

February 22, 2012

Ricardo Ferdinand Tapilatu
Fulbright Scholar

I am pleased to invite you to the 32nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation to be held from 13 March to 16 March, 2012, with important Regional meetings and Workshops convened for 11 and 12 March, 2012. The venue will be the Las Brisas Huatulco Resort in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico.


The ISTS is an international non-profit organization devoted to the conservation of the marine turtles through sharing of knowledge and international collaboration. Each year the Society organizes and hosts the Annual Sea Turtle Symposium, an international gathering of 800-1000 of the world's foremost sea turtle scientists, conservationists, policy-makers and enthusiasts from more than 70 countries, and the only major conference of its type.

In keeping with the theme of the symposium "Time for Innovation", the program will host a number of events that highlight innovative research and conservation of sea turtles from around the world. The 32nd Symposium will also draw attention to current major themes in sea turtle conservation through hosting special sessions such as the Mini-Symposium "The Sea Turtles of Mexico". More information about the symposium is available at <http://iconferences.seaturtle.org>

This year, the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) from Mexico is supporting the event and is an official partner.

I look forward to your participation in Huatulco.

Yours Sincerely,



Ana Rebeca Barragan

President, International Sea Turtle Society
and Liaison to the National Sea Turtle Program of Mexico

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VARIATION IN REPRODUCTIVE OUTPUT OF LEATHERBACK TURTLES NESTING IN THE NORTHWEST COAST OF PAPUA, INDONESIA

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Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) that nest in Papua Barat, Indonesia migrate to temperate and tropical foraging areas. Individuals that nest during the boreal summer (April to September) use the Northeast Pacific, the North Pacific Transition Zone, and the South China Sea. We hypothesize that turtles that forage in temperate region will have greater seasonal reproductive output than turtles foraging in tropical regions. Carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios of a skin sample obtained from nesting females were used to infer the foraging location used before the nesting season. Results from stable isotope analysis of skin samples obtained from turtles with a known foraging location indicated that carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios could reliably separate the different foraging groups. Turtles foraging in the Northeast Pacific had greater $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ than other foraging groups, whereas those foraging in the North Pacific Transition Zone were distinguished from the South China Sea foragers by having more negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. The resulting discriminant analysis functions were used to classify sampled turtles, and results indicated the nesting population was largely composed of temperate foragers. Measures of seasonal reproductive output were compared, and preliminary results suggested that clutch frequency, clutch size, and egg mass differed among the foraging groups.

- Session: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology or Nesting Biology and Monitoring
- Prefer poster
- No equipment needed
- I am a graduate student, and I would like to be considered for the Archie Carr Student Paper Awards