

THE MIRACULOUS LIFE OF A SEA TURTLE



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Center for Biological Diversity**

**16th International Wildlife Law Conference
Stetson University College of Law
April 13-14, 2016**

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Center works through science, law and creative media to secure a future for all species, great or small, hovering on the brink of extinction.



Photo source: Robin Silver



Photo source: Don Jeane

SEA TURTLES FOUND IN THE U.S.



Loggerhead

Adult: 250 lbs (113 kg), 3 ft (1 m)

Nests: 3-5 clutches 110 eggs

Eats: whelks and conch



Green Turtle

Adult: 300-350 lbs (135-150 kg), 3 ft (1 m)

Nests: 5 clutches 135 eggs

Eats: seagrass and algae



Leatherback

Adult: 600-1,100 lbs (300-500 kg), 4-6 ft (2 m)

Nests: 4-7 clutches 100 eggs

Eats: jellyfish and other soft bodied animals



Hawksbill

Adult: 100-150 lbs (45-70 kg), 25-35 in (65-90 cm)

Nests: 3-5 clutches 130 eggs

Eats: sponges, other invertebrates, algae



Kemp's Ridley

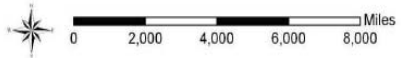
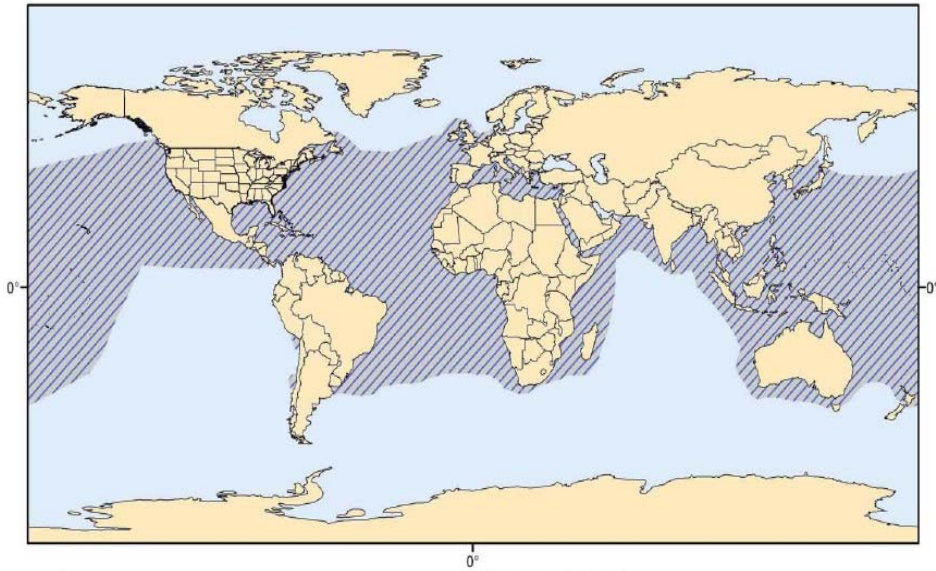
Adult: 100 lbs (45 kg), 24-28 in (60-70 cm)

Nests: 2-3 clutches 100 eggs

Eats: crabs, fish, jellyfish, and mollusks

(and Olive Ridley...)

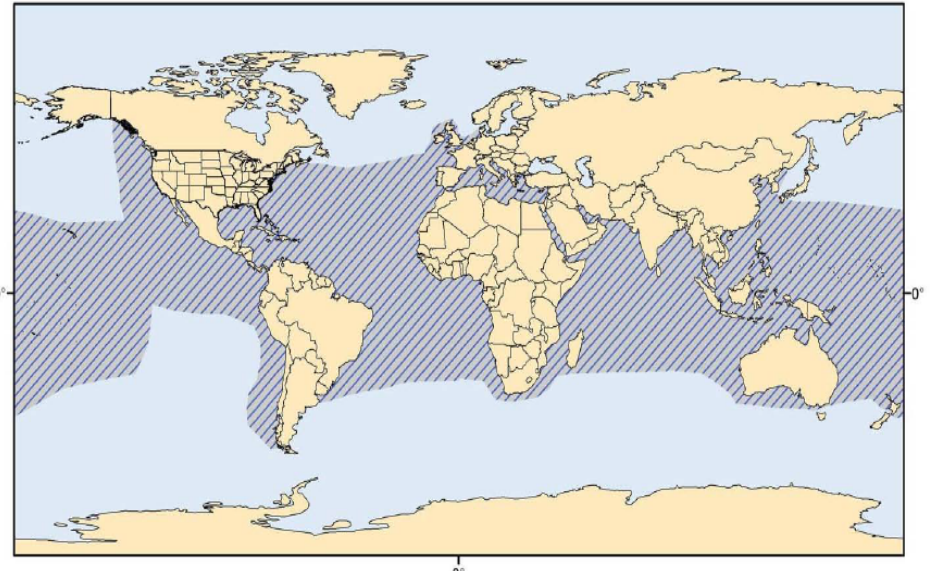
Loggerhead Sea Turtle Range



Note: Map represents approximate range of species.

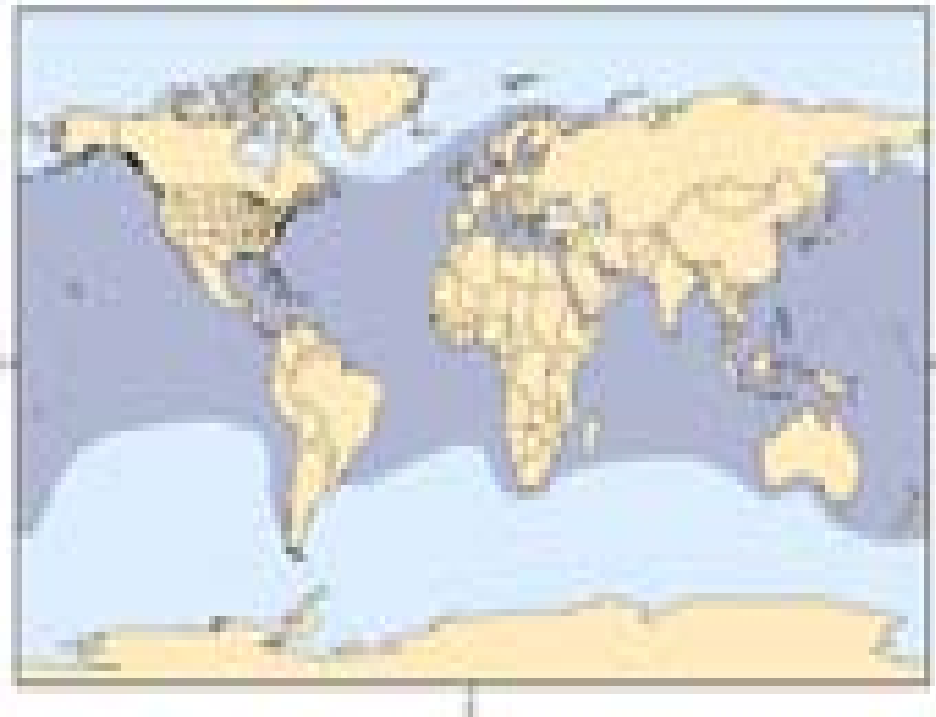
NMFS, Office of Protected Resources
March 2009

Green Sea Turtle Range

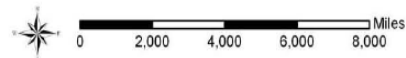
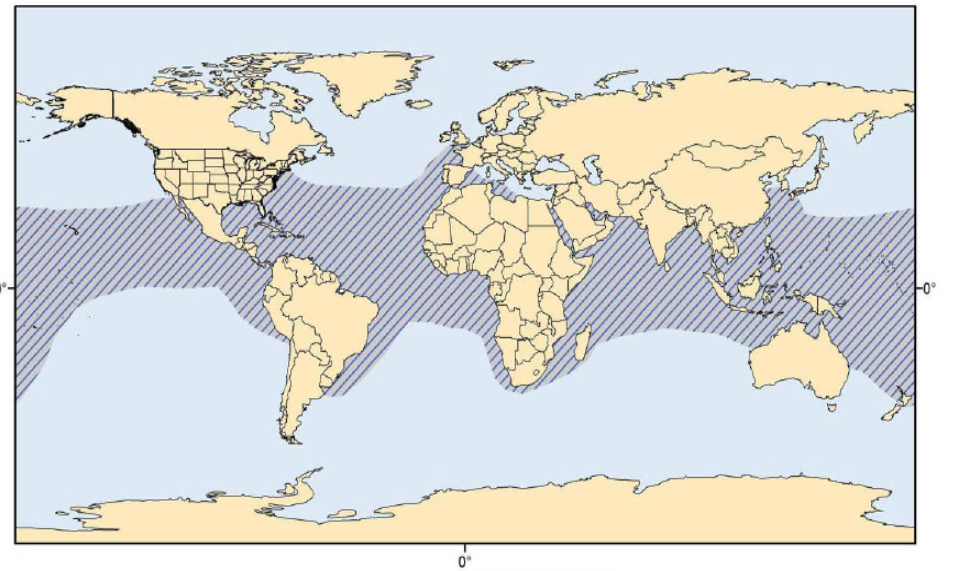


Note: Map represents approximate range of species.

NMFS, Office of Protected Resources
March 2009



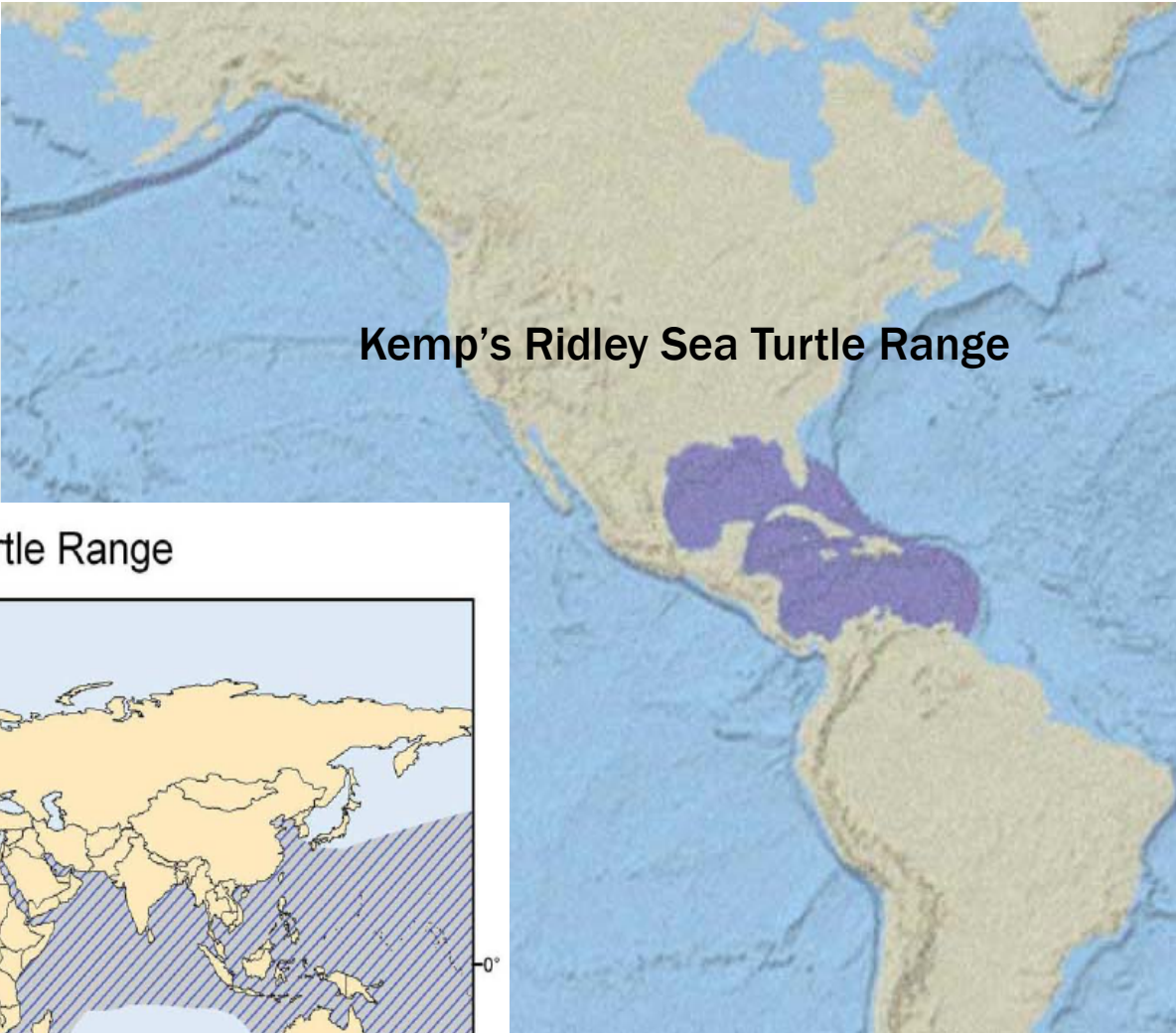
Hawksbill Sea Turtle Range



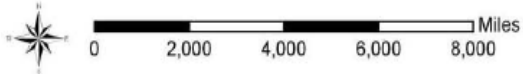
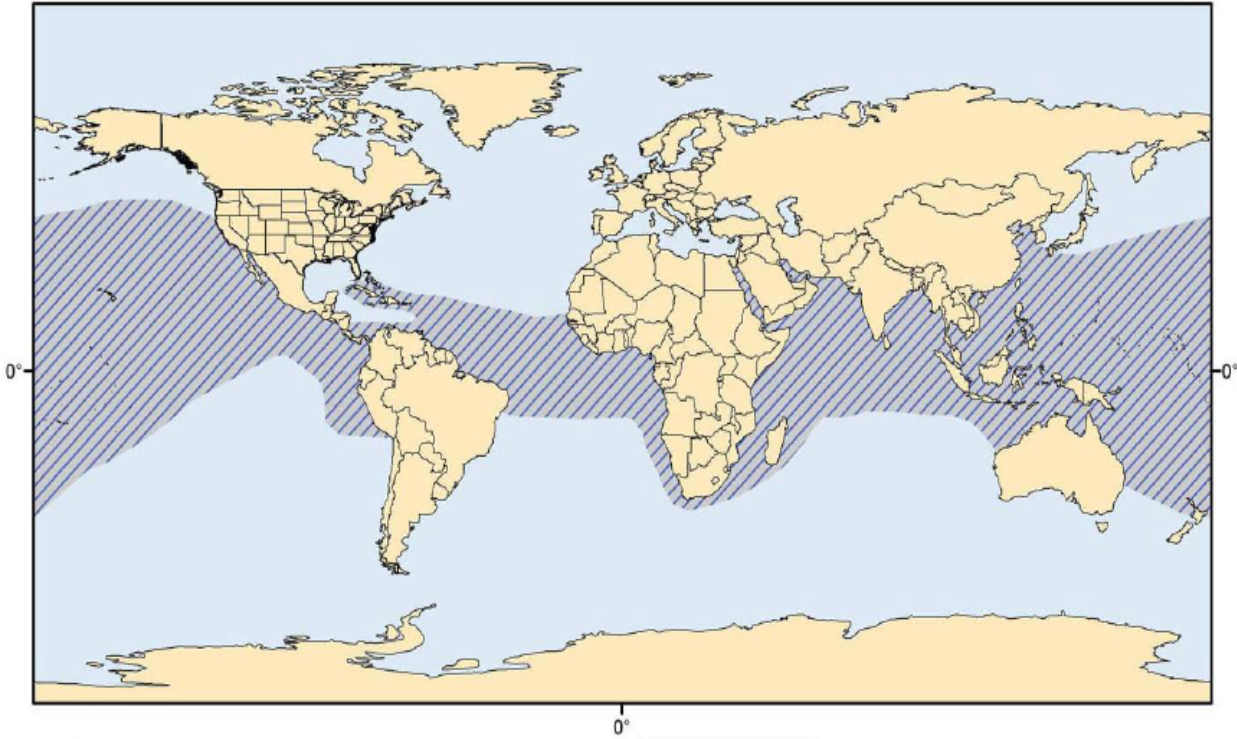
Note: Map represents approximate range of species.

NMFS, Office of Protected Resources
March 2009

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Range



Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Range



Note: Map represents approximate range of species.

NMFS, Office of Protected Resources
March 2009

A MOTHER NESTS



A SEA TURTLE IS BORN



100% success at Marriott Harbor Beach
Photo credit: Sea Turtle Oversight Protection



Near 100% failure at Primanti Bros. Pizza
Photo credit: Sea Turtle Oversight Protection

LIFE IN THE OPEN OCEAN



Photo credit: Daniel Beltra/Greenpeace

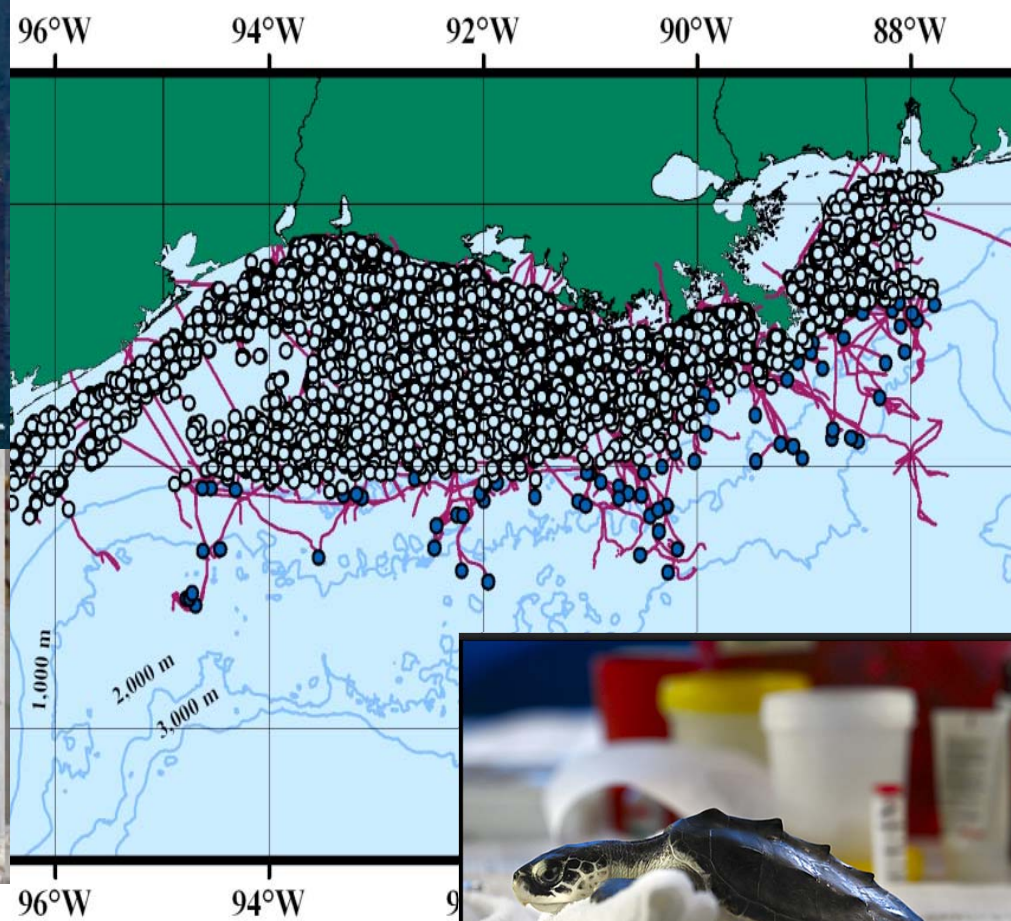
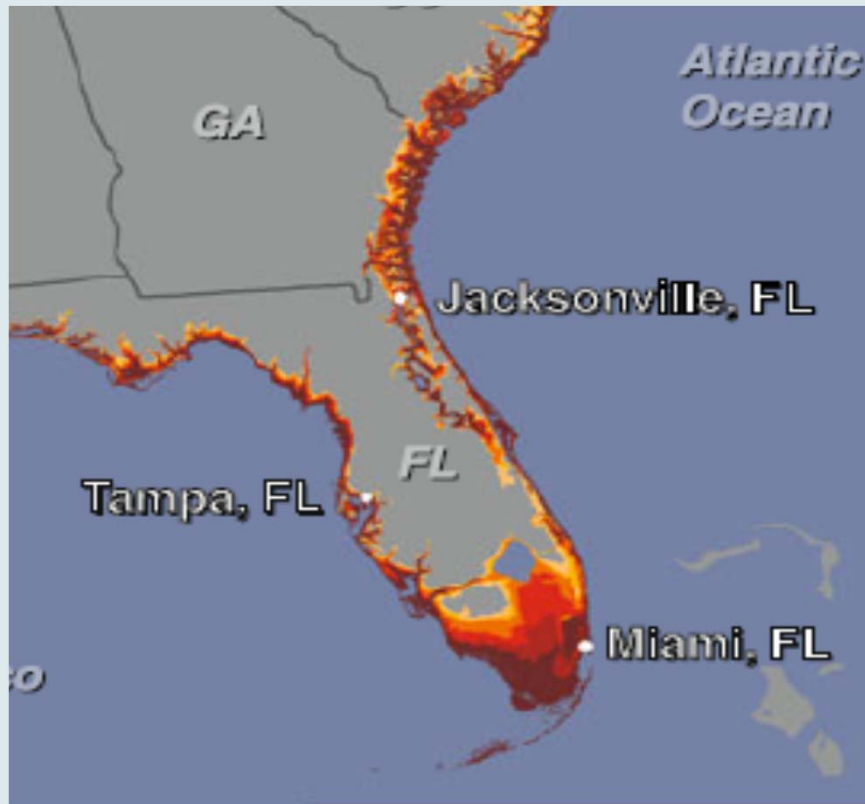


Photo credit: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

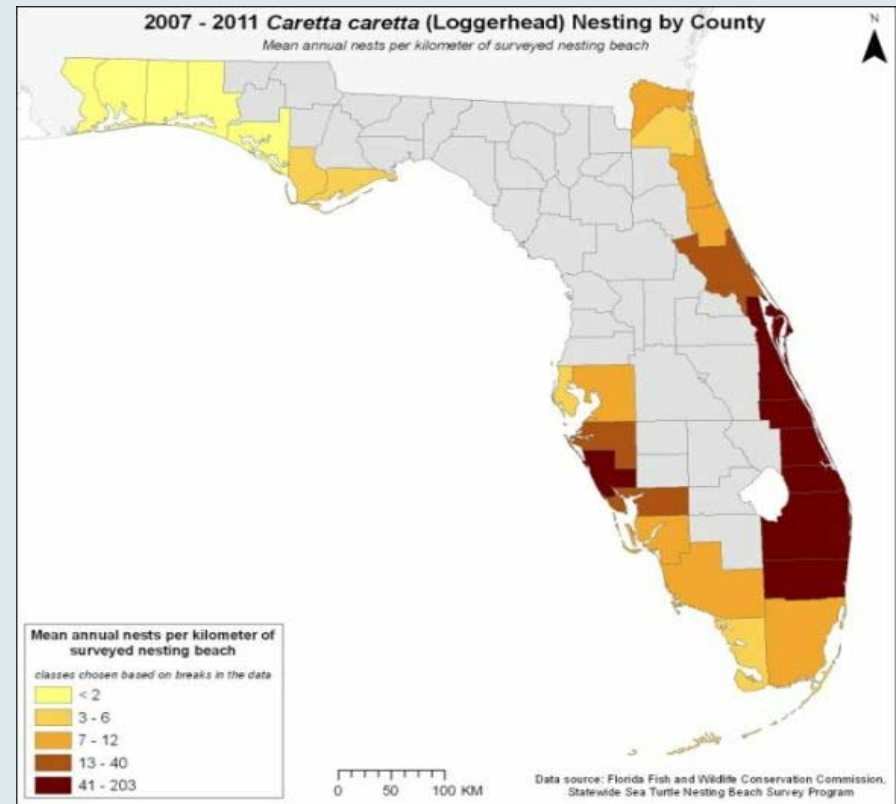


Photo credit: Gerald Herbert-AP

RETURN TO NEST



Source: Weiss et al. 2011



Source: FWC FWRI,
www.myfwc.com/research/wildlife/seaturtles/nesting

RETURN TO NEST

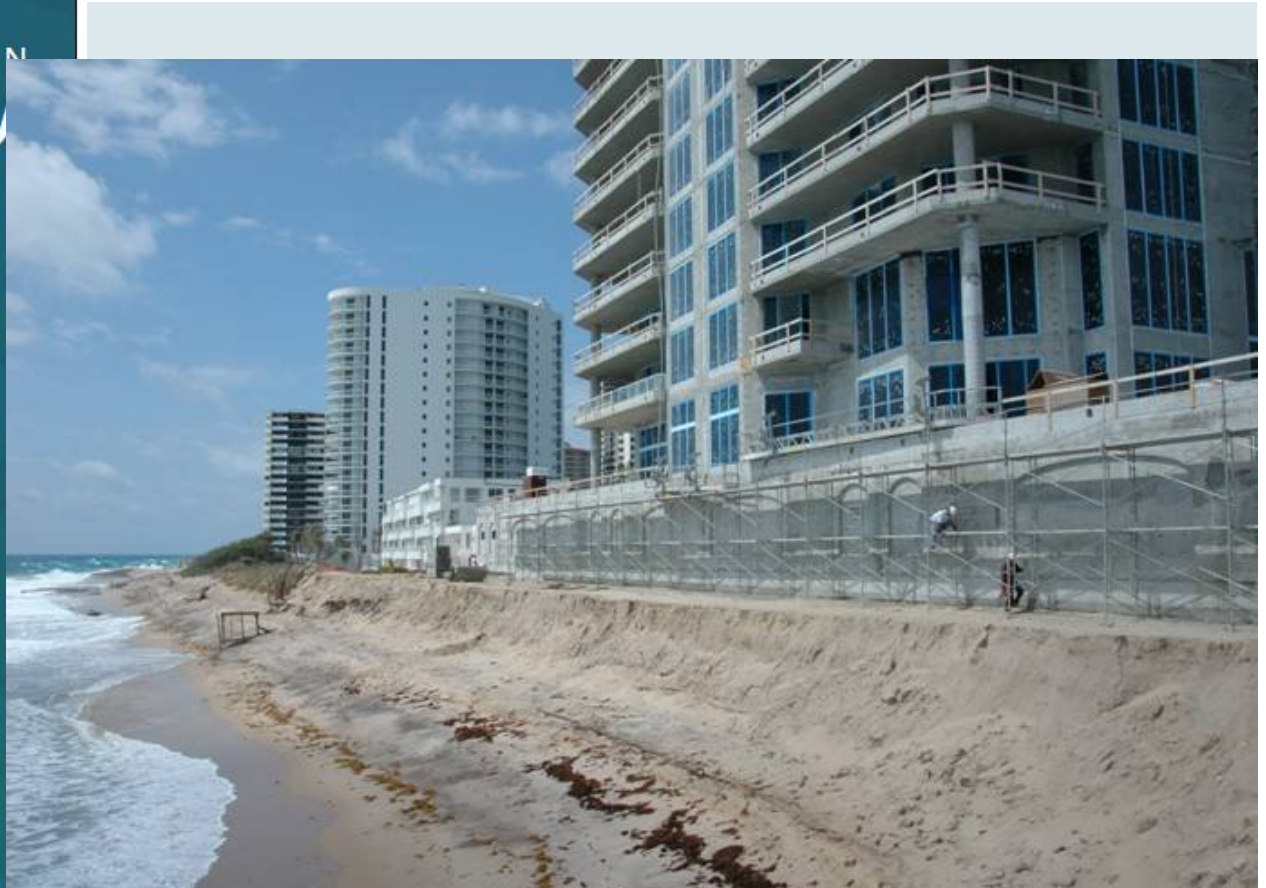


Photo credit: Sea Turtle Conservancy

SEA TURTLE PROTECTION

- Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
- Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Flora and Fauna
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar)
- Central American Convention on Biodiversity
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Endangered Species Act



Photo credit: Scott R. Benson, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center



INCREASE IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN NESTING BEACHES



- 1990 earthquake in Cahuita
- Turtle eggs for drugs
- Lack of resources

SHRIMP TRAWL FISHING



Photo credit: Pretoma

2009: U.S. imposes three-year ban on importing Costa Rican shrimp

2013: Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court declared shrimp trawl fishing unconstitutional

2016: Last of the shrimp trawl boats will be decommissioned

2016: U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service reports that domestic shrimp trawl fishing impacts 500,000 sea turtles, killing 50,000 sea turtles every year

SHRIMP TRAWL FISHING

OTTER TRAWL COMPONENTS

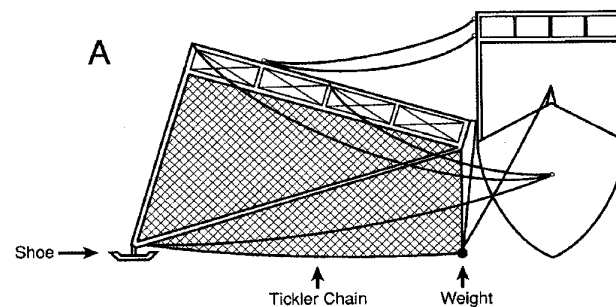
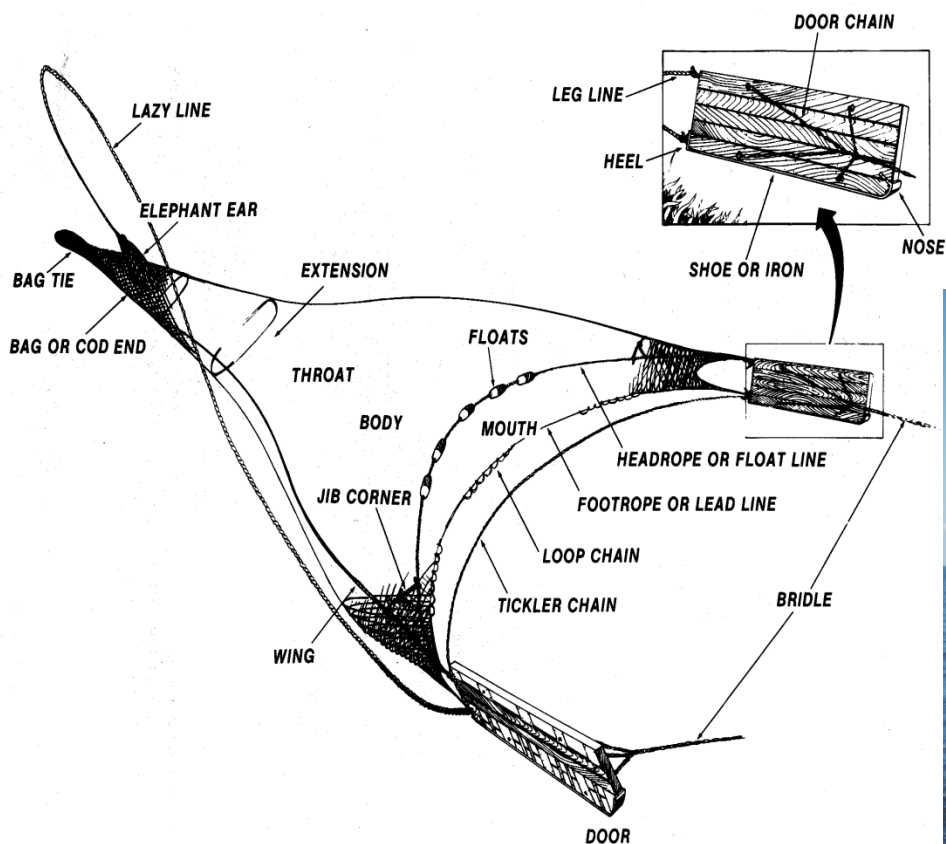


Photo credit: NOAA

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

- Federal agencies funding, authorizing, or conducting activities cannot jeopardize or adversely modify critical habitat
 - ✦ “federal nexus”
 - ✦ Biological Opinion
 - ✦ Incidental Take Statement



Photo credit: NOAA

THANK YOU

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