
SATELLITE TRACKING THE MIGRATIONS OF POST-NESTING HAWKSBILL TURTLES IN SEYCHELLES

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The Republic of Seychelles in the Western Indian Ocean hosts one of the four largest national populations of nesting hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the world. Although the Republic comprises more than 115 islands spread over an area of some 400,000 km², most hawksbill nesting occurs in the eastern half of the country primarily on islands located on the relatively shallow Amirantes Plateau and on the Seychelles Bank which are separated from each other by some 40 to 350 km of deep water. Tracking of five post-nesting female hawksbills in 1998-99 from Cousin Island Nature Reserve, which hosts the largest hawksbill nesting population on the Seychelles Bank, demonstrated that all five of the tracked turtles remained on the Seychelles Bank settling at foraging sites ranging from only 20 to 175 km away from the nesting beach. Subsequent tracking of seven post-nesting females in 2014 from D'Arros Island, which hosts the largest hawksbill population in the Amirantes Group, also showed the preferred foraging habitat for all of them to be on the Seychelles Bank separated from the D'Arros nesting beach by deep water and straight line distances of 140 to 380 km. The actual distances travelled by turtles to reach those foraging habitats after departing D'Arros, however, ranged from 275 to 1,200 km, with speeds averaging 0.6 to 1.9 km/h. In conclusion, all twelve of the satellite tracked post-nesting Seychelles hawksbills showed a preference to forage on the Seychelles Bank, and an apparent reluctance to settle on the immediately proximate Amirantes Bank.

APPLY THE GIS TECHNIQUES TO DETERMINE THE SEASONAL CHANGE OF GREEN TURTLES (*CHELONIA MYDAS*) IN THE NEARSHORE WATERS OF A CORAL REEF ISLAND IN TAIWAN

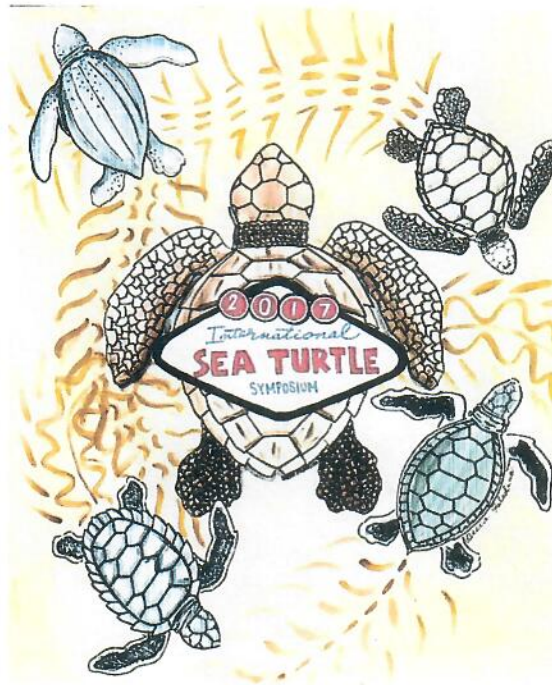
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In-water observation of sea turtles has become a popular activity for tourists, while the anthropogenic threats can have a negative impact on the turtle populations. By delineating seasonal habitats associated with sea turtles, we can inform decisions that regulate human access to turtles throughout a year. Our goal

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM ON SEA TURTLE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION



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