

From: Godley, Brendan

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 9:28 PM

To: George Balazs <chtsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>; Broderick, Annette <A.C.Broderick@exeter.ac.uk>

Cc: Thierry Work <thierry_work@usgs.gov>


It's a neat story over 25 years. Massive commitment from DoE and an active community interest group backed up by visiting scientists and graduate students

When DoE set up their turtle programme in 1998, there wasn't much nesting

Aiken JJ, Godley BJ, Broderick AC, Austin T, Ebanks-Petrie G, Hays GC (2001) Two hundred years after a commercial marine turtle fishery: the current status of marine turtles nesting in the Cayman Islands. **Oryx** 35:145-151

http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/AikenJJ_2001_Oryx.pdf

There were signs that the head starting may have begun to work

Bell CDL, Parsons J, Austin TJ, Broderick AC, Ebanks-Petrie G, Godley BJ (2005) Some of them came home: the Cayman Turtle Farm headstarting project for the green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. **Oryx** 39:137-148 

http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/BellCDL_2005_Oryx.pdf

It was likely that the turtle fishery had been slowing down the recovery

Bell CD, Blumenthal JM, Austin TJ, Solomon JL, Ebanks-Petrie G, Broderick AC, Godley BJ (2006) Traditional Caymanian fishery may impede local marine turtle population recovery. **EndangSpecRes** 2:63-69

http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/BellCD_2006_EndangSpecRes.pdf

The numbers started to look encouraging

Bell CD, Solomon JL, Blumenthal JM, Austin TJ, Ebanks-Petrie G, Broderick AC, Godley BJ (2007) Monitoring and conservation of critically reduced marine turtle nesting populations: lessons from the Cayman Islands. **AnimalConserv** 10:39-47

http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/BellCD_2007_AnimalConserv.pdf

Bringing in the genetics showed that the farm was a major contributor for green turtles

Barbanti A, Martin C, Blumenthal JM, Boyle J, Broderick AC, Collyer L, Ebanks-Petrie G, Godley BJ, Mustin W, Ordonez V, Pascual M, Carrers C (2019) How many came home? Evaluating ex-situ conservation of green turtles in the Cayman Islands. **MolecEcol** 28:1637-1651

http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/BarbantiA_2019_MolecEcol.pdf

[The architecture of assisted colonisation in sea turtles: building new populations in a biodiversity crisis](#)

A Barbanti, JM Blumenthal, AC Broderick, BJ Godley, A Prat-Varela, ...
Nature Communications 13 (1), 1580

The numbers have continued to increase

[Cayman Islands sea turtle nesting population increases over 22 years of monitoring](#)

JM Blumenthal, JL Hardwick, TJ Austin, AC Broderick, P Chin, L Collyer, ...
Frontiers in Marine Science 8, 461

And further still!

<https://www.caymancompass.com/2023/10/18/more-than-60000-turtle-hatchlings-make-it-to-sea-so-far-in-2023/>

best

B

Our call to G7 Leaders to #ListentotheOcean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R90AwHZ7WwY&t=3s>

Brendan Godley

Chair in Conservation Science

#ExeterMarine Strategy Lead

Centre for Ecology and Conservation (CEC)

University of Exeter, Penryn Campus

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/marine/researchthemes/>

Twitter: @BrendanGodley

Twitter: @ExeterMarine

TEDx Talk "Sea Turtles: United by Oceans" here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT3PQN9bojc>



University
of Exeter



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings
2023 TOP 20



Overall: **Gold**

Student experience: **Gold**

Student outcomes: **Gold**

Teaching Excellence Framework