

Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles

The IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) is pleased to announce the publication of its manual, *Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles*. More than 100 experts from around the world participated in the production of the manual's 42 chapters. Information is provided on a host of issues in seven sections: Overview; Taxonomy and Species Identification; Population and Habitat Assessment; Data Collection and Methods; Reducing Threats; Husbandry, Veterinary Care and Necropsy; and Legislation and Enforcement. The manual was designed to provide guidance for field researchers and conservationists and standardize methodology to allow comparison of data within regions and across ocean basins.

Spanish and French translations of the manual are in progress; we anticipate the Spanish edition will be published in late 1999 or early 2000, with the French edition to follow a few months later. Production of the manual in three languages has involved considerable expense. Those who wish to obtain the manual at the subsidized cost of US \$25 should follow the instructions outlined in (1) below. Complimentary copies are also available for programs in the developing world as provided in (2) below. All manuals will be sent via airmail.

(1) If you are a resident of the US, Canada, Australia, Western Europe, and Japan, please send your mailing address and a \$25 check made out to "IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group" for each manual to:

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1725 DeSales St. NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036 USA

Copies may also be ordered with a credit card by sending an email to mdonnelly@dccmc.org with the message header "Techniques manual order."

(2) Residents of developing countries may request a complimentary copy by sending an email directly to mdonnelly@dccmc.org with a message that reads "Techniques manual order." Please provide a complete mailing address and a very brief description of your research or conservation program. Tell me which language edition you would like to have as we can only provide one complimentary copy.

Sea Turtles and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

The international sea turtle research and conservation community currently has a special opportunity to become involved in the "Global Ocean Observing System". This initiative is sponsored by the UN International Oceanographic Commission. The vision of this project is: "...to systematically acquire, integrate and distribute marine oceanic observations, and to routinely produce analyses and forecasts and related products to enable governments, industry, science and the general public to cope with critical marine-related issues including the ocean's effects on climate." (see <http://oceanic.cms.udel.edu/gos/goos/>) Sea turtles will be included in this impressive effort under the "Monitoring and Assessment of Living Marine Resources" (LMR) component.

Our research laboratory has been asked to assemble some basic preliminary information. This involves assembling a straightforward list of existing databases relating to sea turtles. The list will not include bibliographies, but rather things like tagging and other databases that contain information on any and all aspect of sea turtles on a local, national or regional basis. We are asking for the following information, nothing more:

1. Name of database.
2. Contact person, postal address, phone, fax and email.
3. Species of sea turtles covered.
4. Geographic area covered.
5. Years covered.
6. A very brief description, or simple listing, of the data included in your database (eg tagging, carapace measurements, strandings and necropsies, incidental take in fisheries, growth rates, market surveys, international trade, etc).
7. If the database is computerized or not computerized.

To emphasize, this is an opportunity of global proportions for sea turtle people from all walks of life to link-in early to ensure sea turtles are fully and properly addressed/integrated into the GOOS program. A lack of interest could result in their not being included at this time. Please take a moment to send us the above information so that your efforts can be made known and recognized as a component of the worldweb of existing sea turtle data and knowledge.

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