

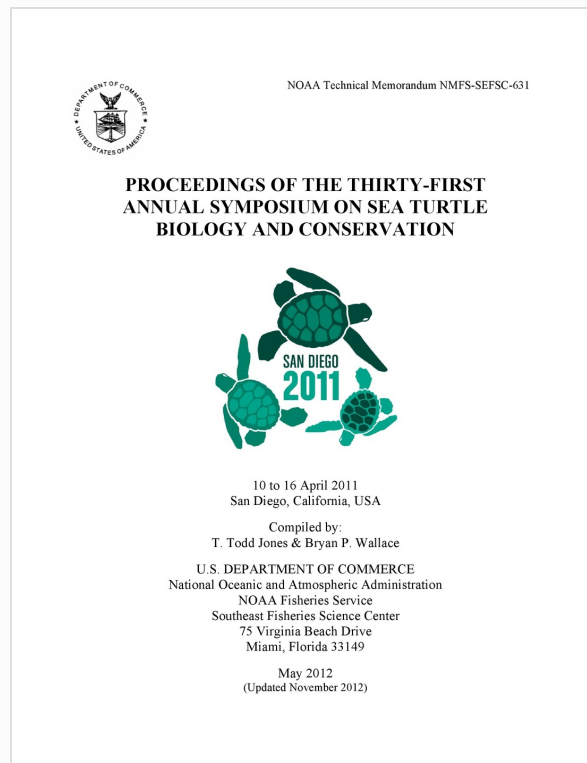


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A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF LEATHERBACK PIT TAGGING DATA FROM THE BIRD'S HEAD PENINSULA, PAPUA BARAT, INDONESIA

by Ricardo Tapilatu

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NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-631

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



10 to 16 April 2011
San Diego, California, USA

Compiled by:
T. Todd Jones & Bryan P. Wallace

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

May 2012
(Updated November 2012)



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Jones, T. Todd and Wallace, Bryan P., compilers. 2012 (Updated November 2012). Proceedings of the Thirty-first Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOAA NMFS-SEFSC-631: 322p.

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The President's Report may be found in its entirety in the Marine Turtle Newsletter 130:30-33, 2011 entitled 'President's Report for the 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation 'The Next Generation of Research and Conservation', 10-16 April 2011, San Diego, California, USA.'

by Jeffrey Seminoff, President, ISTS

<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/archives/mtn130/mtn130p30.shtml>

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RETOMALA XVIII (Latin America) Meeting	Alan Zavala, Juanpablo Muñoz, Carlos Mario Orrego
Science of Advocacy Meeting	J. Nichols, Todd Steiner
WIDECAST (Caribbean) Regional Meeting	Karen Eckert
Freshwater Turtle & Tortoise Symposium	Chuck Shaffer
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3 rd Workshop on Sea Turtle Stable Isotope Research	Karen Arthur, Kim Reich, Bryan Wallace
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) - Grant Writing Workshop	Earl Possardt
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April 2011 San Diego, California, USA

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There were 181 student presentations – 58 papers and 123 posters with \$5,500 US awarded to 12 recipients. The awards committee was composed of Lisa Campbell, Matthew Godfrey, and Jeanette Wyneken. Student judges: Karen Arthur, Larisa Avens, Ray Carthy, Paolo Casale, Emma Harrison, Craig Harms, Jennifer Keller, Mike James, Cynthia Lagueux, Kate Mansfield, Catherine McClellan, Zoe Meletis, Terry Norton, Dave Owens, Andrea Phillott, Nick Pilcher, Peter Pritchard, Kim Reich, Erin Seney, Kelly Stewart, Tony Tucker, Roldan Valverde, and Thane Wibbels. The awards were financed by the International Sea Turtle Society. (Note that as in previous years, the judges decided not to award prizes in certain categories, based on their ranking system)

Breeding Biology

Best Oral Presentation

Anthony Rafferty, Pilar Santidrián Tomillo, James Spotila, Frank Paladino, Richard Reina. Embryonic death is linked to maternal identity in the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). (Monash University) \$500

Runner Up Oral Presentation

Jeanne Garner, Tomo Eguchi, Duncan MacKenzie, Scott Jacques. Evaluating steroid hormone data in association with reproductive parameters in a population of endangered leatherback sea turtles and the application to conservation and management. (Texas A&M University) \$250

Best Poster Presentation

Hannah B. Vander Zanden, Karen A. Bjorndal, Alan B. Bolten. Nutrient transport by green turtles. (University of Florida) \$500

Conservation through Social, Economic, Cultural, & Legal Pathways

Best Oral Presentation

Courtney Shephard. Optimizing U.S. Endangered Species Act protection by integrating recovery planning, Section 7 Consultations, and incidental take authorizations: A sea turtle case study. (Duke University). \$500

Foraging, Physiology, & Movements

Best Oral Presentation

Simona Ceriani, James D. Roth, Daniel Evans, Llewellyn M. Ehrhart. Satellite tracking confirms the use of stable isotopes to infer foraging grounds of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nesting on Florida's East coast. (University of Central Florida). \$500

Runner Up Oral Presentation

Alexander R. Gaos, Rebecca L. Lewison, Ingrid L. Yañez, Wallace J. Nichols, Andres Baquero, Michael Liles, Mauricio Vasquez, Jose Urteaga, Bryan Wallace, Jeffrey A. Seminoff. Satellite telemetry reveals novel insights into the biology and conservation of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochely imbricata*) in the eastern Tropical Pacific. (San Diego State University). \$250

Foraging, Physiology, & Movements

Best Poster Presentation

Morgan Young, Michael Salmon, Richard Forward. Visual wavelength discrimination by the loggerhead turtle. (Florida Atlantic University). \$500

Health & Rehabilitation

Best Poster Presentation

Virginie Plot, Jean-Patrice Robin, Thomas Jenkins, Sabrina Fossette, Jean-Yves Georges. Physiological state and condition in nesting leatherback turtles in French Guiana. (Université Strasbourg) \$500

April 2011 San Diego, California, USA

Population Assessment

Best Oral Presentation

Brian M. Shamblin, Mark G. Dodd, Kristina L. Williams, Michael G. Frick, Terry M. Norton, Stephanie Ouellette, Rebecca Bell, Douglas M. Hoffman, Debra Barnard-Keinath, Gale G. Bishop, Scott Coleman, Stacia Hendricks, Tammy Smith, Campbell J. Naim. Genetic mark-recapture of the female loggerhead population nesting in Georgian 2008-2009: Abundance, nest site fidelity, and relatedness. (University of Georgia). \$500

Best Poster Presentation

Vanessa Bezy, Roldan A. Valverde. Comparison of methodologies for estimating the nest density of olive ridley arribadas at Ostional, Costa Rica. (UNC – Wilmington). \$500

Threats

Best Oral Presentation

Qamar Schuyler, Kathy A. Townsend, Justin Marshall. To eat or not to eat? The roles of choice and vision in ingestion of marine debris by sea turtles. (University of Queensland). \$500

Best Poster Presentation

Leigh Ann Harden, Amanda S. Williard. Using spatially explicit predator-prey model to investigate bycatch risk of terrapins in crab pots. (UNC – Wilmington). \$500

ISTS AWARDS 2011

Award certificates were designed by Dawn Witherington.

President's Award

Margie Stinson

Ed Drane Award for Volunteerism (new award)

Ed Drane

Life Time Achievement Award

Sally Murphy

Karen Bjorndal

Peter Pritchard

Champions Awards

Jepson Prince

Sinkey Boone

Colum Muccio

Grass Roots Awards (new award)

Ingrid Yañez

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

Peter C. H. Pritchard

The Eastern Pacific: Where the Turtles are all Different

Karen A. Bjorndal

Planning Our Future: Expanding the Known, Learning the Unknown, and Minimizing the Unknowable

April 2011 San Diego, California, USA

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS - WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

Your Unknown Killings

Jayesh Shirakhane

Port of San Diego, NOAA Project

Barbara Moreno

The Heartbreak Turtle Today

Sea Turtle Restoration Project, presented by Carole Allen

The Jurassic Journey

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Saving Sea Turtles of Sri Lanka

Thushan Kapurusinghe

Kurma

Arun Krishna

Sanctuary in the Sea: a Gulf of the Farallones Experience

Bob Talbot

Sea Turtle Conservation with Grupo Tortuguero

Roger Roth, presented by Wallace J. Nichols

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SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF RAINFALL ON INCUBATION DURATION AND HATCHLING SEX IN LEATHERBACKS MAKE INCUBATION DURATION A POOR INDICATOR OF HATCHLING SEX

April Stevens and P. Chow-Fraser

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON Canada

The effects of rainfall on in situ sea turtle nests have largely been understudied. Existent literature details the effects of large rainfall events causing drowning; however, incubation durations and hatchling sex ratios resulting from exposure to consistent rainfall have mostly gone unstudied. The aim of this research was to determine the effects of rainfall on incubation duration as it related to potential sex ratios of Leatherback sea turtle nests on Playa Norte, Costa Rica. Daily ambient air temperature and rainfall were monitored throughout the nesting seasons. In-nest temperatures were monitored by placing HOBO® tidbit data loggers in the middle of each clutch (n=15). As expected, a significant positive correlation ($p=0.0395$) for rainfall on incubation duration was found. However, incubation durations (mean=64 days) proved to be incorrectly predicting sex ratios arising from those nests, as determined by in-nest temperatures during the critical sex determination period. This research is significant in light of species conservation and the potential climate change impacts of increasing global temperatures and weather pattern changes. As it is important to be able to reliably estimate potential sex ratios, this work will help modelers predict sex ratio production more accurately and possibly help protect those habitats necessary for male hatchling production during increasing global temperatures.

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF LEATHERBACK PIT TAGGING DATA FROM THE BIRD'S HEAD PENINSULA, PAPUA BARAT, INDONESIA

Ricardo F. Tapilatu¹, Deasy Lontoh², Peter H. Dutton³, Manjula Tiwari³, Scott R. Benson³, Creusa Hitipeuw⁴, and Thane Wibbels⁵

¹ Marine Laboratory, The State University of Papua (UNIPA), Manokwari (98314), Papua Barat Province, Indonesia

² Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Moss Landing, CA 95039, USA

³ Protected Resources Division, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

⁴ WWF Indonesia, Kantor Taman A9, UnitA-1, Kawasan Mega Kuningan Jakarta 12950, Indonesia

⁵ Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), AL 35294-1170

Jamursba-Medi and Wermon beaches on Bird's Head Peninsula in Papua Barat, Indonesia, are believed to support the largest remaining nesting aggregation of endangered leatherbacks in the Pacific. The Jamursba-Medi beach complex is separated from Wermon by about 30 km. Nesting activity peaks in July at Jamursba-Medi, whereas at Wermon nesting activity is bimodal with peaks in December and June. Beginning in 2003, we began periodically tagging females with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. Tag-recapture effort was opportunistic through 2008, but a systematic protocol was initiated during the 2009-2010 nesting season. Between 2003 and 2010, 977 distinct females were tagged. Remigration intervals were documented for some females, and a few females nested on both Jamursba-Medi and Wermon during the same season. Committed long-term population monitoring and protection are prerequisites for determining the conservation status and initiating the recovery of the Pacific leatherback. We thank U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and International Sea Turtle Society for their generous supports to fund our participation in the Symposium.

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