The loggerhead turtle in the eastern Gulf of Mexico

Book Reviews

The Loggerhead Turtle in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

by Charles R. LeBuff, Jr.; illustrated by Warren Boutchis and Mary Lou Schadt
Introduction by Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard

236 pages, 6 x 9 inches, hardcover edition only, US$49.95
34 color plates, 41 orig. black/white illus., 21 previously published illus.
maps, figures, tables; glossary, limited bibliography, index
ISBN 0-9625013-0-1
Release date: June 20, 1990
Publisher: Caretta Research Inc., P. O. Box 419, Sanibel, Florida 33957 USA (tel: 813-472-3177)

THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE is the result of an intimate, long-term, and ongoing investigation into the biology, life history, and conservation of this threatened marine species in Southwest Florida. This sea turtle's biology, ancestry, taxonomy, physiology, diet, reproductive behavior, embryological development, and survival problems are among the subjects discussed in this semi-technical book. Other chapters deal with the turtle's interactions with man, protection of this and related species in Florida, and the important work of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network. An appended section provides, in field guide format, details on the four allied marine turtle species which cohabit the eastern Gulf of Mexico with the loggerhead.

The author provides a good mix of data, a considerable amount of which is being published for the first time, and personal accounts of in-the-field episodes. In THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE, Mr. LeBuff chronicles over three decades of field research, conservation efforts, and experiences. For over twenty years author Charles LeBuff has served as Project Director of Caretta Research Inc., a sea turtle conservation organization he founded in 1968. He has recently retired from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service following thirty-two years of distinguished service.

As of its release date THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE will be immediately available from the publisher and later this year from bookstores. For direct orders in the USA from the publisher, add US$3.00 sales tax (6%). Purchasers from Canada or overseas wishing to order should write first for applicable airmail or surface postal rates (please specify which). Direct sales are encouraged since the publisher's profits will be earmarked for sea turtle conservation and research at all levels in the USA. For those preferring MasterCard or Visa orders, please order from ZooBook Sales, P.O. Box 349, Sanibel, FL 33957 (tel:813-472-5490).

The Green Turtle and Hawksbill (Reptilia: Cheloniidae): World Status, Exploitation and Trade

by B. Groombridge and R. Luxmoore

601 pages (including tables and references), 6 x 9.5 inches, softcover edition only
Copyright 1989; Language English; ISBN 2-88323-0013
Publisher: Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,
6 rue du Maupas, Case Postale 78, CH-1000 Lausanne 9, Switzerland

The primary objectives of the project which produced this book were:

a. to collect and collate the best available data relating to the status and distribution of significant populations of *Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*, assess trends in the size of each such population, and identify the reasons for such trends where possible,
b. to examine the best available data relating to the trade in the two species, including their parts and derivatives, and so far as possible assess the impact of such trade on populations,
c. to make recommendations for consideration by CITES Parties for each population, relating to its overall management, to endeavor to ensure its continuance at an optimum level, and to the extent to which any exploitation by farming, ranching or culling is consistent with such management.

In full recognition that the data were often woefully inadequate to develop "firm and quantified management procedures", and laboring to reach some middle ground on topics of considerable controversy among biologists and administrators, the authors (with the assistance
of Andrew Desforges and Martin Jenkins) have produced a usable and well organized volume summarizing the status of these two species in nearly 150 countries and government regions.

The book opens with a 16-point Summary, a discussion of scope and methods, and a lengthy Introduction which includes marine turtle systematics, biology and management, exploitation, international trade, other threats, and conservation status. The Introduction closes with a table summarizing the distribution, size and exploitation of Chelonia and Eretmochelys populations around the world. The authors do a thorough job of summarizing current knowledge and highlighting where data are contradictory or lacking. For example, three pages are dedicated to a discussion of speciation within Chelonia before the authors conclude that "current knowledge of the systematics of the C. mydas complex is grossly inadequate for the formulation of efficient conservation and management plans."

The remainder of the book is a summary of biological information on the two species country by country, with countries listed in alphabetical order. Subheadings (Population, Exploitation, Legislation) are repeated for each country and organize relevant information. "Population" is further subdivided into nesting sites, nesting numbers, trends in nesting numbers, nesting season, and foraging sites. "Exploitation" is subdivided into commodity, hunting intensity, hunting methods, historical trends, domestic trade, and international trade. As appropriate, sections on Ranching/Farming or Threats are inserted. The reference section lists over 600 titles, current to 1987. A variety of sources, including refereed journals as well as articles and papers with more restricted distribution (such as government and project reports) are included. The book represents a laudable effort and is a practical and timely tool for identifying areas where further work is needed in efforts to conserve, on a global scale, these two depleted species. SAE

Threatened loggerhead sea turtles in the northern Gulf of Mexico can travel distances up to several hundred miles and visit offshore habitats between nesting events in a single season, taking them through waters impacted by oil and fishing industries. Share: FULL STORY. Sea turtle. Threatened loggerhead sea turtles in the northern Gulf of Mexico can travel distances up to several hundred miles and visit offshore habitats between nesting events in a single season, taking them through waters impacted by oil and fishing industries. Credit: © StrangerView / Fotolia. Sea turtle. Adult females use neritic habitat throughout the northern and eastern Gulf of Mexico both during the inter-nesting phase and as post-nesting foraging areas. Movements and habitat use of juveniles and adult males represent a large gap in our knowledge, but given the hatchling dispersal predictions and tracks of post-nesting females it is likely that some Loggerhead Turtles remain in the Gulf of Mexico throughout their life. More than two-thirds of the Gulf provides potential habitat for at least one life-stage of Loggerhead Turtles. These results demonstrate the importance of the Gulf of Mexico to this Distinct Population Segment of Loggerhead Turtles. Turtle Island’s Gulf of Mexico Office works to protect and restore populations of endangered sea turtles and marine biodiversity on the Texas Coast and throughout the Gulf. About the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.