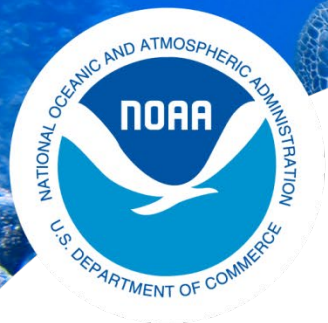


Tourism and conservation not always an easy fit



NOAA
FISHERIES

Irene Kinan Kelly,
NOAA Sea Turtle
Recovery Coordinator

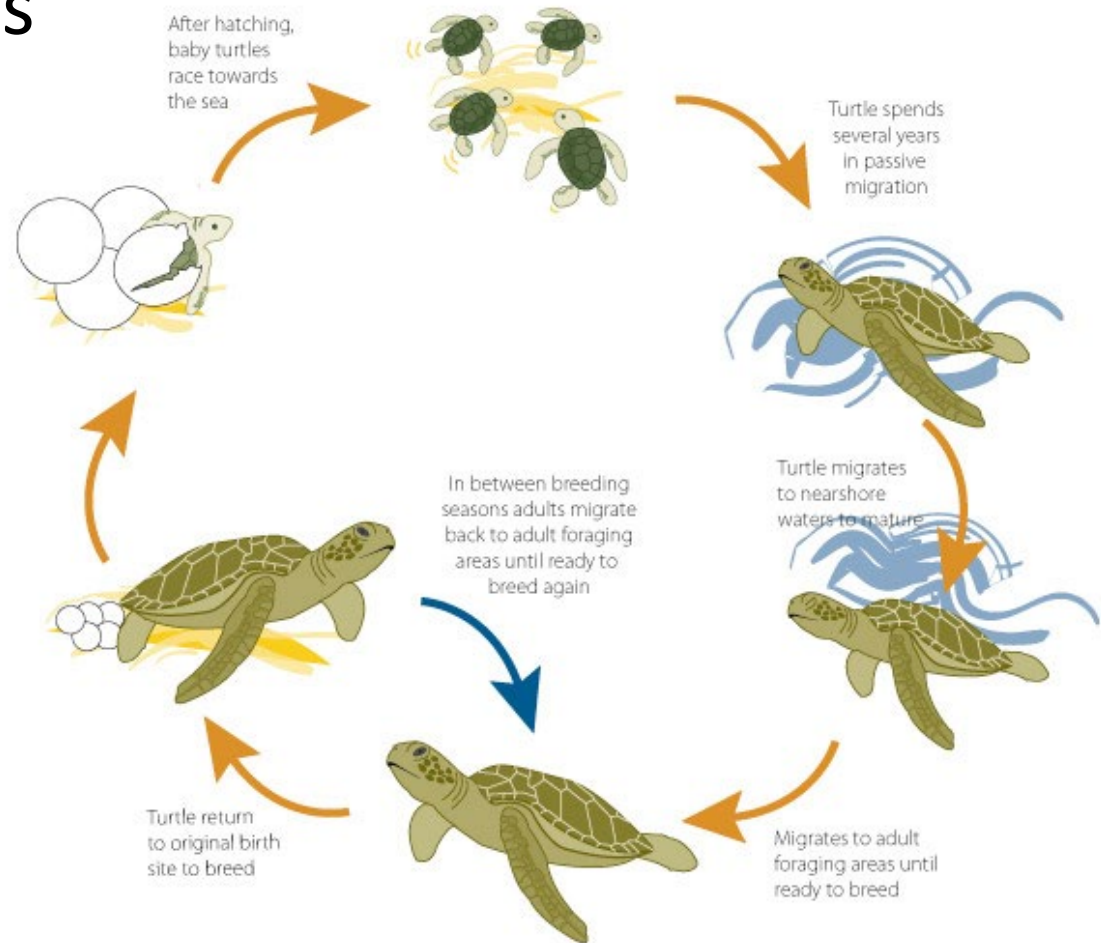


***Why hatchling retention
can be harmful***

Complex life history

Sea turtle life stages

- Nests/Eggs
- Hatchlings
- Pelagic Juveniles
- Neritic Juveniles
- Sub-adults
- Adults



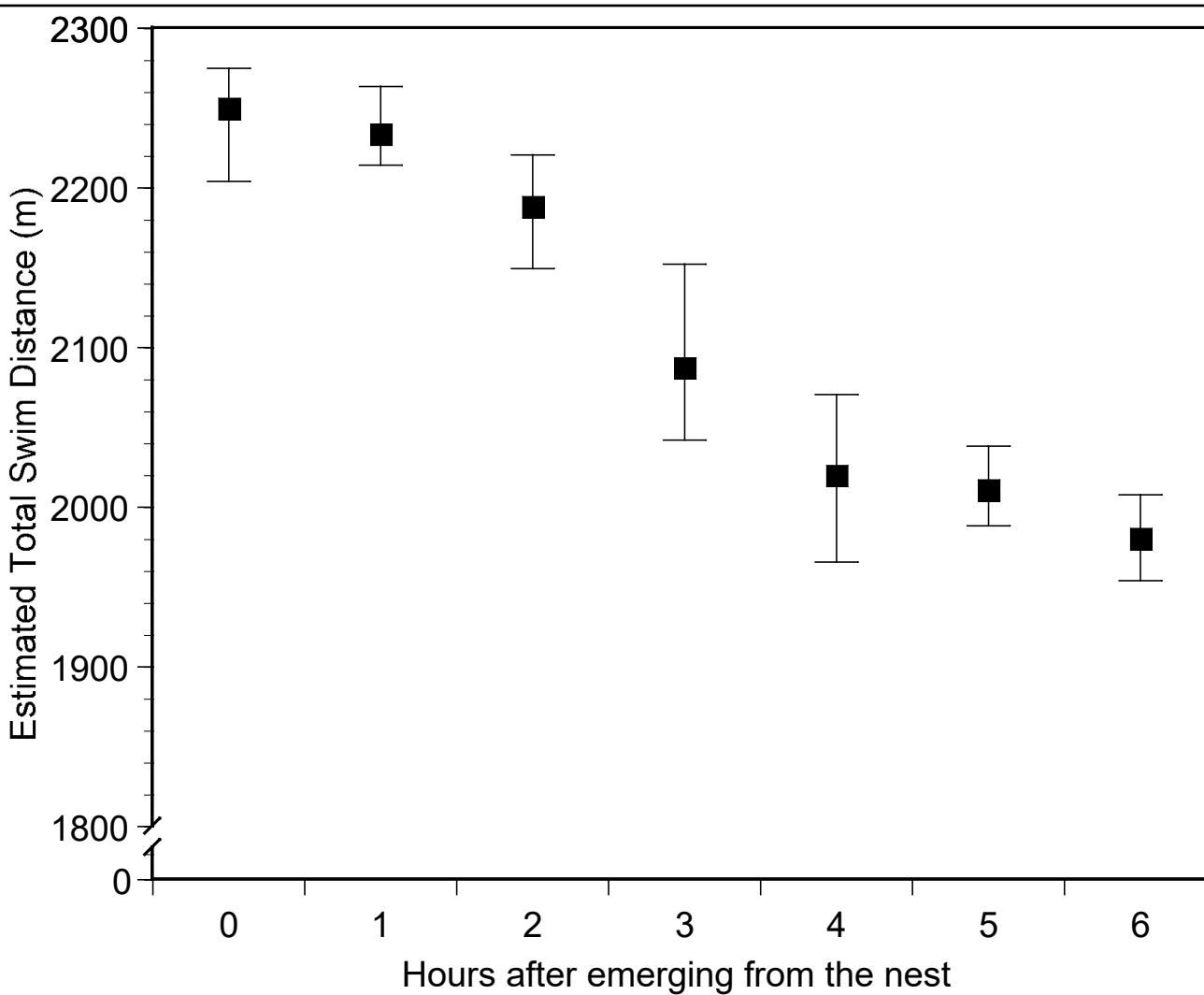
Liability for sea turtle conservation

- Headstart programs – hatcheries that rely on tourists for their economic viability.
- Beach programs – can disrupt or disturb nesting turtles causing nest abandonment.
- Swim with programs – that promote touching or feeding can harass or deter turtles from natural behavior.

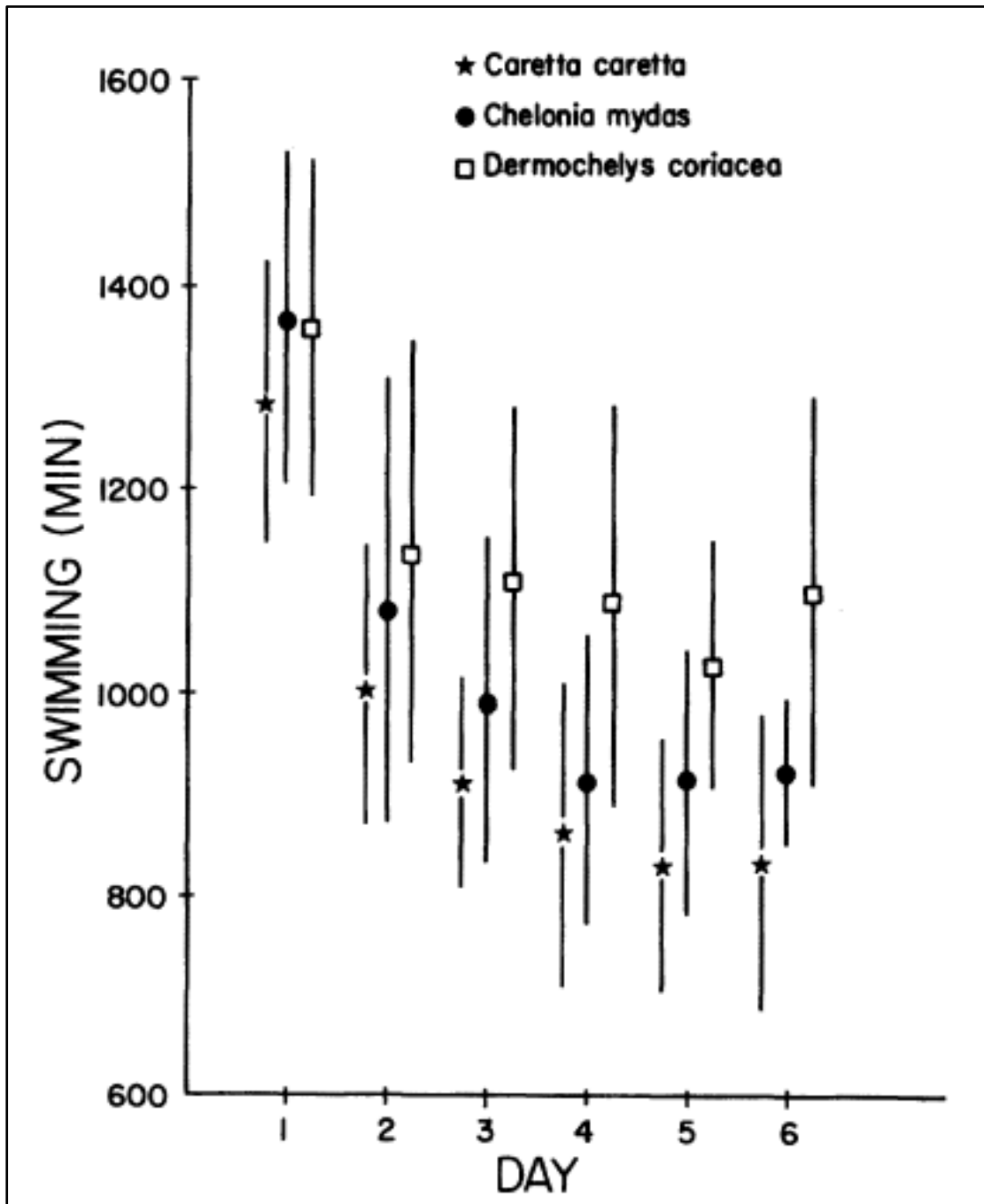
Hatcheries



Hatchling Swim Speed



Swimming speed decreases by 12% during their first six hours (Pilcher and Enderby, 2001)



Swimming activity decreases by the day (Wyneken and Salmon, 1992).

Successful release?



Positive contribution to conservation

Examples:

- Mon Repos near Bundaberg, Australia
 - concentrates on the biology and ecology of sea turtles in their natural setting
- Laniakea Beach, North Shore Oahu
 - provides educational outreach to visitors to view basking turtles from respectful distance

Projects that align with a species natural biology



Mon Repos, Australia



Malama na Honu, Laniakea



“View from a respectful distance”

Strive to be Sustainable

(from a species-centric perspective)



- Nature-based
- Educational & conservation oriented
- Align with and compliment a species natural biology

Mahalo!