THE NATIONAL REPORT
EL REPORTE NACIONAL

FOR THE COUNTRY OF
POR EL PAIS DE

CAYMAN ISLANDS
ISLAS CAYMAN

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE / REPRESENTANTE NACIONAL

JOE PARSONS

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental

17-22 July / Julio 1983
San José, Costa Rica
National Report Cayman Islands, WATS I Vol 3, pages 118-122

WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM
San José, Costa Rica, July 1983

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

CAYMAN ISLANDS

NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY

Joe Parsons
The National Representative

Address:
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Administration Building, Cayman Islands

NATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY

Joe Parsons - Fisheries Officer

DATE SUBMITTED: 29 November 1982

Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to:

IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE
% UNDP, Apartado 4540
San José, Costa Rica

National Report Cayman Islands, WATS I Vol 3, pages 118-122

WIDECAST
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

With a grant from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, WIDECAST has digitized the databases and proceedings of the **Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS)** with the hope that the revitalized documents might provide a useful historical context for contemporary sea turtle management and conservation efforts in the Western Atlantic Region.

With the stated objective of serving "as a starting point for the identification of critical areas where it will be necessary to concentrate all efforts in the future", the first Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium convened in Costa Rica (17-22 July 1983), and the second in Puerto Rico four years later (12-16 October 1987). WATS I featured National Reports from 43 political jurisdictions; 37 presented at WATS II.

WATS I opened with these words: "The talks which we started today have the multiple purpose of bringing our knowledge up to date about the biological peculiarities of the marine turtle populations of the western Atlantic; to know and analyse the scope of the National Reports prepared by the scientific and technical personnel of more than thirty nations of the region; to consider options for the orderly management of marine turtle populations; and in general to provide an adequate forum for the exchange of experiences among scientists, administrators, and individuals interested in making contributions for the preservation of this important natural resource."

A quarter-century has passed, and the results of these historic meetings have been lost to science and to a new generation of managers and conservationists. Their unique importance in providing baseline data remains unrecognized, and their potential as a "starting point" is neither known nor appreciated.

The proceedings document what was known at the time concerning the status and distribution of nesting and foraging habitat, population size and trend, mortality factors, official statistics on exploitation and trade, estimated incidental catch, employment dependent on turtles, mariculture operations, public and private institutions concerned with conservation and use, legal aspects (e.g. regulations, enforcement, protected areas), and active research projects. In most cases it was the first time a national sea turtle assessment had been conducted.

Despite the potential value of this information to agencies responsible for conducting stock assessments, monitoring recovery trends, and safeguarding critical habitat in the 21st century, the hand-written National Reports, largely illegible in the published proceedings, have slipped into obscurity. To help ensure the legacy of these symposia, we have digitized the entire proceedings, including the National Reports, plenary presentations and panels, and annotated bibliographies of both meetings, and posted them online at http://www.widecast.org/What/RegionalPrograms.html.

Each article has been scanned from the original document. Errors in the scan have been corrected; however, to be true to the original content (as closely as we can discern it), potential errors of content have not been corrected. This article should be cited:

Parsons, J. 1984. National Report for Cayman Islands, pp.118-122. *In*: Bacon, P., F. Berry, K. Bjorndal, H. Hirth, L. Ogren and M. Weber (Editors), Proceedings of the First Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium, 17-22 July 1983, San José, Costa Rica. Volume III: The National Reports. RSMAS Printing, Miami.

Karen L. Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director
June 2009

COUNTRY: CAYMAN ISLANDS

TABLE 1. GEOGRAPHIC INVENTORY	
Length of Coastline*	204 Km
Km^2 of Continental Shelf Area	255 Km
Seaward Extent of Jurisdictions	
Territorial Sea	4.8 Km
Extended Economic Zone	N/A
Fisheries Jurisdiction	N/A
Other (Describe)	N/A

* Coastline length is the measurement of the national seaward boundary of a country; i.e., the distance from border to border for a coastal country and the distance around an island country.

TABLE 2. COASTAL HABITAT INVENTORY OF MARINE SHORELINE			
	Km of Shoreline		
Marine Shoreline Characteristics*	Undeveloped	Developed**	Total
1. Sand Beach (Total)	28.5	23.9	52.4
A. High Energy	18.5	6.3	24.8
B. Low Energy	10.0	17.6	27.6
2. Reef (exposed)		5.4	5.4
3. Rocks	45.3	14.0	59.3
4. Cliffs	32.7	14.0	46.7
5. Vegetation (Total)	36.0	4.4	40.4
A. Vines			
B. Grasses			
C. Mangroves	36.0	4.4	40.4
D. Coconut Trees			
E. Other Trees or Shrubs			
F. Marshes			
6. Mouths of lagoons, rivers, canals			
7. Total Shoreline	142.5	61.7	***204.2

* Refer to SEA TURTLE MANUAL (Aerial Survey)
** Human development or use (See MANUAL)
*** *Editor's note (2009):* Totals corrected from original National Report

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY: Grand Cayman Island			
List beaches in geographic sequence. Provide additional information on following page.			
Name of Beach	Length In Km	Species Nesting (Use Abbreviations)*	Months of Recorded Nesting
1. Rum Point	5.0		
2. North Side	10.7		
3. Bluff Bay	4.0		
4. East End	5.7		
5. Frank Sound	3.8		
6. Bodden Bay	8.0	Cc	June
7. South Sound	3.2		
8. West Bay	7.2		
9. Barkers Beach	3.8		
10. South Shore (Cayman Brac)	10.0		
11. North Shore (Cayman Brac)	12.0		
12. South Shore (Little Cayman)	16.4		
13. North Shore (Little Cayman)	13.2		

Species*	Abbreviation
Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

TABLE 3A. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY (Supplementary page)

Please give additional information about each nesting beach identified in Table 3. Include information on color of sand, particle size, beach profile, backbeach vegetation, artificial lighting, etc.

Beach 1 (Rum Point Beach) Land Reclamation, dredged sand. Fine particle sand and whole and broken shell, low profile, grass and beach vines to within 3 feet of water in most places, some artificial lighting.

Beach 2 (North Side Beach) Mostly low profile high energy, drift material and sea grass, white sand and broken coral rubbles, sea grape and other vegetation background, not much artificial light.

Beach 3 (Bluff Bay Beach) As above (Beach 2).

Beach 4 (East End Beach) As Beaches 2 and 3 but with more artificial light and approximately 75% developed.

Beach 5 (Frank Sound Beach) As above – approximately 20% developed.

Beach 7* (South Sound Beach) Mostly small, white sand and drift material and sea grass, low profile cove beaches with cliffs or heavy vegetation background, some artificial lighting, fine particles.

Beach 8 (West Bay Beach) Low profile, white sand, highly developed, much artificial lighting, fine particles.

Beach 9 (Barkers Beach) Low profile, white sand, fine particles, drift material and sea grass, not much development or artificial light, sea grape and other vegetation background.

Beach 10 (South Shore, Cayman Brac) Low profile, white sand, fine particles, drift material and sea grass, not much development or artificial light, sea grape and other vegetation background.

Beach 11 (North Shore, Cayman Brac) Low profile, white sand, fine particles, drift material and sea grass, not much development or artificial light, sea grape and other vegetation background.

Beach 12 (South Shore, Little Cayman) Low profile, white sand, fine particles, drift material and sea grass, not much development or artificial light, sea grape and other vegetation background.

Beach 13 (North Shore, Little Cayman) Low profile, white sand, fine particles, drift material and sea grass, not much development or artificial light, sea grape and other vegetation background.

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* *Editor's Note (2009):* Beach 6 is missing in the original document.

TABLE 7. FORAGING AREAS INVENTORY

Name of Area (or give coordinates)	Approx. Area (Km^2)	Species Foraging (use abbreviations & approx. numbers)	Nature of Evidence (observation, fishery, incidental catch)
1. North Sound	75	Cm; E	Observation
2. Shelf area other than North Sound	180	Cm; E	Observation

Species	Abbreviation
Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TURTLES AND TURTLE PRODUCTS

Name of Port or Site	Species Landed (use abbrev)	Fishing Gear Used	Months of Landings	Numbers & Weights (estimate)
George Town Harbour	Cc; Cm; E	Nets	All year	35/ 2386 (Cm) 1.6/ 73 (E)

Species	Abbreviation
Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

TABLE 12. TOTAL ANNUAL TURTLE LANDINGS IN NUMBERS

Do not include turtles caught incidental to other fishing operations (e.g., shrimp trawling)

	Year						
Species	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	Method of Determination
Caretta caretta						7	Port landing records
Chelonia mydas	170	915	329	521	166	508	Port landing records
Dermochelys coriacea							
Eretmochelys imbricata	1	7		7	55	94	Port landing records
Lepidochelys kempi							
Lepidochelys olivacea							

TABLE 15. OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF TURTLE PRODUCTION

Complete one of these tables for each species taken in the fishery.

Species: *Eretmochelys imbricata*

	Year							
Turtle Product	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	Current Market Price/Unit	Method of Data Collection
No. of eggs								
Meat (kg)**								
Shell No./ Wt. (kg)	582				454	91		
Skins No./ Wt. (kg)								
Stuffed Juveniles								
Other								

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Indicate all entities with statutory responsibilities (e.g., Fisheries Departments and Ministries, Police, Coast Guard, etc.)

Name and Address of Organization	Budget Allocation to Turtles	No. of Staff Assigned to Turtles	Comments on Levels of Enforcement
Portfolio of Agriculture Lands and Natural Resource Government Administration Building Grand Cayman			
Cayman Islands Police			

TABLE 20A. REGULATORY AUTHORITY (Supplementary page)

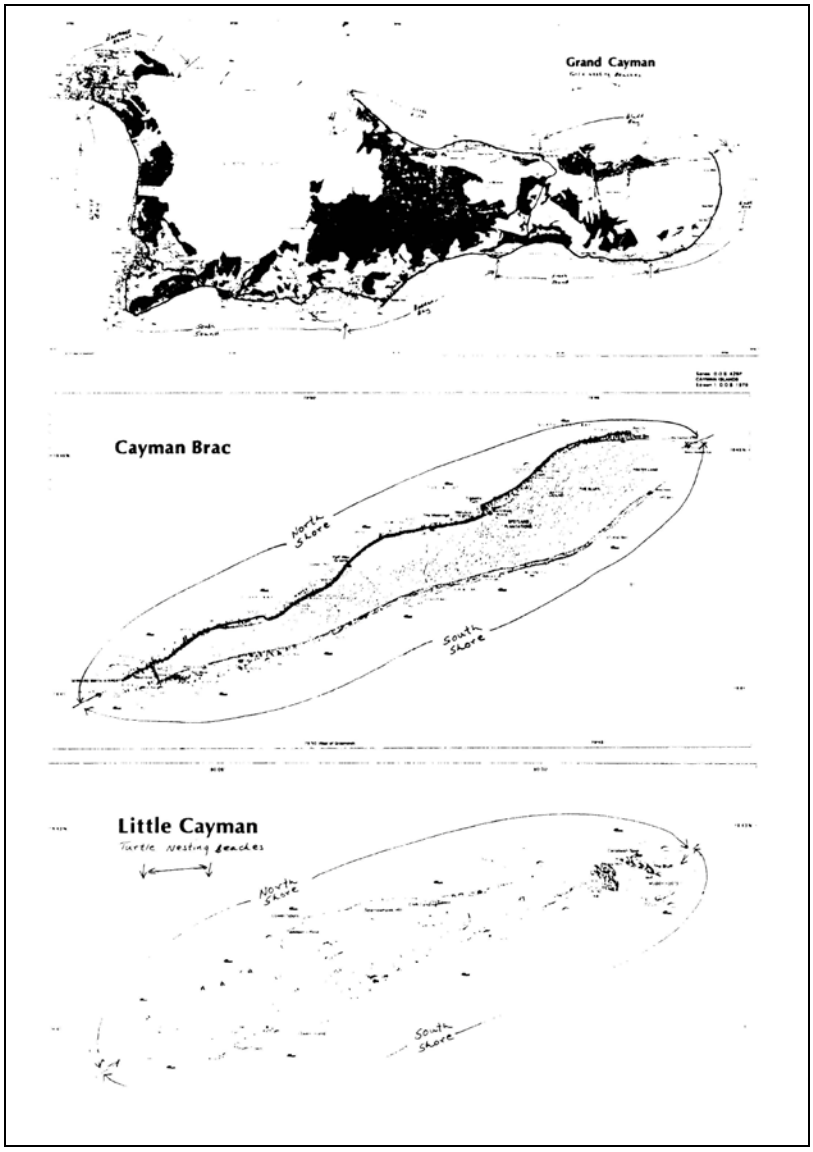
Please list National, regional, and local legislation concerning turtle management and conservation. List title, date, and stated purpose.

The Portfolio of Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for the formulation of regulations for subjects covered in the Portfolio which include the Marine Regulations. Surveillance and enforcement are primarily the responsibility of the Cayman Islands Police with the help of volunteer fishery inspectors. The limited manpower and vessels available for marine patrols severely limits the extent of surveillance. This is greatly reflected in the fishing activities. The fishing vessels clear port for the "high seas"; consequently, it is impossible to determine that they do not fish in violation of other countries' Exclusive Economic Zones.

1. The Marine Conservation (Turtle Protection) Regulations, 1978.
   Purpose:
   To protect female turtles and turtle eggs during the nesting season of May to September.

2. The Endangered Species Protection and Propagation Law, 1978 (Law 21 of 1978) section 4, Paragraph (2)
   Purpose:
   To allow the traditional fishing of turtles, within the fishery limits of the Cayman Islands, for consumption by persons within the Islands while preventing trade in endangered species. (Subject to the limitations of the Turtle Protection Regulations).

Figure 1. Cayman Islands – W.A.T.S. National Report Study Area.[1]



[1] *Editor's note (2009):* Maps and figures are reprinted exactly as they appear in the original WATS I Proceedings (Bacon et al. 1984); we regret the poor quality exhibited in some cases.

THE NATIONAL REPORT
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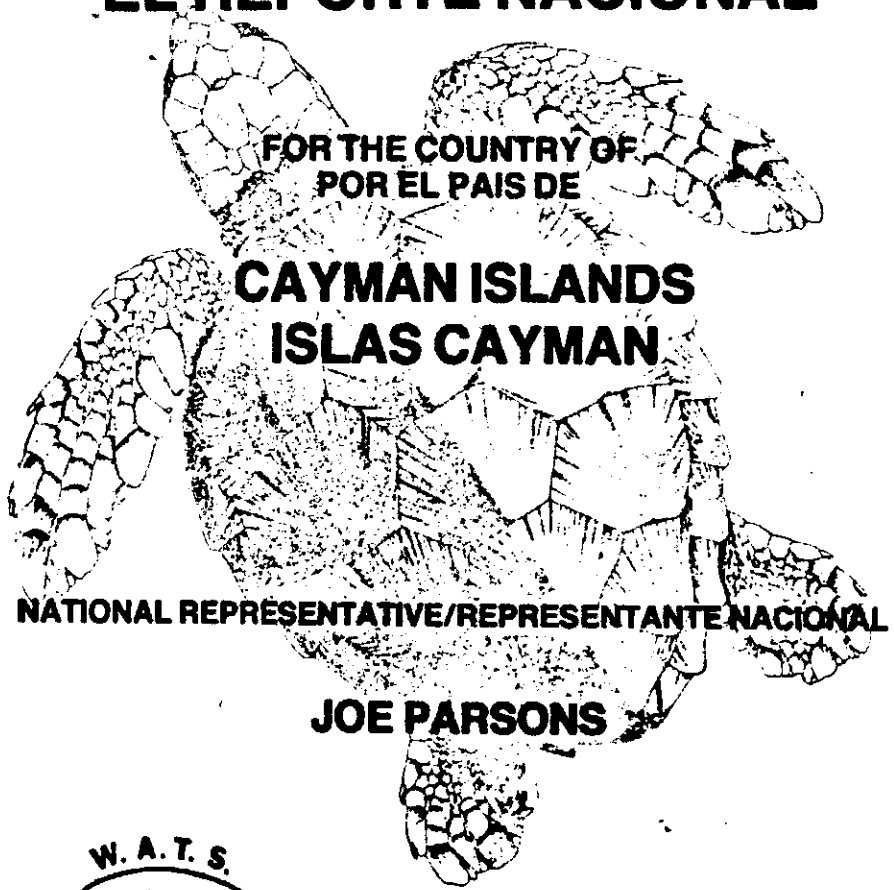

FOR THE COUNTRY OF
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CAYMAN ISLANDS
ISLAS CAYMAN

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE/REPRESENTANTE NACIONAL

JOE PARSONS

W. A. T. S.
S. T. A. O.

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
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WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM

San Jose, Costa Rica

July 1983

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

CAYMAN ISLANDS

NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY -

JOE PARSONS
The National Representative

Address: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CAYMAN ISLANDS

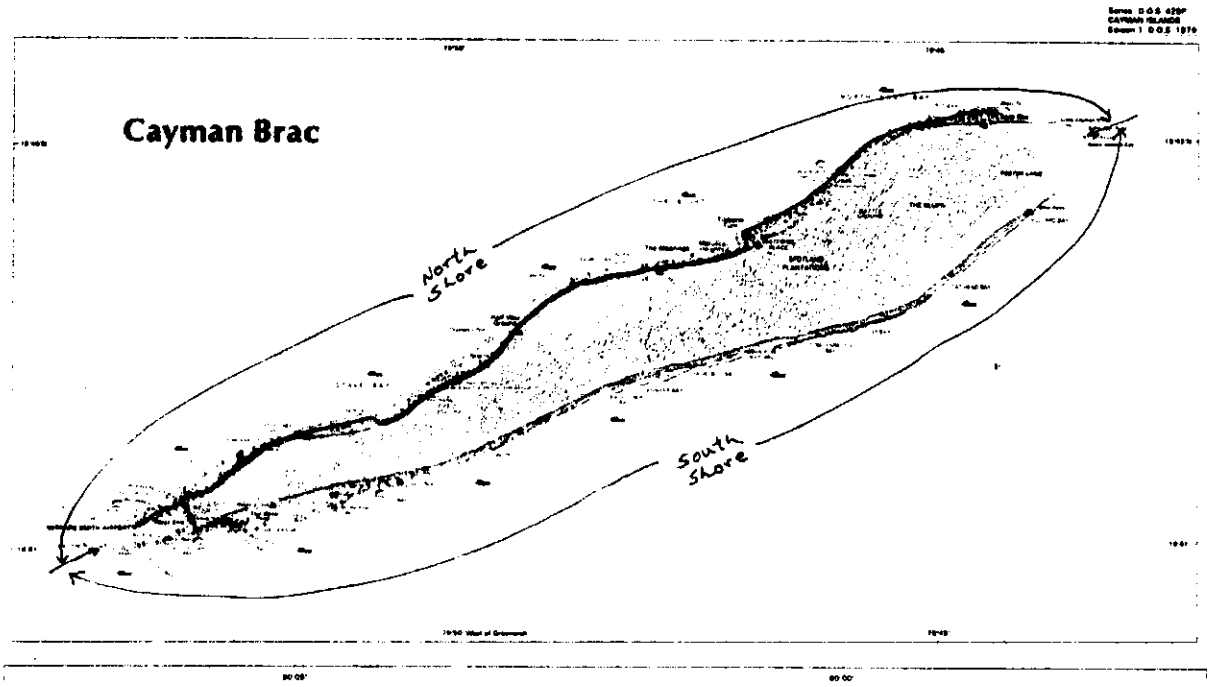
NATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY

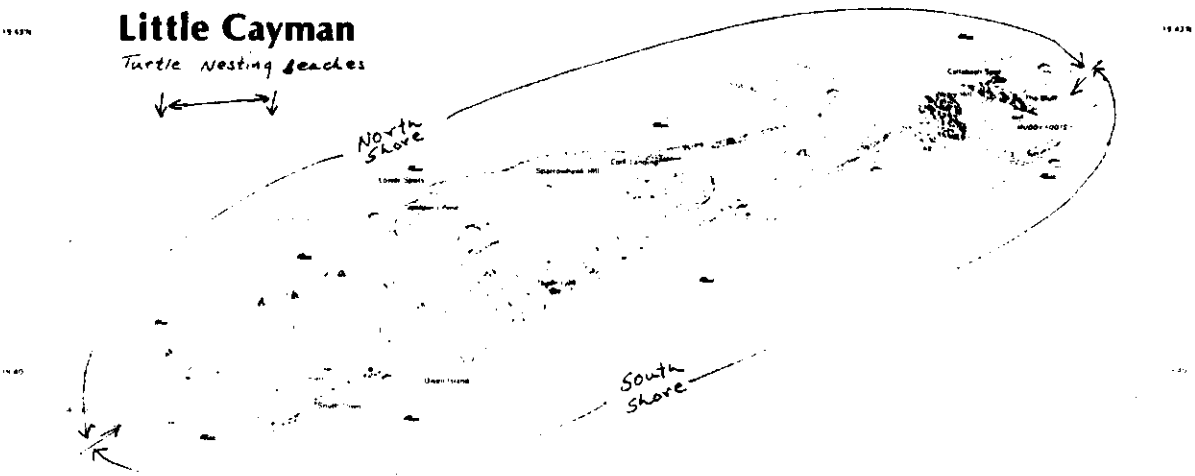
JOE PARSONS - FISHERIES OFFICER

DATE SUBMITTED: 29 NOVEMBER 1982

! Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to: IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE, % UNDP, Apartado 4540, San Jose, Costa Rica.


Grand Cayman


Cayman Brac
North Shore
South Shore


Little Cayman
Turtle Nesting Beaches
North Shore
South Shore

Country _____

Length of Coastline* . . . . . 204 Km

Km^2 of Continental Shelf Area . . . . . 255 Km

Seaward Extent of Jurisdictions:

Territorial Sea . . . . . 4.8 Km

Extended Economic Zone . . . . . N/A Km

Fisheries Jurisdiction . . . . . N/A Km

Other (Describe) _____ . . . N/A Km

TABLE 1. GEOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

* Coastline length is the measurement of the national seaward boundary of a country: i.e., the distance from border to border for a coastal country and the distance around an island country.

MARINE SHORELINE CHARACTERISTICS*	Km OF SHORELINE		
	UNDEVELOPED	DEVELOPED**	TOTAL
1. Sand Beach (Total)	28.5	23.9	52.4
A. High Energy	18.5	6.3	24.8
B. Low Energy	10.0	17.6	27.6
2. Reef (exposed)	0.0	5.4	5.4
3. Rocks	45.3	14.0	59.3
4. Cliffs	33.7	14.0	46.7
5. Vegetation (Total)	36.0	4.4	40.4
A. Vines	-	-	-
B. Grasses	-	-	-
C. Mangroves	36.0	4.4	40.4
D. Coconut Trees	-	-	-
E. Other Trees or Shrubs	-	-	-
F. Marshes	-	-	-
6. Mouths of lagoons, rivers, canals	-	-	-
7. Total Shoreline	142.5	61.7	204

TABLE 2. COASTAL HABITAT INVENTORY OF MARINE SHORELINE

* Refer to SEA TURTLE MANUAL (Aerial Survey)
** Human development or use (See MANUAL)

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN KM	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations)*	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
1. RUM POINT	5.0		
2. NORTH SIDE	10.7		
3. BLUFF BAY	4.0		
4. EAST END	5.7		
5. FRANK SOUND	3.8		
6. BODDEN BAY	8.0	C C,	JUNE
7. SOUTH SOUND	3.2		
8. WEST BAY	7.2		
9. BARKERS BEACH	3.6		
10. SOUTH SHORE CAYMAN BRAC	10		

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY
List beaches in geographic sequence.
Provide additional information on following page.

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN KM	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations)*	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
1. CAYMAN BRAC NORTH SHORE	12.0		
2. LITTLE CAYMAN SOUTH SHORE	16.4		
3. LITTLE CAYMAN NORTH SHORE	13.2		
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY
List beaches in geographic sequence.
Provide additional information on following page.

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY
(Supplementary page)

Please give additional information about each nesting beach identified in Table 3. Include information on color of sand, particle size, beach profile, backbeach vegetation, artificial lighting, etc.

Beach 1. Land Reclamation, dredged sand. Fine particle sand and whole and broken shell - low profile - grass and beach vines to within 3 feet of water in most places - some artificial lighting.

Beach 2. Mostly low profile high energy - drift material and sea grass - white sand and broken coral rubbles - sea grape and other vegetation background - not much artificial light.

Beach 3. As above (Beach 2).

Beach 4. As Beach 2 and 3 but with more artificial light and approximately 75% developed.

Beach 5. As above - approximately 20% developed.

Beach 7. Mostly small-white sand and drift material and sea grass - low profile cove beaches with cliffs or heavy vegetation background - some artificial lighting - fine particles.

Beach 8. Low profile - white sand - highly developed-much artificial lighting - fine particles.

Beach 9. Low profile - white sand - fine particles - drift material and sea grass - not much development or artificial light - sea grape and other vegetation background.

Beach 10. As beach 9.

Beach 11. As above.

Beach 12. As above.

Beach 13. As above

NAME OF AREA (or give coordinates)	APPROX. AREA (km^2)	SPECIES FORAGING (Use abbreviations & approx. numbers)	NATURE OF EVIDENCE (Observation, fishery, incidental catch)
1. North Sound	78	CM & E	Observation
2. Shelf area other than North Sound	180	CM & E	Observation
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

TABLE 7. FORAGING AREAS INVENTORY

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

NAME OF PORT OR SITE	SPECIES LANDED (Use abbrev)	FISHING GEAR USED	MONTHS OF LANDINGS	NUMBERS & WEIGHTS (Estimate
1. GEORGE TOWN HARBOUR	CM E & CC	NETS	YEAR ROUND	35/2386 CM 1.0/73 E
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TURTLES & TURTLE PRODUCTS

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	Dc
Eretmochelys imbricata	Ei
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

SPECIES \ YEAR	1982	1981	1980	METHOD OF DETERMINATION 1979	1978	1977	
Caretta caretta	-	-	-			7	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Chelonia mydas	170	915	329	521	166	508	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Dermochelys coriacea	-	-	-	-	-	-	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Eretmochelys imbricata	1	7	-	7	55	94	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Lepidochelys kempi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lepidochelys olivacea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 12. TOTAL ANNUAL TURTLE LANDINGS IN NUMBERS AND WEIGHTS (N/Kg)
Do not include turtles caught incidental to other fishing operations (e.g., shrimp trawling).

TURTLE PRODUCT	YEARS 1982	1981	1980	CURRENT MARKET Price/Unit	YEARS OF DATA COLLECTION 1979	1978	1977
No. of eggs							
Meat (kg)							
Shell No./Wt.	-	682 kg	-	-	-	454 kg	91 kg.
Skins No./Wt.							
Stuffed Juveniles							
Other							

SPECIES ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA

TABLE 15. OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF TURTLE PRODUCTION
Complete one of these tables for each species taken in the fishery.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION	BUDGET ALLOCATION TO TURTLES	NO. OF STAFF ASSIGNED TO TURTLES	COMMENTS ON LEVELS OF ENFORCEMENT
PORTFOLIO OF AGRICULTURE LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES GOV. ADMIN. BLDG. GRAND CAYMAN.			
CAYMAN ISLANDS POLICE			

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Indicate all entities with statutory responsibilities (e.g., Fisheries Departments and Ministeries, Police, Coast Guard, etc.)

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(Supplementary page)

Please list National, regional, and local legislation concerning turtle management and conservation. List title, date, and stated purpose.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

1) The Marine Conservation (Turtle Protection) Regulations, 1978.

PURPOSE:

To protect female turtles and turtle eggs during the nesting season of May to September.

2) The Endangered Species Protection and Propagation Law, 1978 (Law 21 of 1978)
Section 4.,Paragraph (2)

PURPOSE:

To allow the traditional fishing of turtles, within the fishery limits of the Cayman Islands, for consumption by persons within the Islands while preventing trade in endangered species. (Subject to the limitations of the Turtle Protection Regulations).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO TABLE 20

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Portfolio of Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for the formulation of regulations for subjects covered in the Portfolio which include the Marine Regulations. Surveillance and enforcement are primarily the responsibility of the Cayman Islands Police with the help of volunteer fishery inspectors. The limited manpower and vessels available for marine patrols severely limits the extent of surveillance. This is greatly reflected in the fishing activities. The fishing vessels clear port for the "High Seas", consequently, it is impossible to determine that they do not fish in violation of other countries Exclusive Economic Zones.