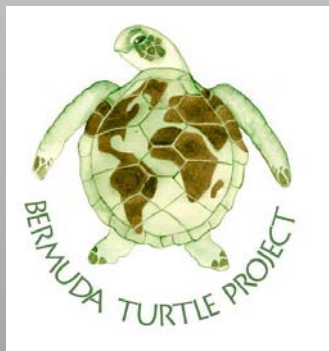


Conservation + management + research

Tagging Green Turtles

One of the world's longest running studies of juvenile sea turtles.



This research was funded by:

Department of Conservation Services

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission

Eckert College

Bermuda Zoological Society

Sea Turtle Conservancy

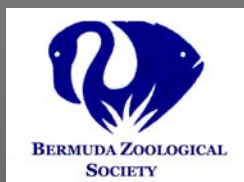
Clay Frick Foundation

Chevron International

Atlantic Conservation Partnership

WIDECAST

And numerous private individuals



Project Objectives

To conserve sea turtles through research and education.

Photos courtesy of The Bermuda Turtle Project

Summary

Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are the most common sea turtle resident on the Bermuda Reef Platform. They once nested on Bermuda's beaches but the local adult breeding population was exterminated due to extensive hunting. The last known green turtle nesting event was observed in the 1930s. Now only juvenile green turtles live in Bermuda.

The Bermuda Turtle Project has captured over 3,000 juvenile green turtles resident on the Bermuda Platform since 1968 in order to examine the role that the 'developmental habitat' serves in the complex life cycle of sea turtles.

Research is carried out on size frequency, sex ratios, growth rates, genetic affinities, habitat preferences, and migrations. Turtles are captured on grass flats around Bermuda using a 2,000 foot net. They are tagged, weighed, and measured before being released immediately at the capture site. This project has provided new insights into the life history of sea turtles, especially the 'developmental habitat' stage in which juvenile turtles grow from the size of a dinner plate to nearly adult size.

Turtles tagged in Bermuda have been recovered throughout the Caribbean and Central America, and adult females have been seen nesting on beaches in Mexico, Costa Rica and Cuba.

All of Bermuda's sea turtles have been protected from intentional harm since 1973, however many are accidentally injured and killed each year due to boat strikes and entanglement in fishing lines that have been discarded into the marine environment.



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GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Public Works

Department of Conservation Services