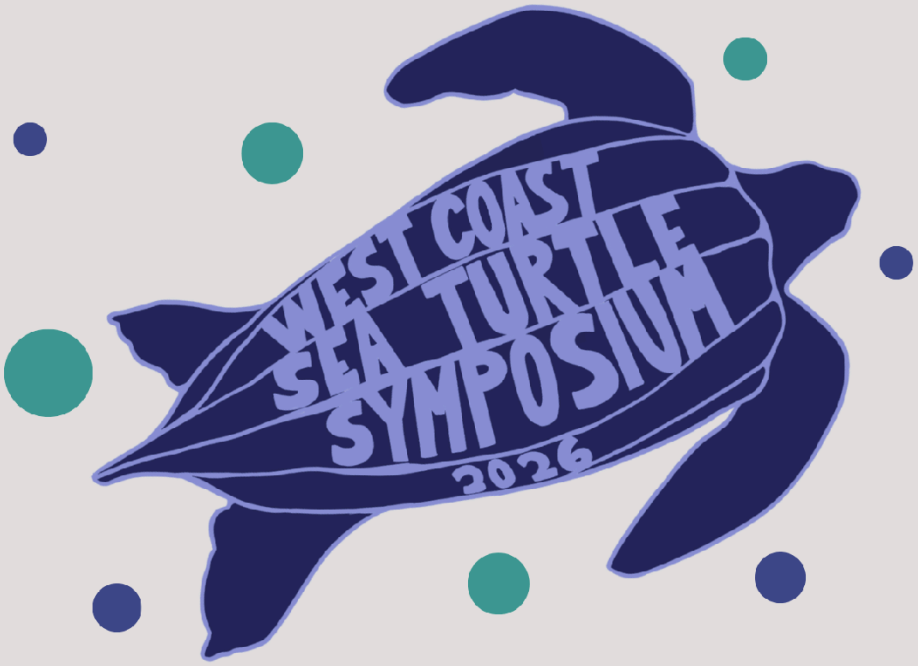
NOVEMBER 2nd - 4th 2026

MONTEREY, CA



NECROPSY DEMO
WORKSHOPS
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AMBASSADORS ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Fred Keeley | Mayor of Santa Cruz

Tuesday · Opening session, 9:00–9:50 AM



Fred Keeley is the first directly elected mayor of the City of Santa Cruz and is completing 50 years in public life. He has served as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor, County Treasurer, and representative of the Central Coast in the California Legislature.

He is a founding member of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a nonprofit partner supporting NOAA's local marine sanctuary.

During his service in the California Assembly, Keeley was Speaker pro Tempore under three Assembly Speakers. He authored the Marine Life Management Act, the Marine Life Protection Act, and the California Ocean Science Trust Act. The Associated Press characterized this package as among the most significant coastal and ocean management legislation in 50 years.

Mayor Keeley also authored two major voter-approved environmental protection bonds in California history.

DAY 1 | MONDAY | NECROPSY WORKSHOP

Necropsy Demonstration

Monday, November 2 | 10:00–3:00 PM | CDFW Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center, Santa Cruz, CA

Led by Dr. Heather Harris (Upwell), Erin LaCasella (NOAA SWFSC), and CDFW Veterinary Staff. Hands-on Gross Necropsy Demonstration: External and internal anatomy, tissue & genetic sampling, and documentation of cold-stunning and trauma lesions

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Blue Walks · Day 2 November 3 & Day 3 November 4

2:00–3:00 PM | Meet at the symposium registration table at 2:00 PM

Join Nature Therapy Guide Suzie Graham Valdivieso for a one-hour guided Blue Walk along the Monterey Bay shoreline. Through sensory invitations, participants will connect with the natural world and themselves, gaining a fresh perspective on the marine environment we work to protect.

DAY 2 | TUESDAY | ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9:00–9:50 AM **Welcome, opening remarks & keynote** — George Shillinger, Aiyana Reissman, Robert Gammariello; keynote: Santa Cruz Mayor Fred Keeley

9:50–9:55 AM **Break**

9:55–11:25 AM

SESSION 1

Living Large: Leatherback Ecology, Monitoring, and Conservation Across the Pacific

Chair: Tina Fahy | Timekeeper: Robert Gammariello

Scott Benson *The California Leatherback Turtle Research and Monitoring Project: A 25-year Perspective*

Co-Authors: Karin A. Forney, Peter H. Dutton, and James T. Harvey

George Shillinger *In-Water Monitoring of West Pacific Leatherback Turtles: 2018–Present*

Co-Authors: John Douglas, Heather H. Harris, Garrett Lemons, Jefferey Seminoff, and Scott R, Benson

Jim Harvey *Foraging Ecology of Leatherback Turtles off California*

Co-Author: Scott R. Benson

Heather Harris *Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) Body Condition Assessment*

Co-Authors: Scott R. Benson, Shelby R. Hoover, Tomoharu Eguchi, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, George L. Shillinger, Michael C. James, Thierry M. Work, Kelly J. Martin, William R. Bishop, and Justin R. Perrault

Peter Dutton *Halting the Decline of the Leatherback Nesting Population in Papua Barat, Indonesia: 35 Years of Monitoring and Conservation*

Co-Authors: Deasy Lontoh, Yairus Swabra, Petrus P. Batubara, Johni Mau, Abraham Leleran, Arfiandra A. Wanaputra, Tonny W. Duwiri, Muhamad Faisal, Tomo Eguchi, Fitryanti Pakiding, and Manjula Tiwari

Freda Lavia *Conserving Vulnerable Life History Stages of Western Pacific Leatherback Turtles Through Effective Community Conservation Efforts in Solomon Islands*

11:25–11:35 AM **Break**

11:35 AM–1:20 PM

SESSION 2

Crossing Currents: Loggerheads, Hawksbills, and a Changing Pacific

Chair: Robin LeRoux | Timekeeper: Garrett Lemons

Larry Crowder *The Genesis and Evolution of Loggerhead STRETCH: What Sea Turtles Have to Teach Us About a Changing Ocean*

Co-Authors: Dana K. Briscoe, George H. Balazs, Jeffrey J. Polovina, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, Alberto Abreu-Grobois, Philippe Gaspar, Tomoko Hamabata, Catherine A. Lee Hing, Laura Jim, Masanori Kurita, Masanori Mori, Yuki Oshima, Denise M. Parker, Marc R. Rice, Tomomi Saito, Koki Sugiura, Bianca S. Santos, Calandra N. Turner Tomaszewicz, and Noah Yamaguchi

Dana Briscoe *Project STRETCH: Juvenile Loggerheads as Ambassadors Across a Changing Pacific*

Co-Authors: George H. Balazs, Jeffrey J. Polovina, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, F. Alberto Abreu- Grobois, Philippe Gaspar, Tomoko Hamabata, Catherine A. Lee Hing, Laura Jim, Masanori Kurita, Masanori Mori, Yuki Oshima, Denise M. Parker, Marc R. Rice, Tomomi Saito, Koki Sugiura, Bianca S. Santos, Calandra N. Turner Tomaszewicz, Noah Yamaguchi, and Larry B. Crowder

Alex Gaos *Building Pacific Sea Turtle Data Pipelines: Integrating Nesting, Fisheries, and Telemetry Research for Leatherbacks and Loggerheads*

Bianca Silva Santos *Transboundary Movements of Juvenile North Pacific Loggerheads Across U.S. and Mexican Waters*

Co-Authors: Larry B. Crowder, George H. Balazs, Jeffrey J. Polovina, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, Alberto Abreu-Grobois, Philippe Gaspar, Tomoko Hamabata, Catherine A. Lee Hing, Laura Jim, Masanori Kurita, Masanori Mori, Yuki Oshima, Denise M. Parker, Marc R. Rice, Tomomi Saito, Calandra N. Turner Tomaszewicz, Heather Welch, Noah Yamaguchi, and Dana K. Briscoe

Aileen Lavelle *Predicting Loggerhead Turtle Presence in the Eastern North Pacific via Machine-Learning Species Distribution Models*

Co-Authors: Zachary A. Siders, Andrew S. Maurer, Calandra N. Turner Tomaszewicz, and Jeffrey A. Seminoff

Alex Aguilar & Hannah Bernard *Three Decades of Hawksbill Nesting on Maui, Hawai'i: Temporal and Spatial Patterns in Nesting*

Co-Author: Cheryl King

Mike Liles *Cryptic Rafting Hitchhikers: Hatchling Hawksbills Grasp Floating Debris in Mangrove Estuaries as Dispersal Strategy*

Co-Authors: Felipe Vallejo, Sofia Chavarria, Melissa Valle, Neftaly Sanchez, Ani Henriquez, Alexander Gaos, George Shillinger, Cristina Miranda, and Jeffrey Seminoff

1:20–2:25 PM **Lunch & poster viewing** — Poster session: 2:00–2:25 PM **(Robert Gammariello, Marc Rice & George Balazs)**

2:30–3:30 PM

SESSION 3

When Turtles Wash Up: Strandings, Cold-Stunning, Rescue, and Recovery

Chair: Justin Greenman | Timekeeper: Sabrina Mashburn

Erin LaCasella *U.S. West Coast Sea Turtle Strandings: Trends, Anomalies, and Threats*

Co-Authors: Heather Harris, Garrett Lemons, Alexandria Mena, Calandra Turner Tomaszewicz, Robin LeRoux, Justin Greenman, Justin Viezbicke, and Jeffrey Seminoff

Heather Harris *Health Status of Pacific Cold-Stunned Sea Turtles*

Co-Authors: Emeline McMann- Chapman, Margaret Martinez, Cara L. Field, James Burke, Michael J. Murray, Catherine Hadfield, Martin Haulena, Pádraig Duignan, Stephen Raverty, James M. Rice, Lance Adams, Todd Schmitt, Erin L. LaCasella, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, and Brian Stacy

Jenna Contuchio *Following the Cold Trail: Reconstructing the Path to Cold-Stunning Along the Pacific Coast of North America*

Co-Authors: Heather Harris, Christopher A. Edwards, Erin LaCasella, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, Rita Mehta, and Dan Costa

Stacy Hammond *Romps in the River: The Adventures of Rescuing Sea Turtles*

3:30–3:40 PM **Break**

3:40–4:55 PM

SESSION 4

A Flotilla of Findings: New Directions in Pacific Sea Turtle Science

Chair: Dawn Nygren | Timekeeper: Robert Gammariello

Andrea D'Allapa *The Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the East Pacific Distinct Population Segment of Green Sea Turtles and Current Management Measures to Protect It in Southern California*

Co-Author: Dan Lawson

Lindsey Peavy-Reeves *Leveraging Passive Acoustic Monitoring Infrastructure to Track Turtles in California Waters*

Co-Authors: Kayla Fisher, Tetyana Margolina, John Joseph, Monisha Sugla, Andrew Devogelaere, and George Shillinger

Justin Greenman *First Recording of Two Olive Ridleys Nesting in Southern California*

Co-Authors: Katy Kughen, Justin Viezbicke, Cali Turner Tomaszewicz, Jeff Seminoff, Erin LaCasella, and Lance Adams

Robert Gammariello *The Difference of a Decade: Analysis of Individual Basking Honu (Chelonia mydas) and Population Size at Hoʻokipa Beach, Maui, Hawaiʻi Through Photo-Identification*

Co-Authors: Alex Aguilar, Magdalena Teriitua Carey, Maria Cristina Ramasco, Nicolò Roccatagliata, Cheryl King, Hannah Bernard, and Stephen G. Dunbar

Summer Martin *Title to be announced*

4:55–5:05 PM **Break**

5:05–6:30 PM

SESSION 5

Origin Stories: The Moments and Adventures That Made Us Turtlers

Workshop facilitators: Suzie Graham, Rachel Smith, and Sabrina Mashburn

Everyone has an origin story. What's yours? A first encounter with a sea turtle, an unexpected opportunity, a mentor who opened a door? Join your colleagues and friends for a heartfelt exchange of the journeys that brought us into sea turtle biology and conservation and the experiences that have kept us here.

7:00 PM — NETWORKING

Happy Hour

This casual meet-and-greet will feature great company, videos about sea turtle conservation efforts around the Pacific and a turtle-y awesome Grateful Dead cover band that plays Dead tunes and classic rock.

Where: Hops and Fog Brewery 511 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove (an 8 minute car-ride from the Convention Center)

DAY 3 | WEDNESDAY | ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9:00–9:15 AM **Announcements**

9:20–10:50 AM — SESSION 1

Greens on the Move: Recovery, Behavior, and Changing Range

Chair: Jenna Contuchio | Timekeeper: Tina Fahy

Michelle Maria Early Capistrán *Deep-Time Records to Modern Biogeography: Distinguishing Recovery From Climate-Driven Range Expansion in Southern California Green Turtles*

Robin LeRoux *Urban Foragers: A Synopsis of Eastern Pacific Green Turtle Research in the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, CA from 2012–2026*

Co-Authors: Garrett Lemons, Calandra N. Turner Tomaszewicz, Erin LaCasella, Anna Cahill, Justin Greenman, Jessica Curran, Lauren Strope, Brendan Saunders, Erica Dollinger, Dan Lawson, and Jeffrey A. Seminoff

Garrett Lemons *Integrating Long-term Demography and Stable Isotope Data to Evaluate Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Grazing Impacts on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation*

Co-Author: Alexi Besser, Andrew S. Maurer, Tomoharu Eguchi, Calandra Turner-Tomaszcewicz, Erin LaCasella, Robin LeRoux, Peter H. Dutton, Anna Cahill, and Jeffrey A. Seminoff

Anna Cahill *A Day in the Life of a Green Turtle: Foraging, Social, and Dive Behavior Recorded by an Animal-Borne Camera*

Co-Authors: Cameron Mullaney, Garrett E. Lemons, Andrew S. Maurer, and Jeffrey A. Seminoff

Cali Turner Tomaszewicz *Emerging Sea Turtle Survey Methods Along the West Coast: Integrating AI-Powered Photo Identification and Community Sightings with Traditional NOAA Research*

Co-Authors: Erin LaCasella, Garret Lemons, Anna Cahill, Robin LeRoux, Ryan Bender, Alson Wurster, Tracy Tempest, Jericho Guerra, and Jeffrey Seminoff

Jessica Hughes & Dylynn Abbey *High-Density Social Interactions of Green Sea Turtles in the Upper San Gabriel River*

Co-Authors: Cheryl DeMatteis and Cali Turner Tomaszewicz

10:50–11:00 AM **Break**

11:00 AM–12:45 PM

SESSION 2

From Data to Decisions: Policy, Partnerships, and Pacific Turtle Conservation

Chair: Justin Greenman | Timekeeper: Sabrina Mashburn

Lynn Massey *Tracking Turtle Encounters in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery*

Stacy Hargrove *ESA Regulatory Changes and Recovery Strategies for Pacific Sea Turtles*

Jeffrey Johnson *Sea Turtles and Bridges: A Summary of the NOAA-Caltrans Partnership for Protecting San Gabriel River Green Sea Turtles During the I-405 Overpass Refurbishing Project*

Co-Authors: Jeffrey Seminoff and Calandra Turner Tomaszewicz

Anna Ortega *From Data to Decisions: A Toolkit for Sea Turtle Population Assessment*

Co-Authors: Zachary A.Siders, Tomoharu Eguchi, Robert N.M. Ahrens, T. Todd Jones, and Summer Martin

Monica Franco *Conserving East Pacific Leatherbacks in Oaxaca: Community Stewardship and Transboundary Connectivity*

Co-Authors: Franco-Ortíz Mónica, Rojas-Cruz, Luis Angel; Carrasco-Leandro, and Pedro Fabián

Danny Anduza *The Prehistory of Leatherbacks and Other Marine Turtles: Insights from the Fossil Record and Inspiration for Today*

Lisa Uttal *Bringing the Unseen to Life: Visualizing Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea) Through Augmented Reality Technology*

Co-Author: Scott Benson

12:45–1:40 PM **Lunch & poster viewing** — Poster session: 1:15–1:40 PM **(Jenna Contuchio, Peter Dutton & Dawn Nygren-Burkert)**

1:45–3:00 PM

SESSION 3

Fisheries Round Table Panel

Panel moderator: Tina Fahy

A discussion of fisheries with documented interactions with sea turtles off the U.S. West Coast and internationally, options to reduce interactions, and barriers to implementation.

Invited participants: Harrison Ibach, Khevin Mellegers and Dick Ogg (commercial fishermen), Geoff Shester (Oceana), and Yonat Swimmer (research scientist, NMFS-Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center)

3:00–3:10 PM **Break**

3:10–3:55 PM

SESSION 4

Pacific Leatherback Hub: From Data to Decisions in Marine Turtle Conservation

Workshop facilitator: Anna Ortega

An interactive introduction to the Pacific Leatherback Hub, a decision-support tool combining spatial fisheries information, leatherback biology, mitigation efficacy, and population models to explore bycatch reduction scenarios and prioritize conservation interventions.

3:55–4:05 PM **Break**

4:05–5:20 PM

SESSION 5

Signals in the Sea: Emerging Tools for Leatherback Research

Chair: Anna Cahill | Timekeeper: Garrett Lemons / Robin LeRoux (TBC)

Nerea Lezama-Ochoa *Climate Refugia and Bright Spots for Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles in a Changing California Current*

Co-Authors: Heather Welch, Jennifer A. Brown, Scott R. Benson, Karin A. Forney, Briana Abrahms, Mercedes Pozo Buil, Michael G. Jacox, Barbara A. Muhling, Owen R. Liu, Thomas A. Clay, Ryan Freedman, Danielle Lipski, Steven Bograd, Elliott L. Hazen, and Stephanie Brodie

Suzanne Roden *Detecting Pacific Leatherback Turtle Presence on the U.S. West Coast Using eDNA*

Co-Authors: Lena Stasiak, Aubrie Onoufriou, Scott Benson, Lexi Mena, Erin LaCasella, Garrett Lemons, and Peter H. Dutton

Derek Aoki *Evaluating the Viability and Animal Welfare of Acoustic Telemetry for the Long-term Monitoring of Leatherback Sea Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea)*

Co-Authors: William R. Bishop, Jeffrey R. Guertin, Annie Page, Selena Persaud, George L. Shillinger,and Justin R. Perrault

Josh Cullen *Integrated Species Distribution Model Improves Predictive Performance Over Ensemble Model for Endangered Western Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtles*

Co-Authors: Heather Welch, Elliott Hazen, Steven Bograd, Adena Schonfeld, Barbara Muhling, Karin Forney, Scott Benson, George Shillinger, Nerea Lezama- Ochoa, and Ryan Rykaczewski

Sarah Johnson *Caloric Density of Scyphozoan Jellyfish May Drive Leatherback Turtle Foraging Preference Along the Central California Coast*

Co-Authors: Scott R. Benson, T. Todd Jones, and Amanda S. Kahn

5:20 - 5:30 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

From Upwell and the West Coast Sea Turtle Society

Auction Close; Items can be picked up in the lobby

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Retinal Topography and Visual Acuity of Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) Hatchlings

Robert T. Gammariello and Stephen G. Dunbar

Forty Years of Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Strandings on Hawai‘i Island: Causes and Patterns to Guide Future Mitigation

Karla McDermid, Grady Weyenberg, Skylar Dentlinger, Laura Jim, Marc Rice, and George Balazs

Honokohau Harbor: A Foraging and Resting Hotspot for Honu‘ea Hawksbills and Honu Green Turtles in the Expanding Habitat World of Hawaiian Sea Turtles

Rosanne Shank, Laura Jim, Marc Rice, and George Balazs

It Takes An Archipelago: Community-Led Monitoring of Sea Turtles Across California’s Channel Islands

Jenna Contuchio, Jon Council, Cali Turner-Tomaszewicz, Rita Mehta, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, and Dan Costa

Rapid eDNA-Based Assessment for Green Turtle Monitoring in Southern California

Lena Stasiak, Aubrie Onoufriou, Erin LaCasella, Alexandria Mena, Victoria Pease, Amy Frey, Suzanne Roden, Alaina Harmon, and Peter Dutton

Monitoring the Unexpected: Developing a Collaborative Framework for Sea Turtle and Coastal Wildlife Monitoring

Brayden Ortiz, Lilyana Contreras, Dawn Nygren-Burkert, and Cassandra Davis

Genetic Stock Identification of Fisheries Bycatch Provides Insights into Differences in Broad-Scale Distribution Patterns of Leatherbacks in the North and Southeast Pacific

Suzanne E. Roden and collaborators · Unattended

Nuclear DNA Markers Provide Further Insight into Pacific Green Turtle Population Structure

Suzanne E. Roden and collaborators · Unattended

Protection without Preference: Green Sea Turtle Habitat Use in Relation to Algal Communities around Santa Catalina Island

Lilyana Contreras · Unattended