

Sea Turtles of Georgia

COASTAL CRITTERS COLLECTOR CARD SERIES



PROTECTION STATUS
ENDANGERED



GREEN



Common Name: Green

Scientific Name: *Chelonia mydas*

Average Length: 3.5 to 4 feet

Average Weight: 300 to 400 pounds

Fact: Only sea turtle that is herbivorous as an adult.

Diet: Adults eat sea grass and algae.

Nesting: Lay an average of 115 eggs per nest.



EDITION 1.10

Threats - Harvest for Consumption

In some coastal towns around the world, poachers seek out nesting sea turtles on the beach at night. They hunt these turtles and take the eggs to sell. This act is forbidden in many countries, including the United States.

Education and law enforcement are key to protecting the lives of sea turtles.



TybeeMarineScience.org

912-786-5917

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION



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**Tracks
in Sand**

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HAWKSBILL



Common Name: Hawksbill

Scientific Name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Average Length: 2.5 to 3 feet

Average Weight: 100 to 150 pounds

Fact: Beak-shaped jaws allow it to get food from crevices.

Diet: They eat sponges, anemones, squid and shrimp.

Nesting: Lay an average of 160 eggs per nest.



EDITION 1-10

Threats - Illegal Sea Turtle Shell Trade

Hawksbill sea turtles are hunted to create jewelry and other luxury items out of their beautiful golden and brown shells. Their population is estimated to have declined by 90% over the last 100 years. It is strictly prohibited by law to buy, sell, or import any sea turtle product in the U.S. and in many other countries around the world.

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KEMP'S RIDLEY



Common Name: Kemp's Ridley

Scientific Name: *Lepidochelys kempii*

Average Length: 2 feet

Average Weight: 77 to 100 pounds

Fact: The rarest and smallest of all sea turtles.

Diet: Have strong jaws to crush crabs, clams, and mussels.

Nesting: Lay an average of 110 eggs per nest.



Threats - Commercial Fishing

Hundreds of thousands of young and adult sea turtles are accidentally injured or killed every year around the world by different types of commercial fisheries. Using modified gear that reduces the loss of sea turtles is one way to support the preservation of these animals.

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Jason Wiley-SeaPix.com

PROTECTION STATUS
ENDANGERED



LEATHERBACK



Common Name: Leatherback

Scientific Name: *Dermochelys coriacea*

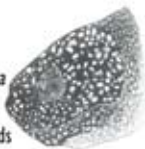
Average Length: 4 to 6 feet

Average Weight: 550 to 1,545 pounds

Fact: The largest turtles in the world. Rubbery skin.

Diet: Delicate scissor-like jaws so feed mostly on jellies.

Nesting: Lay an average of 80 eggs per nest.



EDITION 1-10

Threats - Marine Debris

An estimated 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean. It reaches the sea from beaches, street drains, and landfills. Sea turtles swallow plastics, mistaking them for food. It is difficult for Leatherbacks to distinguish between floating jellyfish and floating plastic bags.

Remember to reduce, reuse, & recycle!

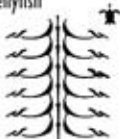
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HELVIA GALLI



PROTECTION STATUS
THREATENED



LOGGERHEAD



Common Name: Loggerhead

Scientific Name: *Caretta caretta*

Average Length: 2.5 to 3.5 feet

Average Weight: 250 pounds

Fact: The most common sea turtle in Georgia.

Diet: Powerful jaw muscles help them crush shellfish.

Nesting: Lay an average of 120 eggs per nest.



EDITION 1-10

Threats - Artificial Lighting

Artificial lighting on the beach discourages females from nesting and causes hatchlings to become disoriented. They may wander inland and die of dehydration or even get run over on coastal streets. It is important to turn off or shield beachfront lighting during the sea turtle nesting season.



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