



Okaloosa County, FL Sea Turtles

Flatback Turtle *Natator depressus*

eol
Reptiles



Trop Upw

WWF Ecoregion
+ Tropical upwellings

CARN
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	76-96 cm
Adult Weight	70 - 100 kg
Lifespan	100 years (high)
Clutch Size	50 eggs (avg)
Nest Type	Pit in sand

DD
IUCN Redlist™

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat

Range: Native to Australia

Nesting Area: Australia

Nesting Season: November - December

Image: J Thomas McMurray, Ph.D. CC-BY-NC

This deck contains the ranges, nesting habitats, and seasons for the seven sea turtle species of the world. All seven species are vulnerable or endangered.

This card deck has been developed as part of the Okaloosa SCIENCE project, a collaborative STEM education grant for the Okaloosa County School District in the Florida panhandle. The goals of this project include enhancing scientific literacy, connecting to place, and building community by engaging in hands-on activities.

Find this card deck and more at:
education.eol.org/species_cards



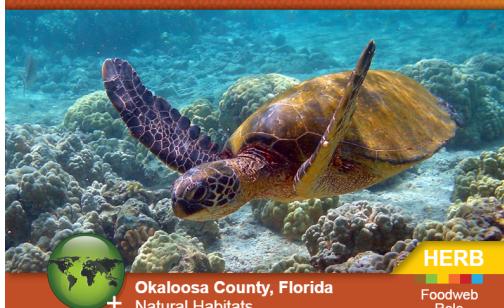
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Project Description

Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas*

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Reptiles



Okoaloosa County, Florida
Natural Habitats

HERB
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	71-153 cm
Adult Weight	135-150 kg
Lifespan	80-100 years
Clutch Size	100-200 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

EN
IUCN Redlist™

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat

Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea

Nesting Area: Over 80 temperate & tropical countries

Nesting Season: Throughout the year

Image: Brocken Inaglory CC-BY-SA

Common Name

Scientific Name

Taxon Group

Food Web Roles

DECO	Decomposer: Energy from dead material
AUTO	Autotroph: Energy from sun, water, CO ₂
HERB	Herbivore: Energy from plants
OMNI	Omnivore: Energy from plants, animals
CARN	Carnivore: Energy from animals
APEX	Apex Predator: Top predator
DETR	Detritivore: Energy from dead vegetation
SANG	Sanguinivore: Energy from blood
MULT	Multiple: Energy from multiple sources



Habitat (where species is found)
+ (indicates species is also found in other habitats)

Species Conservation Status

IUCN Redlist™

International Union for
Conservation of Nature

LC	Least Concern
DD	Data Deficient
NT	Near Threatened
EN	Endangered

NE Not Evaluated

VU	Vulnerable
CR	Critically Endangered
EW	Extinct in Wild
EX	Extinct

Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*

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Reptiles



Okoaloosa County, Florida
Natural Habitats

OMNI
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	65-90 cm
Adult Weight	45-70 kg
Lifespan	30-50 years
Clutch Size	130-140 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

CR
IUCN Redlist™

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat

Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea

Nesting Area: Caribbean, Africa, Indonesia, Australia

Nesting Season: July - October

Image: Tim Sherman-Chase CC-BY



Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle
Lepidochelys kempii

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Reptiles



OMNI
Okaloosa County, Florida
Natural Habitats

Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	60-70 cm
Adult Weight	30-50 kg
Lifespan	30-50 years
Clutch Size	100 eggs (avg)
Nest Type	Pit in sand

IUCN Redlist™ CR

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat
Range: Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean
Nesting Area: Tamaulipas - Padre Island Ntl. Seashore
Nesting Season: April - July

Image: Juan Carlos Delgado Calvillo CC-BY-NC

Leatherback Sea Turtle
Dermochelys coriacea

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CARN
Okaloosa County, Florida
Natural Habitats

Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	145-160 cm
Adult Weight	250-900 kg
Lifespan	30 years
Clutch Size	50-100 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

IUCN Redlist™ VU

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat
Range: Global - prefers the open ocean
Nesting Area: Americas, Africa, Oceania
Nesting Season: April - November

Image: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region CC-BY

Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Caretta caretta

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Reptiles



OMNI
Okaloosa County, Florida
Natural Habitats

Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	85-100 cm
Adult Weight	77-545 kg
Lifespan	30-62 years
Clutch Size	110-130 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

IUCN Redlist™ VU

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat
Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea
Nesting Area: United States, Australia and Oman
Nesting Season: April - September

Image: Strobilomyces CC-BY-SA

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle
Lepidochelys olivacea

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WWF Ecoregion
Tropical upwellings

Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	55-80 cm
Adult Weight	35-45 kg
Lifespan	50 years (avg)
Clutch Size	107 eggs (avg)
Nest Type	Pit in sand

IUCN Redlist™ VU

Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat
Range: Atlantic, Pacific & Indian Oceans
Nesting Area: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama & India
Nesting Season: June - December

Image: 2008 William Flaxington CC-BY-NC

Conservation of sea turtles



Sea Turtle caught in net Doug Helton, Public Domain

What are the main threats to sea turtles?

- Bycatch
- Light pollution: confuses hatchlings
- Overharvesting of eggs
- Habitat loss

What is being done to help them?

- Turtle monitoring teams, citizen science
- Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs)
- Reducing habitat disturbance

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Conservation of sea turtles



Cleaning the beach Jay C. Pugh, U.S. Navy, Public Domain

What can you do to help the sea turtles?

- Reduce lighting near nesting areas
- Participate in a beach clean up
- Eat sustainably harvested seafood
- Make a donation

Who is helping in Okaloosa?

- Eglin Air Force Base
- Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge
- Henderson Beach State Park

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Fun Facts about sea turtles



Hawksbill Sea Turtle Caroline S. Rogers, Public Domain

- A Sea Turtle cannot pull its head or legs inside of its shell
- The Hawksbill Sea Turtle has an elongated head with a pointed beak, giving it its name

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Fun Facts about sea turtles



Leatherback Sea Turtle Al Woodson CC-BY

- Sea Turtles have been around for more than 110 million years!
- The Leatherback Sea Turtle is the largest of all the species. An adult can grow more than 6 feet in length and weigh over a ton!

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Average: Sum of numbers divided by the total numbers in the group

Beak: Mouth of a turtle

Bycatch: Fish or other marine species caught unintentionally in fishing nets

Carapace: Hard upper shell of a turtle, crustacean, or arachnid

Clutch size: Number of eggs laid in a nest at one time

Habitat: Area an organism lives and can find its resources

Median: Middle value of a list of numbers

Vocabulary

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Nesting area: Geographic area where a species builds its nest

Nesting season: Time of year during which a species produces offspring

Vocabulary

