtles, including life history, navigation, natural predators, human-caused threats and conservation efforts around the world. Full of crisp, colorful photographs, this book should be on every turtle lover's coffee table! **\$19.95**

I. *Into the Sea* by Brenda Guiberson - This delightful children's book follows the life cycle of a sea turtle from hatching to adulthood. Children are sure to enjoy the wonderful illustrations and the moving story of survival. **\$18.95**

J - K. Plush Sea Turtle Toy - A cute brown loggerhead sea turtle from Smithsonian's Sea Turtle Journey series. **J - 6" toy: \$6.50; K - 12" toy: \$16.95**



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J - K



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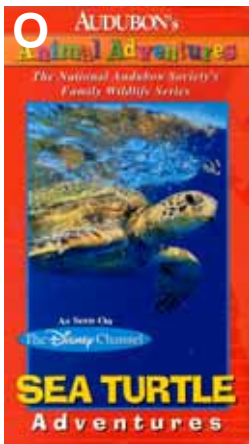
Audio/Visual Aids Available

L. Sea Turtles of the World - This poster by artist Deirdre Hyde is a new version of her original poster. The "Turtles of the World" poster is a colorful depiction of the seven species of sea turtles found world wide, plus the Pacific green (aka Black Turtle). **\$11.95**

M. Sea Turtle Poster - A magnificent underwater photo of a green sea turtle by well-known photographers D.R. & T.L. Schrichte. **\$8.95**



M



N. Tortuguero Sea Turtle Print - A gorgeous painting by artist Dierdre Hyde featuring the lush colors of Costa Rica. **Signed & numbered: \$49.95; Unsigned: \$10.95**

O. Sea Turtle Adventures - A fantastic 20-minute Audubon Animal Adventure containing stunning footage. A look at sea turtles and their fight for survival. Great for kids and educators. **\$14.95**

P. Tale of the Green Turtle - This 27-minute video explores CCC's efforts to save the Caribbean green turtle and includes an interview with Archie Carr. **\$14.95**

Q. Tortuguero: Land of the Turtles - A 20-minute video that chronicles the importance of this famous

rookery, and the history of Archie Carr and the CCC in this northern Caribbean region of Costa Rica. Available in English & Spanish. **\$14.95**

R. Sea Turtle Slide Show - Fifteen color slides of sea turtles, their nesting behavior, and threats they face. Comes with descriptive text and accompanying turtle information. **\$34.95**



Survival League's mock license plate for the front of your car. **\$12.95**



S. Sea Turtle License Plate - Want a turtle plate for your car, but don't live in Florida? Get the Sea Turtle



Sea Turtle Jewelry

T - U. Silver Leatherback - Sterling silver leatherback sea turtle jewelry! Created by Wildthings in Massachusetts, this unique leatherback is available as a pendant on an 18" silver chain or as a pair of dangle earrings. **T - dangle earrings: \$19.95; U - pendant & chain: \$24.95**

V. Loggerhead Earrings - A sterling silver loggerhead sea turtle. Created by Wildthings, this sea turtle jewelry is available as a pair of dangle earrings. **\$14.95**

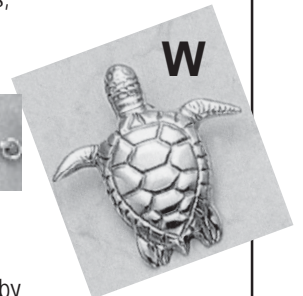
W. Green Turtle Pendant - A sterling silver green sea turtle. Created by Wildthings, this 1 1/8" high sea turtle pendant is available on an 18" silver chain. **\$25.95**



X. Sea Turtle Bracelet - A row of sterling silver green sea turtles. Created by Wildthings in Massachusetts, these turtles will wrap around your wrist to form a bracelet. **\$29.95**



Y. Hawksbill Belt Buckle - A beautifully sculpted silver hawksbill sea turtle belt buckle. Created by sculptor Leonard Reid of Massachusetts, these belt buckles will fit a 29 mm (1 1/8th inch) belt. **\$59.95**



RETURN TO: Caribbean Conservation Corporation, 4424 NW 13th St. Suite A-1, Gainesville FL 32609

PLEASE SHIP MY ORDER TO:

PHONE: _____

 My check is enclosed

 Please charge my credit card (Visa or MC only)
 Account number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____
 Name as you would like it to appear on Adoption Certificate where it reads "Adopted by" _____

Postage (based on weight and destination) for international shipping will be added to your total when your order is processed by CCC

**TO ORDER BY
 PHONE CALL
 800-678-7853**

**TO ORDER
 ONLINE VISIT
 CCCTURTLEORG**

Item	Description	Size	Color	Quan.	Price	Total
<i>Florida residents add 6% sales tax</i>						
<i>Adopt-A-Turtle! Add \$25 / \$35 outside U.S.</i>						
TOTAL						

Orders shipped outside the U.S. must be charged on a credit card.

STSL Update from page 7

deposited in 1998.

The fact that the Panhandle subpopulation has so few nesting females makes it highly vulnerable to catastrophic events such as high tides and hurricanes, and therefore warrants vigorous management. The Northern subpopulation, despite years of conservation efforts, has been steadily declining for the past 20 years and its recovery is jeopardized because of threats posed by commercial fishing and coastal development. Nesting in South Carolina has decreased by almost 50% since the species was first listed in 1978! Georgia's nesting population continues to decrease by almost 3% per year.

CCC has submitted comments in support of the review by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The petition raises some complicated and interesting policy questions regarding the management and recovery plans for loggerheads. We will continue to monitor and report on the review process.

Florida Businesses Awarded for Being "Sea Turtle Friendly"

As part of a campaign to raise awareness about sea turtles and threats to their survival, Caribbean Conservation Corporation's Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL) awarded Sea Turtle Friendly Awards to seventeen Florida coastal businesses this summer for taking steps to protect sea turtles.

Winners of this year's awards were: Tiara by the Sea Motel in Brevard County; Disney's Vero Beach Resort in Indian River County; the Caper Beach Club, the Island's End Condominiums, the Lahaina Inn Resorts, The Bonita Bay Group, the Bonita Beach Club Condominiums, Smuggler's Cove and the Seascape Condominiums in Lee County; the Casarina Condominium Association and the



Sea Turtle Survival League and Mote Marine Lab presented the Cassarina Condominium with a "sea turtle friendly" award. Taking part (from left to right) were Kenya Leonard from Sarasota County government, Jerris Foote of Mote Marine, Rob Burgess, Robert Richards and Jeff Lacey from Cassarina and Dan Evans from STSL.

- Mark Twain Condominium Association in Sarasota
- County; the Spinnaker Resorts, the Palm Plaza Hotel, the
- Day Star Motel, the Palm Plaza Hotel, the Oceanquest
- Condominiums and the Atlantica Condominiums in Volusia
- county.

This is the first year STSL has presented the Sea Turtle Friendly Awards, and they generated a lot of interest in coastal communities. Award categories included coastal hotels, rental condos, retail stores, restaurants and local government agencies. Nominations were evaluated based on criteria including efforts to reduce artificial beach lighting during the sea turtle nesting season, protection and general health of the nesting beach, recycling practices, and involvement in sea turtle education programs.

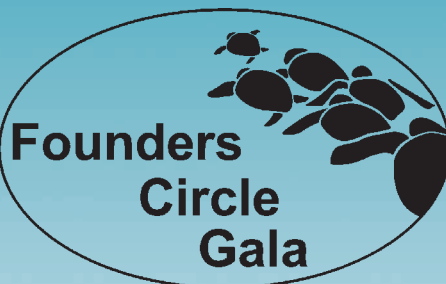
"These awards provide a great opportunity to recognize coastal businesses for going the extra mile to protect Florida's sea turtles and their nesting beaches," said Dan Evans, STSL Education Coordinator. "With over 90 percent of all the sea turtle nesting in the United States taking place on Florida beaches, what we do in this state to protect sea turtles affects the global population. Hopefully, these awards will motivate other beachfront establishments to review and improve their own efforts to safeguard Florida's sea turtle and coastal habitats."

The Sea Turtle Friendly Awards are part of STSL's Sea Turtle Habitat Awareness Campaign. The campaign provided coastal businesses with free educational materials about Florida's sea turtles, their habitats and protection issues. Working with local groups, such as Turtle Time, Inc. in Lee County and Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota County, the campaign is increasing awareness about coastal management issues that affect the survival of sea turtles. The Awareness Campaign this year focused on seven important turtle nesting counties: Collier, Lee and Sarasota on the Gulf coast and Brevard, Indian River, Martin and Volusia on the Atlantic coast. Other counties will be the focus of future programs.

CCC would like to thank everyone who helped make the recent Founders Circle Gala such a huge success!

A very special Thank You goes to Event Chair, Tia Lynn, and

Auction Chair, Carmel Mc Gill, whose planning, hard work and dedication turned the seed of an idea into a wonderfully fun and successful fundraising event.



Funding for the 2002 Sea Turtle Friendly Awards program was provided through a grant from the Marine Turtle Grants Program. The grants program, which is administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, receives its funding directly from sales of the Florida Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate.

STSL sets out to map coastal armoring on Florida's central east coast

As the number of people choosing to buy and live on beachfront property increases, efforts to protect properties from erosion through the use of coastal armoring also increases. Coastal armoring, such as sea walls and rock pilings, pose a serious long-term threat to U.S. sea turtle populations, as well as to Florida's healthy beaches.

Caribbean Conservation Corporation's Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL) received a grant from the

the most important sea turtle nesting habitat in the world.

Sea walls are known to have detrimental effects on sea turtle nesting.

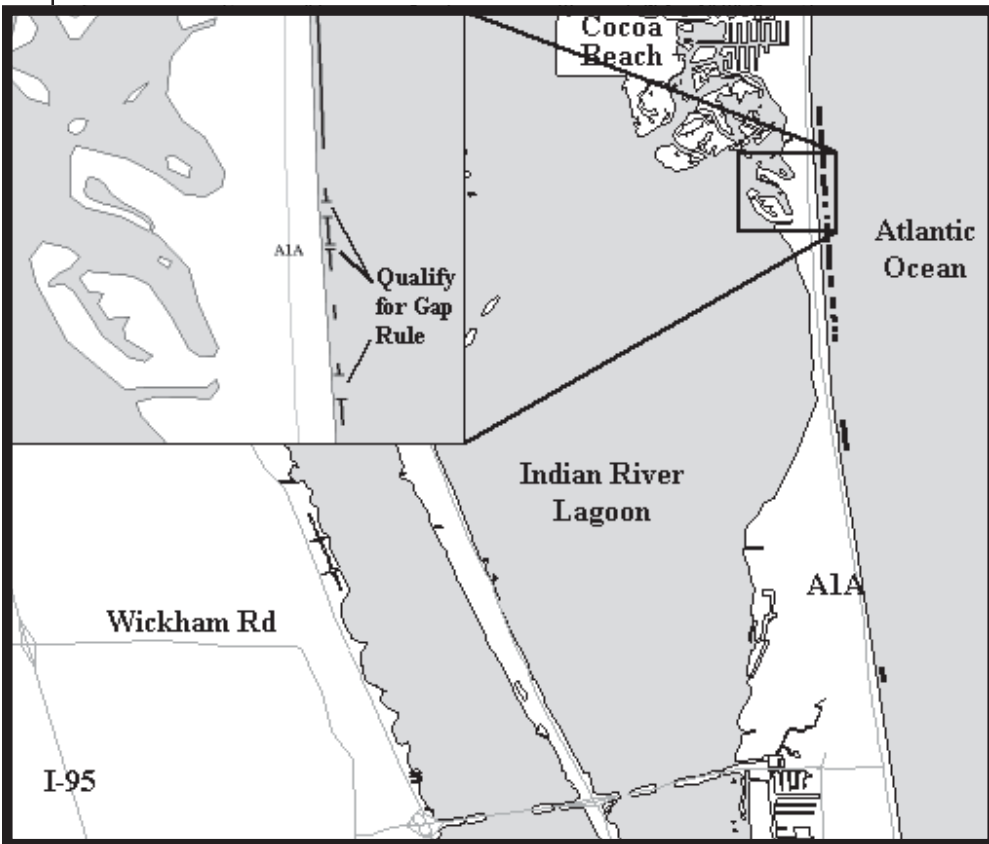
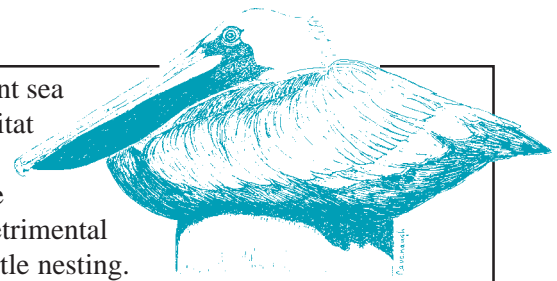
The quality of nesting habitat in front of walls is diminished, and nests are more prone to scouring and inundation in storms. This reduction in suitable nesting habitat means that adjacent, non-armored "gaps" of beach have become even more important for the survival of sea turtles.

Until recently, Florida laws restricted armoring to only those properties with existing structures (such as houses) that were immediately threatened by erosion. However, the Florida Legislature recently passed a "Gap-Closure Rule," that allows any section of beachfront property, 250 feet or less in length, to be armored if the properties on either side of it are already armored. The passage of this rule has serious implications for sea turtles because these

gaps, or pocket beaches, of non-armored beach often provide the only remaining suitable nesting habitat on a given stretch of beach.

This STSL study will produce a detailed digital map of all coastal armoring within the two counties. The map will also identify all of the unarmored gaps in that area of the state that could be armored under the Gap-Closure Rule. By overlaying data about sea turtle nesting, we will also be able to evaluate how turtles would be impacted if all of those pocket nesting beaches are allowed to be armored. Once complete, the map can be used by state, county and local regulators, property owners and advocacy groups to monitor the spread of coastal armoring structures, minimize the negative impacts of coastal armoring on sea turtles, and protect the remaining pocket beaches.

Amazingly, it has been over a decade since the State of Florida last investigated and published information on the extent and rate of coastal armoring along Florida beaches. Florida's natural beaches, and the important sea turtle nesting habitat they provide, are gradually being walled in. There is no current data available on the spread of armoring in Florida, nor on the cumulative impacts of armoring on sea turtles. This study will help supply regulators and the public with critical information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the state's coastal armoring policies.

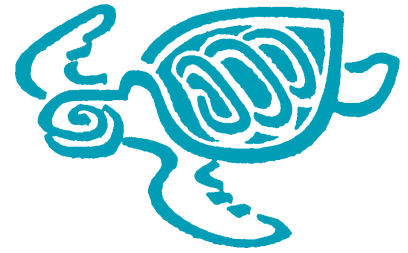


Marine Turtle Grants Program (funded from sales of the Florida Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate) for a project designed to map and track the spread of beach armoring structures on sea turtle nesting beaches in Brevard and Indian River Counties. The project, which will build on studies initiated by the Florida Marine Research Institute, will also assess the importance to sea turtles of unarmored "gaps" along the beach. The two counties involved in the study encompass all 20 miles of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, which contains some of

investigated and published information on the extent and rate of coastal armoring along Florida beaches. Florida's natural beaches, and the important sea turtle nesting habitat they provide, are gradually being walled in. There is no current data available on the spread of armoring in Florida, nor on the cumulative impacts of armoring on sea turtles. This study will help supply regulators and the public with critical information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the state's coastal armoring policies.

Turtle Heroes

A section recognizing sea turtle activists!



Third Graders Make Our Oceans Safer for Sea Turtles and Other Marine Species

Don't tell teacher Robyn Siegelman and her students that kids can't make a difference. Ms. Siegelman and her third grade class from Nassakeag Elementary School on Long Island, New York, were successful in getting the Suffolk County Legislature to pass, by a vote of 15 to one, a new law banning the release of more than 25 helium balloons at one time within the county.

Legislator Lynne Nowick introduced the legislation after Ms. Siegelman and her students told her about the negative impact balloons have on sea turtles and other marine wildlife.

"It just started out as a letter writing and academic exercise tied to Earth Day. We never thought it would result in the passage of a new law!" said Ms. Siegelman.

The students researched marine issues and the impacts of plastic litter on the marine environment. The kids discovered that the leatherback, one of the most endangered sea turtles, is a frequent visitor to the North Atlantic area and that this species could mistake Mylar and other plastic litter for jellyfish, its primary food source. The legislation was opposed by The Balloon Council, the national balloon manufacturer's trade association. Several members of the County Legislature initially spoke against the bill.

At the request of Suffolk County officials and in support of Ms. Siegelman's class, Sea Turtle Survival League's (STSL) Advocacy Coordinator Gary Appelton

provided legislators with data and research reports on the impacts of plastic ingestion by sea turtles, quantities of plastic and balloon debris in the marine environment and the slow

degrade time of plastic balloons in the ocean. Appelton also helped generate both local and national support for the legislation from the sea turtle community.

"Every call, every letter, every word of encouragement helped propel this measure towards passage," said Dave Ryan, Legislative Aide to Lynne Nowick. "Without the input of the students and others, we could not have provided the information and sound arguments that swayed the legislation from being a frivolous matter to a seriously considered issue."

Legislator Nowick expressed her thanks to everyone, including the STSL and other turtle advocates, who contributed to the victory. Nowick especially recognized the efforts of Ms. Siegelman's class in educating the public and lobbying the elected officials in their area.

STSL commends legislator Nowick, Ms. Siegelman, and especially the children of Ms. Siegelman's third grade class. The impact of their efforts will go far beyond the initial letter writing campaign. Elected officials, family and friends, the media and many others have learned about the hazards of balloon releases – and laws have been changed. The students' actions also demonstrate how we can all act and live in ways that lessen our impacts on the environment. Legislator Nowick, Ms. Siegelman and her students are truly "Turtle Heroes."

Editors note: The state of New York has considered, but failed to pass, a similar balloon ban for years. Inspired by Ms. Siegelman's students, the New York Assembly will soon be revisiting the issue!



Students presented their support of the law at a legislative meeting.

Courtesy of Ms. Siegelman



Students from Ms. Siegelman's class display posters to show support for the law that would ban the release of helium balloons.

Courtesy of Ms. Siegelman

Thanks for Your Support!

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**On the 1st day of Christmas, my
true love gave to me.....**



A Green Turtle in the Sea!

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To adopt a sea turtle for yourself, a friend, or a loved one call the **Caribbean Conservation Corporation** at **800-678-7853** or visit our web site at **www.cccturtle.org**. For a tax-deductible donation of \$25 (US\$35 outside the U.S.), the CCC will send a personalized color sea turtle adoption certificate with the gift adoptee's name, a sea turtle fact sheet, colorful decal and magnet, and a subscription to the organization's quarterly newsletter, all in a beautiful folder. Turtle adoptions support international efforts to protect endangered sea turtles and their habitats.



Mariposita del mar Returns!

Mariposita del mar, a green turtle tagged by CCC at the nesting beach in Tortuguero, Costa Rica in 1997 and fitted with a satellite transmitter in 2000, was sighted by CCC researchers on August 24, 2002. Mariposita was tracked migrating from Tortuguero to the Miskito Cayes off of Nicaragua before losing her transmitter. The path of her migration can be seen on CCC's web site at www.cccturtle.org/sat_mariposita.htm.

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