



Species: Loggerhead Turtle

OSPAR Recommendation 2013/07:

Contracting Parties are required to report progress with implementation of recommendations every six years, with initial more frequent reporting until 2019.

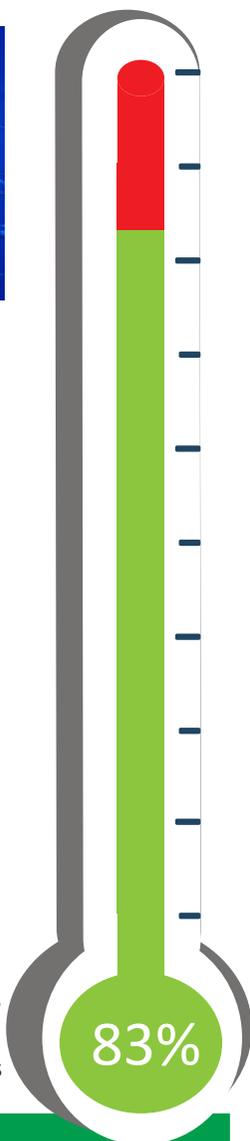
Measures taken by Contracting Parties to protect Loggerhead Turtles include regulation of plastic bag use, adoption of national legislation, bycatch monitoring and post mortem programmes, and action in overseas territories



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Description

During their first years of life, North Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) inhabit extremely stochastic environments. The duration and path of the journey undertaken by loggerhead hatchlings from western Atlantic nesting beaches (principally eastern Florida) to eastern Atlantic foraging areas are determined largely by chance. Younger age classes then spend several years associated with Sargassum drift lines, convergences, eddies and rings in the North Atlantic gyre. Consequently, juvenile loggerheads are commonly observed in OSPAR Region V. Region IV is also of relevance as range for the species being the eastern edge of the passive migration flow of hatchlings and juveniles with the Gulf Stream and its meanders.



Action Highlights

Each Recommendation requires Contracting Parties to report on the methods used to implement the measures. The methods are Legislation, Administrative action and Negotiated agreement, or any combination of these. Recent examples include:

1. France, Spain, and UK have introduced national legislation;
2. France, Spain, and the UK have awareness raising programmes;
3. France and Spain have implemented measures to reduce bycatch and associated mortality;
4. Spain has MPAs and is undertaking research to identify other significant areas;
5. France has a national action plan and Spain is developing a national strategy for the conservation of marine turtles;
6. France has a citizen science campaign for recording species observations;
7. France and the UK regulate the use of plastic bags;
8. France, Spain, and UK have bycatch monitoring programmes, and post mortem examination systems in place;
9. Spain has implemented specific measures to address pollution;
10. France and Spain encourage knowledge exchange between researchers and the Government;
11. France has national action plans in overseas territories, Spain undertakes research in Cape Verde, and the UK overseas territories support the work of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network.

Engagement

The engagement index (left) measures how well Contracting Parties have engaged with the national measures in the Recommendation. The higher the score the greater the number of actions that Contracting Parties, which have reported, have taken to implement the measures in the Recommendation. Click here for more information on the index.

Condition

The future prospects of highly-migratory species such as *C.caretta* are a function of a number of pressures worldwide. Population numbers in the OSPAR Maritime Area depend on nesting populations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean, each with their share of anthropogenic impacts (e.g. egg harvesting, shrimp trawlers, gill nets).



References:

- Background Document for Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* (OSPAR Publication 647)
- OSPAR Recommendation 2013/07
- OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (Agreement 2008-06)