

VELADOR

Using Science-Based Conservation to Protect Sea Turtles and Their Habitats Since 1959

Issue 4, 2008

Trawl Fishing Threatens Loggerheads



David Godfrey/CCC

Loggerheads are caught in U.S. trawls in greater numbers than other turtle species.

Each year hundreds, and possibly thousands, of immature and adult sea turtles are inadvertently captured, injured or killed by U.S. trawlers in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. When turtles are caught in trawl nets, they are unable to surface to breathe and may die if they remain underwater for more than 30 minutes. Loggerheads are caught in trawls in greater numbers than other species, but Kemp's ridleys, greens, leatherbacks and hawksbills are also captured. Fortunately, trawl nets can be modified to include a simple turtle excluder device, or TED, to release sea turtles and other entrapped animals.

TEDs were developed more than 27 years ago after biologists identified shrimp trawls as a major threat to sea

turtles in the late 1970s. Trawls are wide-mouthed nets which taper from a large opening to a bag for the catch. First developed by Georgia shrimpers to exclude cannonball jellyfish and marine debris, TEDs are inexpensive net inserts with bars surrounded by a frame and placed near the back of the net. Designed to allow target fish or shrimp to pass through the bars into the catch bag, TEDs guide turtles out of the net through a top or bottom exit.

Unfortunately, U.S. shrimpers fought having to use this gear for many years, despite the fact that scientists identified shrimp trawls as the greatest source of U.S. sea turtle mortality, greater than all other sources combined. The refusal by American shrimpers to use TEDs evolved

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...from cover

into an enormous natural resource controversy that was not resolved until 1992. At that time, laws were implemented requiring U.S. shrimpers to use TEDs throughout the year in all state and federal waters from Texas to the Virginia-North Carolina border. During the years of delay, tens of thousands of sea turtles perished, and conservationists feared the Kemp's ridley would go extinct.

During the last 16 years, TED regulations have been modified and improved, including requirements for larger exit openings to ensure the biggest turtles could escape. Despite their success in the shrimp fleet, TEDs are not yet required on thousands of other U.S. trawlers in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico that fish for numerous other species, such as scup, black sea bass, tilefish, Atlantic bluefish and herring, mackerel, squid, butterfly, Mid-Atlantic sea scallops, whelks, blue crabs, horseshoe crabs, cannonball jellyfish, monkfish, skates, spiny dogfish, Atlantic croaker, and weakfish. These commercial trawlers land millions of pounds of catch each year, and many operate in areas where sea turtle interactions are likely, but the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) does not require them to use TEDs.

NMFS has delayed enacting widespread TED regulations for years. In 2001 NMFS announced it was developing a "Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation in Relation to Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries," with the goal of addressing problems by

gear type. Although trawls are the Strategy's first priority, NMFS did not publish An Advance Notice of Proposed Rule-making for these fisheries until February 2007 and then for only Mid-Atlantic trawls. CCC's advocacy for a comprehensive rule requiring TEDs in all U.S. trawls includes meetings with the head of NMFS, important NMFS regional staff, Congressional offices and committee staff, and state officials as well as letters and official comments.

Accurate estimates of capture and mortality in trawls are difficult to make because observer coverage for many fisheries is low. However, one thing is clear: as coverage of all fisheries increases, estimates of turtle capture increase. Since 2001, the conservation community and government biologists have urged NMFS to require TEDs in all trawls interacting with turtles from Maine to Texas. Some modifications to existing TED designs may be necessary, but net specialists opine TEDs used by the shrimp fleet will be effective for many trawl fisheries. NMFS has conducted successful TED research with fishermen using flynets and trawls for whelk and Mid-Atlantic sea scallops, and tests are underway in other fisheries.

With the exception of the shrimp fishery, which is federally regulated, most states do not require trawl fishermen to use TEDs. Georgia is the exception with its requirements for TEDs in all trawl fisheries. South Carolina requires TEDs in the whelk fishery when sea turtles are present, and Florida mandates TEDs in skimmer nets. Maryland, Virginia and Florida have designated areas permanently closed to trawling. At the other end of the spectrum, Louisiana has refused to enforce federal TED regulations for shrimp trawls in state waters



Trawl Fishing Vessel. Eclectica.org File Photo

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.

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

CCC is dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles through research, advocacy, education and the protection of the habitats upon which they depend.

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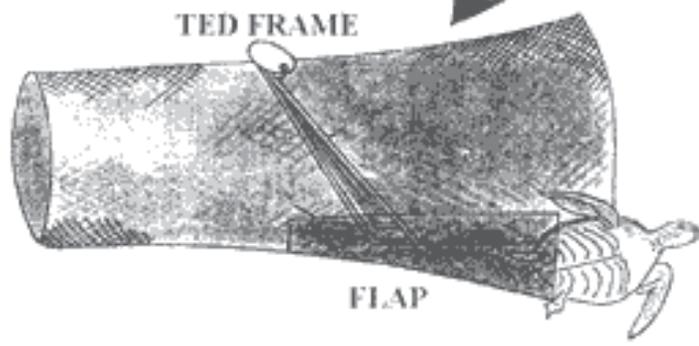
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Turtle Excluder Devices are designed to be inserted into trawl fishing nets and allow entrapped sea turtles to easily escape from a trawl net while it is being pulled behind a fishing vessel, as shown in the diagram. The photo below shows a TED frame with the escape flap open.



since federal regulations went into effect in 1992.

TEDs allow entrapped sea turtles to easily escape trawls, but in areas with intense fishing, a turtle caught multiple times within a few hours can die as a result of physiological changes brought about by forced submergence and stress.

For example, each year the waters off Texas are closed out to 200 miles for a two month period to allow shrimp to grow to an optimal market size. When the area opens to fishing, shrimp boats arrive from throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Time and area restrictions are the most effective solution for preventing sea turtle capture during this pulse of intense fishing effort. Shrimpers also drown turtles in small trynets (less than 10 feet across) not equipped with TEDs. Trynets sample catch several times an hour, but many fishermen leave them in the water for several hours to catch shrimp rather than sample.

TEDs also have been required in the summer flounder trawl fishery for many years, but they are not as effective as they could be. When NMFS required shrimpers to increase TED opening sizes in 2003, it made a commitment to change exit sizes in the summer flounder fishery, but has not yet done so.

One design which has become increasingly popular

is the skimmer trawl. Unlike most trawls nets which are towed, skimmers are pushed through the water to capture fish or shrimp. These nets catch fewer nontarget animals (bycatch) than other trawls and are often the gear of choice for fishermen replacing gillnets. Skimmers are used in substantial numbers in the inshore waters of Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. In 2004 more than 3,400 skimmers were registered in Louisiana alone. Skimmers fishing for shrimp empty their nets about every 30 minutes and thus may not be problematic for turtles. Research indicates, however, that skimmers catching finfish remain in the water well over an hour and thus need to use TEDs.

Shrimp trawling is also a major problem for sea turtles in other parts of the world, with an estimated mortality of 150,000 animals per year. In 1989, in an effort to level the playing field for U.S. shrimpers and promote sea turtle conservation, the Congress passed Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 requiring all wild-caught imported shrimp to be caught with net equipped TEDs (nearly 80% of U.S. shrimp is imported but much is farm-raised). Over several years these restrictions were challenged under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, but ultimately the right of the United States to protect the environment was upheld. The newly released movie "Battle in Seattle" immortalizes the 1999 hotly contested WTO shrimp-turtle issue in film.

Several officials have told us NMFS now plans to phase in comprehensive TED regulations starting in mid-2009. We will continue to follow this issue closely and work to resolve existing problems in the shrimp and summer flounder fisheries.



By Marydele Donnelly
Director of International Policy

Photo and Graphic - NOAA File Images

Turtle Heroes

Satellite Technology Connects Child with Sea Turtles

Life for a 6-year-old boy should be easy. At that age, a child's biggest concern should be what kind of lunch box to pick for the first day of school.

But for Mattie, a Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) member, the stakes are much higher. On July 23rd, this 6-year-old boy was diagnosed with primary bone cancer. This kind of cancer, osteosarcoma, is so rare that it accounts for less than 0.2 percent of all cancers, according to the American Cancer Society.

His parents first noticed that something was wrong when Mattie began complaining about pain in his right arm at the end of a 3-week tennis summer camp. While worried, his parents figured he probably twisted his arm or was experiencing muscle pains from holding and swinging a racket. But when Mattie began to lose mobility, his parents took him to the pediatrician. Simple x-rays revealed a huge tumor in his right arm.

"Our family's life changed profoundly," said Victoria Sardi-Brown, Mattie's mom. "We are now on the journey into the world of bone cancer."

Before the diagnosis, Mattie and his parents enjoyed different activities together such as hiking, going to museums, and spending time with family and friends. Now, they spend more time at the hospital than at their home.

"Being a parent of a child with cancer is complicated because even though you learn to take on the role of a health care provider and advocate, you are still first and foremost your child's parent," said Victoria. "As a parent it is your duty to continue to provide structure, boundaries, limits, and of course love during this time. This is easier said than done."

To help deal with the new challenges in their life, Mattie's family embraced technology. His dad began a blog to tell family and friends about Mattie's progress. Not only is the blog therapeutic, but it brought people together as a community for Mattie. It was this blog that featured a gift from one of Mattie's teachers, a sea turtle adoption of "Roxana" from CCC.

According to his mom, Mattie was very surprised to receive such a special gift. Roxana is a satellite-tagged green turtle from Costa Rica that is competing in CCC's Tour de Turtles, an interactive marathon that aims to raise awareness about threats to sea turtles.

"Mattie loves to follow Roxana's journey because, in all reality, Roxana and Mattie are traversing their own personal journey to survival," said Victoria. "On the bottom of Roxana's adoption certificate it says, *It's a*



Mattie with his Mom, Victoria, and Dad, Peter.

marathon, not a sprint. We think this quotation is appropriate in our battle for Mattie's life."

Because Mattie's treatments are so intensive, tracking Roxana's migrations is a welcomed diversion. The sea turtle adoption was a great gift for Mattie, as he is a bright and inquisitive boy who loves nature and learning about the environment.

"Having such a powerful educational tool as Roxana is a wonderful and positive distraction, and when Mattie is distracted he forgets his fears, pains, and appears to be a carefree 6-year-old boy," said Victoria. "The ultimate goal is to help normalize his life this year."

Thanks to the power of technology, Mattie can check on Roxana's progress from the hospital or his home. This helps connect Mattie to the outside world.

"Often when kids are ill, especially when they have a longer-term illness like cancer, they are removed from their peer and social groups," said Jill Sonke, co-director of the Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education at the University of Florida. "The ability to connect across art and technology can bring a sense of connection to the isolation of being in the hospital."

Although Roxana may bring a smile to Mattie's face, the reality of his illness still exists. Mattie and his family are keeping a positive outlook with the help of friends and family. Many people are taking time to visit Mattie in the hospital, send him baked goods, or write him letters to keep his spirits high.

"We are appreciative of the efforts and generosity of those around us," said Victoria. "We are experiencing the beauty, compassion, love, and sensitivity of others around us at such a deep level."

To learn more about Mattie and his battle with cancer, log on to <http://mattiebear.blogspot.com>. Letters and e-mails are also welcomed. Mattie's email is mattiejbrown@gmail.com. His mailing address is Matthew Brown, P.O. Box 6485, Arlington, VA 22206-0485. To track Roxana along with Mattie, visit www.tourdeturtles.org. 

By Rocio Johnson
Communications Coordinator

Tortuguero Update

Another Successful Leatherback Season

From March to June, 2008, a dedicated group of eight research assistants (RAs) and volunteers spent nights patrolling Tortuguero beach in search of nesting female leatherback turtles. On arrival at CCC's field station, the RAs spent two weeks completing an intensive orientation program, which included repainting mile markers along 22 miles of beach, studying leatherback nesting behavior, exploring the canals in Tortuguero National Park, talking to local residents about the history of Tortuguero, and learning different research techniques such as tagging and nest marking.

A total of 544 leatherback nests were reported during track surveys of the entire beach (See graph below). An additional 369 green turtle nests were counted, which is high during the early part of the year since they typically nest from June to November.

Over 875 hours were spent conducting nightly patrols in search of nesting females, during which 88 leatherback, 24 green turtle and 5 hawksbill sea turtles were encountered by CCC researchers. Many of these females, as in previous years, had tags from different conservation projects working on turtle nesting beaches along the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, including Parismina and Gandoca to the south of Tortuguero.

An important component of CCC's work in Tortuguero is public awareness and environmental education, particularly with the younger generation. Throughout the 2008 Leatherback Program the RAs took the central theme of "Pollution and its Impact on the Environment" and created a variety of activities for the local students.

The RAs stressed the need to reduce, reuse and recycle, to help reduce the amount of waste in Tortuguero village. A recycling station was established at the school to separate the garbage. To highlight the process of recycling, the students learned how to make their own paper. Students also cleaned the beach, removing plastic and other materials that are potentially harmful to turtles.

Another activity was a mock debate with students from the high school and RAs. People were assigned different roles in a fake scenario involving a proposed develop-

ment of a mega-hotel. Each side was given an opportunity to present their arguments to the "public" before a final vote was taken. The students were extremely passionate about their respective viewpoints, while being exposed to both sides of the issue. The mock debate ended with a majority voting against the proposed mega-hotel.

Overall, 2008 was another successful Leatherback Season in Tortuguero. CCC would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Field Coordinators, Dagnia Nolasco and Xavier Deade, all the RAs, the volunteer participants and our financial supporters for their dedication and commitment to research and conservation.

Junior Research Assistant Program

Since July, 2008, around 60 students from Tortuguero have been joining CCC's RAs on nightly patrols. The students' interest in sea turtle conservation motivated the creation of a new program; the Junior Research Assistant (Jr RA) Program.

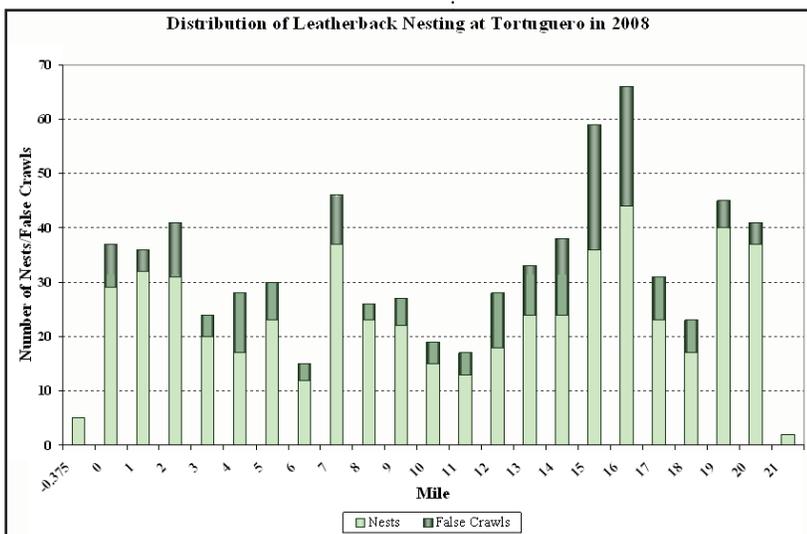
Through the program, CCC is teaching local students not only about sea turtles, but also about sea turtle research. Jr RAs learn to identify each nesting stage, properly read tag numbers, measure turtles, check for any anomalies, and correctly record data in the field books.

In addition, sea turtle projects were initiated by the students taking part in the program who attend Barra de Tortuguero High School. The hope is to encourage local young conservationists and train future research assistants, enabling them to protect the turtles and represent their village.

The tasks that the Jr RAs carry out as part of the program are similar to those of full RAs: night patrols, nest and track surveys, cleaning equipment, helping in the visitor center, and preparing educational activities. The students learn first hand about field work, the research methods used by CCC, and the importance of following an established protocol. They also become an active part

of CCC's nightly sea turtle work by helping to collect data.

Small research and/or conservation projects will also be developed and presented to other students at the local high school by the Jr RAs. At the end of the season, the students who have fulfilled all of the program requirements will be awarded a certificate of completion and a special Jr RA Program t-shirt.



Holiday Shopping Catalogue



Logo T-shirt

Our beautiful teal and purple logo looks great on these colorful shirts. White, Ash, Sand, Iris, and Goldenrod are available in adult S, M, L, XL. Children sizes, S, M & L now available in White, Ash & Sand! **Item: AA - \$19.95**

Baby Sea Turtles T-Shirt

A wonderful & cute hatchling sea turtle design. These hatchlings look great on Metro Blue (pictured) or Caribbean Blue cotton T-shirts. T-shirts available in children S, M & L and adult S, M, L, XL. **Item: AB - \$19.95**



Tour de Turtles T-shirt

Made of 100% cotton, Tour de Turtles t-shirts are available in tan. T-shirts are available in Adult sizes: S, M, L, and XL. There is only a limited quantity in stock. **Item: AC - \$19.95**



Logo Baseball Cap

This Sea Turtle Survival League soft baseball cap is a high quality brushed twill with adjustable cloth strap. Adult size, khaki color only. **Item: D - \$19.95**



Eco-Friendly Logo Grocery Bag

A very sturdy Eco-Friendly Large Grocery Bag featuring the CCC logo. This natural colored bag is made of 22 oz. cotton canvas. The handles and bottom are Forest Green. Great for large items. Washable. Top width is 22 1/2", height is 11 1/2", bottom width is 14". **Item: E - \$19.95**



Holiday Ornament - 2

This year's ornament features the ocean by the light of the moon on your tree. The back features a "Sea Turtles Since 1959" and the **Item: F - \$9.95**



Sea Turtle Scenes 2009 Calendar

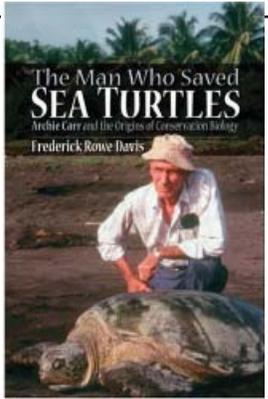
Sea Turtle Scenes

The 11" x 17" wall calendar features a sea turtle photo each month. Includes related dates. Printed on recycled paper.

Tortuguero Wildlife Bookmarks

Colorful wildlife bookmark handmade in the village of Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Each bookmark is unique; the images are hand-painted.



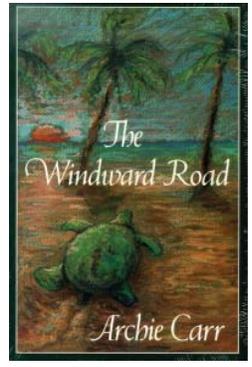
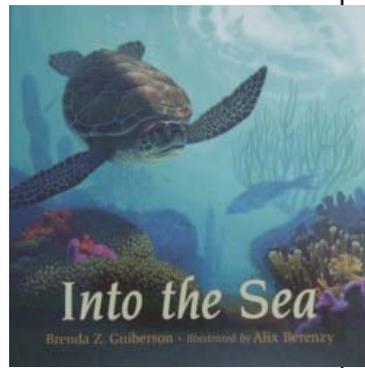


The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles

With Archie Carr, CCC's founding Scientific Director, as the focus, *The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles* explores the evolution of the naturalist tradition, biology, and conservation of sea turtles during the twentieth century. Written by Frederick Davis. **Item: BA - \$29.95**

Into the Sea

This delightful children's book follows the life cycle of a sea turtle from hatchling to adulthood. Children are sure to enjoy the illustrations and the moving story of survival. Ages 5-8. **Item: BB - \$18.95**

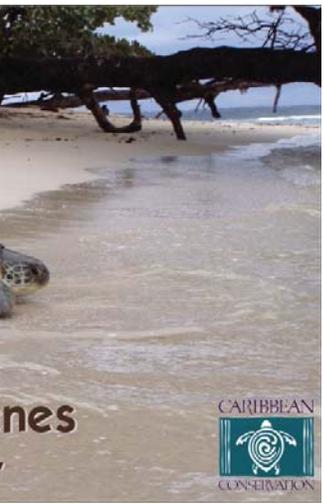
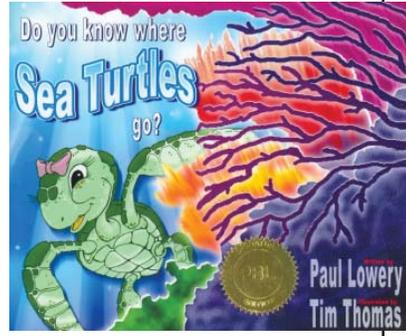


The Windward Road

Dr. Archie Carr 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 has won several awards. **Item: BC - \$19.95**

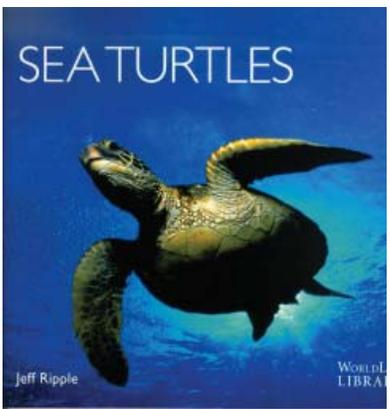
Do you Know Where Sea Turtles Go?

Written by Florida author Paul Lowery to be fun and educational. This is the story of Myrtle's life as she meets challenges and dangers faced by all sea turtles on her journey from hatchling to adult loggerhead. Ages 5-8. **Item: BD - \$15.99**



Calendar - 2009

Calendar features a new fantastic sea turtle illustration each month. Includes important sea turtle facts on recycled paper. **Item: C - \$14.95**



Sea Turtles

This spectacularly illustrated book by Jeff Ripple 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! **Item: BE - \$19.95**

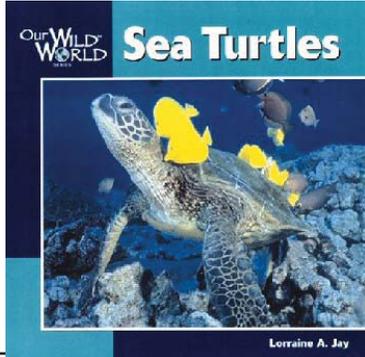
Bookmark

Bookmarks made and painted by the school children in Puerto Rico. Length, color and theme varies. Each bookmark provides an idea of the shapes, colors and designs. Bookmarks are randomly selected. **Item: G - \$5.00 each**



Sea Turtles - Our Wild World

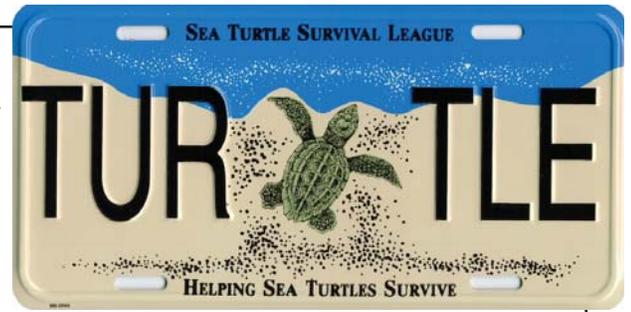
By Lorraine Jay. Teaches conservation and makes learning about animals fun. A durable softcover that includes excellent color photos and illustrations. If a child wants to know about sea turtles, this is the book to own. Many mysteries of sea turtles are explained in the text and "Fun Facts." Ideal for children 8-12. **Item: BF - \$9.95**





Sea Turtle License Plate

Want an "official" turtle plate for your car, but don't live in Florida? Get the "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" mock license plate for the front of your car. **Item: H - \$12.95**



Sea Turtle Carabiner

This carabiner type aluminum key clip is in the shape of a sea turtle. The carabiner gate opens for your keys or to latch onto a strap for safe storage. Has Caribbean Conservation Corporation laser engraved in white, across from the gate. Measures 2 1/2 inches long. **Item: J - \$4.95**

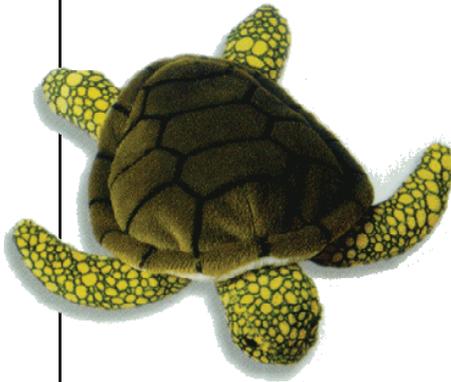
Sea Turtle Clinger

This sea turtle has a magnetic personality, or at least flippers, allowing it to cling to most metal surfaces. 6 1/2" in length. **Item: I - \$14.95**



Green Sea Turtle Plush

An adorable plush sea turtle makes a great soft toy or collectible. The perfect gift for children of all ages. 8" in length. **Item: K - \$6.50**

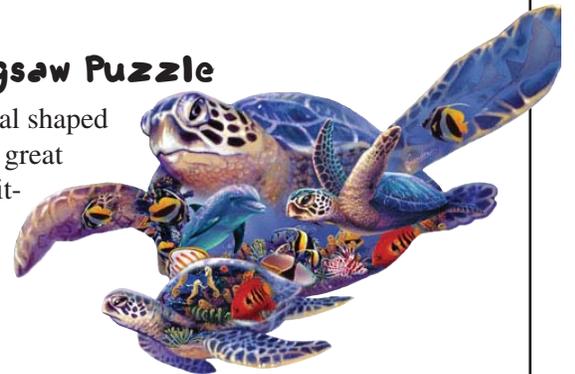


Wooden Sea Turtle Jigsaw Puzzle

20 large-piece jigsaw. Size: 8" x 8". Not suitable for children under 2 years of age. **Item: LA - \$14.95**

Swimming Lessons Jigsaw Puzzle

"Swimming Lessons" is a special shaped puzzle with no straight edges, a great challenge! 1,000 pieces. Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. Approximate size 20" x 42". **Item: LB - \$19.95**



Sea Turtle Patch

Collectible iron-on Sea Turtle Survival League Patch. A ring of purple surrounds CCC's logo turtle on teal. Measures 3 inches across. **Item: M - \$4.95**



Green Turtle Hatchlings Jigsaw Puzzle

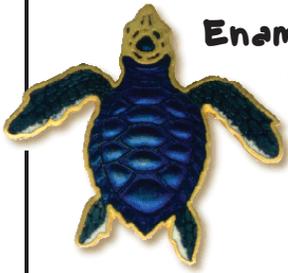
550 piece jigsaw. Size: 15-1/2" x 18". Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. **Item: LC - \$14.95**



Baby Sea Turtles Mug

Ceramic mug available with sea turtle hatchlings swimming on a Caribbean Blue background with the STSL logo. **Item: N - \$12.95**





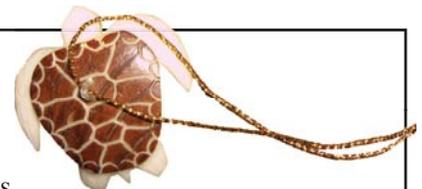
Enamel Sea Turtle

This beautiful enamel juvenile green sea turtle is edged in a golden color and made by WM Spear Design. Measures over 1" in

height. Available as either a pin (OA) or zipper pull (OB) - \$9.95

Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Ornament

Hand carved from a single tagua nut. This ornament comes on a loop of golden thread. **Item: QA - \$19.95**



Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Necklace

Hand carved in Ecuador, providing economic incentives for the sustainable harvest of the tagua palm nut, commonly known as "vegetable ivory." Comes on a leather cord. **Item: QB - \$18.95**



Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Key Chain

Hand carved from a tagua nut and attached to a key chain ring. **Item: QC - \$19.95**

Leatherback Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Carving

Hand carved leatherback sea turtle from a single tagua nut. **Item: QD - \$19.95**



Green Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Carving

Hand carved green sea turtle from a single tagua nut. **Item: QE - \$19.95**



Silver Loggerhead Earrings

A sterling silver loggerhead sea turtle. This sea turtle jewelry comes as a pair of dangle earrings. **Item: RA - \$14.95**



Silver Leatherback

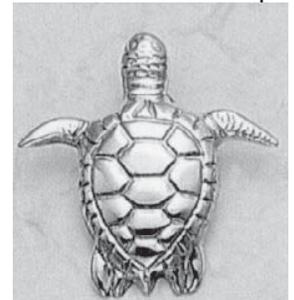
This sterling silver leatherback sea turtle is available as a pendant on an 18" silver chain, a pair of dangle earrings, or on the ends of a bangle bracelet!

Pendant & chain: RB - \$24.95
Dangle earrings: RC - \$19.95
Bangle bracelet: RD - \$39.95



Green Sea Turtle Pendant

A sterling silver 1 1/8" high green sea turtle pendant. This sea turtle pendant comes with an 18" silver chain. **Item: RE - \$29.95**



Sea Turtle Bracelet

A row of sterling silver green sea turtles wraps around your wrist to form a bracelet. **Item: RF - \$29.95**



To Order By Mail, Please Fill Out and Mail the Order Form in the Center of Newsletter.
To Order By Phone Call 800-678-7853 | To Order Online Visit <http://giftshop.cccturtle.org>

Tour de Turtles Scrapbook

By Dr. Emma Harrison, Scientific Director
 Photos by ANGLAR, Proyectos Fotográficos

Satellite Tracking in El Salvador

In August 2008, I visited El Salvador to deploy a satellite transmitter on an olive ridley sea turtle as part of CCC's Tour de Turtles event. The tracking would also represent one of the first times an olive ridley has been tracked from El Salvador and CCC's first sea turtle research in the Pacific.

The transmitter was funded by Arenas del Pacifico, a development company planning an eco-resort at Las Bocanitas beach. The beach is a known nesting site for olive ridleys, hawksbills and Pacific green sea turtles. CCC is taking an active advisory role with Arenas del Pacifico to ensure the development is designed to be sea turtle friendly and support the local nesting beach protection efforts. "Arenita," named by local students, has already travelled over 1,000 km, returning to nest once more before beginning her migration. Visit www.tourdeturtles.org to view her map. 🐢



Checking equipment while waiting for a turtle. No turtles on the beach for two nights in a row!

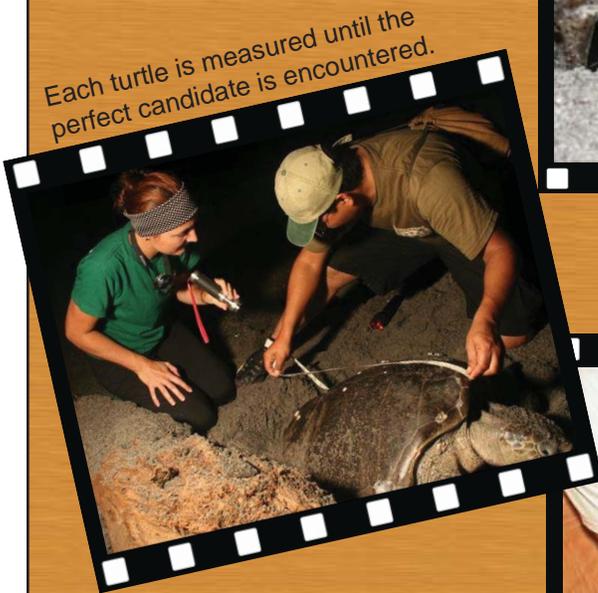
Demonstrating the transmitter attachment on an olive ridley shell.



Checking the size of a possible transmitter candidate.



Finally, the turtles arrive! Local monitors record nesting numbers and protect nests from poachers.



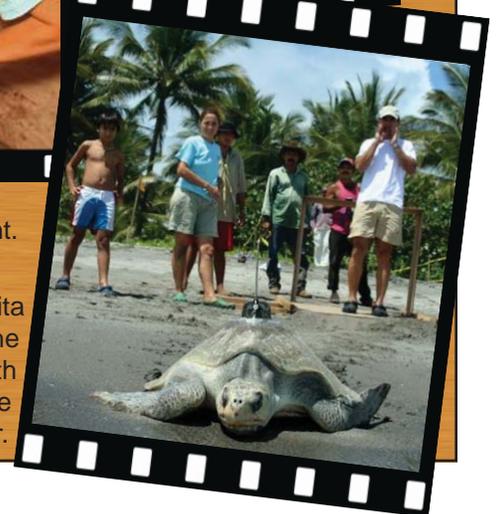
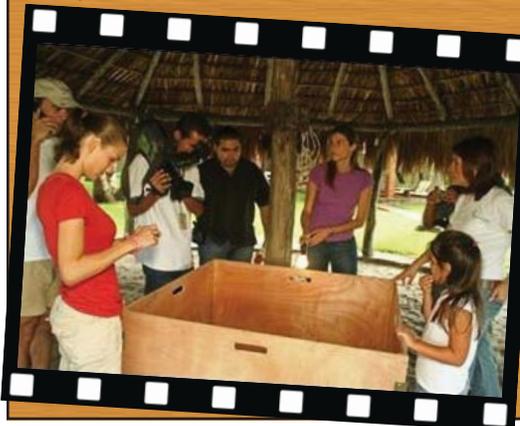
Each turtle is measured until the perfect candidate is encountered.



Marco Guirola (left), CEO of Arenas del Pacifico, helps with the attachment.

Attaching a satellite transmitter to a turtle attracts a crowd.

Arenita heads to the ocean with a satellite transmitter.



nesting and foraging habitats and its beach/dune system.

CCC Staff Wins Environmental Award for Coastal Work

At the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association's (FSBPA) 2008 Conference Gary Appelson, CCC's Policy Coordinator, was presented with FSBPA's annual Environmental Award. The award was engraved "For your wisdom and quiet leadership in guiding Florida's beach management and regulatory programs down a path of increasing awareness and sensitivity to other coastal and marine resources." The words describe Gary's efforts to protect the coastal environment through his work directing CCC's coastal policy reform program that focuses on ensuring the long-term protection of Florida's sea turtle



Courtesy of FSBPA

FSBPA's Debbie Flack and Virginia Barker present the award to CCC's Gary Appelson.

FSBPA is a Florida non-profit organization comprised primarily of coastal government representatives, governmental coastal resource managers, and coastal scientists and engineers. FSBPA focuses its efforts on protecting and enhancing policies and funding for the state's Beach Management Program. Over the last several years CCC and FSBPA have worked closely on coastal armoring issues, improved inlet management, and other issues related to coastal resource protection.

The award presentation noted CCC's work to implement a state-wide coastal hazards notification law to educate oceanfront homeowners about the dynamic nature of beaches, Gary's appointment to the Governor's 18-member Coastal High Hazard Study Committee, and CCC's working with FSBPA and other conservation groups on a number of successful coastal protection initiatives. 🌊

Congratulations Gary!

CCC Applauds the Action of Sarasota County to Protect its Beach and Dune System

On October 28, Sarasota County, on Florida's Gulf coast, approved a virtual ban on the construction of sea walls to protect shoreline development. The Sarasota County Commission voted 4 to 1 to change the county's coastal setback code. The vote came after 19 months of public workshops and hearings. These meetings were often heavily attended by those espousing their right to develop the shoreline and protect private property, as well as citizens and county staff pointing out the negative effects of sea walls.

The ordinance does allow for seawalls to protect infrastructure and homes constructed before the ban was passed. However, the rules for these homes are restrictive, making it virtually impossible to build a new sea wall. Noting that sea walls cause damage and increase erosion, the new ordinance requires homeowners applying for a sea wall to prove the wall will not cause any harm to the beach or adjacent properties. The ordinance lists two preferable options for homeowners to protect their homes - elevate them above the flood zone or move them landward. The ordinance also includes restrictions on new coastal construction permits that will push beach front construction as far landward as possible.

The effort to revise the old ordinance began in 2005 with a permit request for a ½ mile long sea wall to protect properties on Manasota Key. At the hearing debating the permit for that seawall CCC offered testimony about the wall's impact to sea turtle nesting on behalf of adjacent property owners opposed to the wall. Sarasota County's

beaches account for almost half of all the sea turtle nesting along the Gulf Coast. The County Commission denied the permit and has been grappling with sea wall issues ever since.



Wilma Katz

Sea turtle tracks running along a Sarasota County sea wall.

As early as 2003, the slow destruction of Sarasota County's beaches and the loss of public access due to sea wall construction was being recognized. At that time almost 1/3 of the county's shoreline had been armored, more than almost any other county in Florida. The passage of this ordinance will stop, and hopefully reverse, the loss of local beaches. CCC commends Sarasota County for this forward-looking and long term commitment to the protection of its beaches, arguably the county's most important resource. With sea levels and coastal storms on the rise, this new policy makes sense for the citizens of Sarasota County, future generations of beach goers and for all Floridians. Hopefully other counties will follow suit. 🌊

By Gary Appelson
Policy Coordinator

This Holiday Season and New Year Think Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Sea Turtles!

This holiday season, surprise your friends and family with something extraordinary. By “adopting” an endangered sea turtle as a gift, you and your loved ones will take pride in helping ensure the survival of some of the most amazing creatures on the planet.

For a tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more (\$35 International), we will send a personalized adoption certificate, a sea turtle conservation guide, a logo sticker, magnet, and a one-year subscription to the *Velador* newsletter, all in a beautiful color folder.

Please also consider becoming a Monthly Supporter in the new year! By authorizing the Caribbean Conservation Corporation to charge a monthly donation of at least \$10, you can save paper, time and postage, as well as avoid receiving renewal notices! Your regularly scheduled contributions will provide us with the steady, reliable support we so urgently need to help protect sea turtles. You can sign up as a Monthly Supporter by calling CCC or filling out our online form.

To adopt a sea turtle for yourself or as a gift, fill out and return the enclosed Gift Adoption Form, call CCC at 800-678-7853 or visit our web site at www.cccturtle.org.



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www.cccturtle.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 401
Gainesville, FL



Adopt-A-Turtle Form

CALL 800-678-7853
ONLINE AT WWW.CCCTURTLE.ORG

Gift Giver's Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

	Num.	Total
\$25 Adopt (U.S. min)		
\$35 Adopt (Intl. min)		
\$50 Adopt-A-Turtle		
\$100 Adopt-A-Turtle		
TOTAL		

1. Gift Adopt-A-Turtle is For:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Thank-you Gift Selection	
<i>For gifts of \$50 or \$100, select one thank-you gift that will be included with the Adopt-A-Turtle.</i>	
\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Plush Sea Turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Ornament
\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> CCC Cloth Grocery Bag <input type="checkbox"/> Logo T-shirt (size: S M L XL)

Type of Membership: () Individual - \$25 U.S./\$35 Intl. () Green Turtle - \$50 () Leatherback Turtle - \$100
 Type of Turtle: () Satellite-Tagged Turtle OR () Name Your Own Turtle [Name of Turtle: _____]
 Name as you would like it to appear on Adoption Certificate where it reads "Adopted by": _____
 Please send Certificate and materials directly to Gift Recipient Please send Certificate and materials to Me, the Gift Giver

2. Gift Adopt-A-Turtle is For:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Thank-you Gift Selection	
<i>For gifts of \$50 or \$100, select one thank-you gift that will be included with the Adopt-A-Turtle.</i>	
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 Please send Certificate and materials directly to Gift Recipient Please send Certificate and materials to Me, the Gift Giver

3. Gift Adopt-A-Turtle is For:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Thank-you Gift Selection	
<i>For gifts of \$50 or \$100, select one thank-you gift that will be included with the Adopt-A-Turtle.</i>	
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