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: <u>Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources</u> <u>Administration Building, Cayman Islands</u>

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





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. <u>National Report for Cayman Islands</u>, 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

* 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.

			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 S	Survey)		
		1.5		

** Human development or use (See MANUAL)

*** Editor's note (2009): Totals corrected from original National Report

TABLE 2. COASTAL HABITAT INVENTORY OF MARINE SHORELINE

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY: Grand Cayman Island

List beaches in geographic sequence. Provide additional information on following page.

Nar	ne of Beach		Length	Species Nesting	Months of
			In Km	(Use Abbreviations)*	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	Сс	June
7.	South Sound		3.2		
8.	West Bay		7.2		
9.	Barkers Beach		3.8		
10.	South Shore (Cayman E	srac)	10.0		
11.	North Shore (Cayman B	rac)	12.0		
12.	South Shore (Little Cayr	nan)	16.4		
13.	North Shore (Little Cayn	nan)	13.2		
	Species*	Abbrev	viation		
Car	etta caretta	Сс			
Che	elonia mydas	Cm			
Der	mochelys coriacea	D			
Ere	tmochelys imbricata	E			
Lep	idochelys kempi	Lk			

TABLE 3A. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY (Supplementary page)

Lo

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.

<u>Beach 1 (Rum Point Beach)</u> 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.

<u>Beach 2 (North Side Beach)</u> 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).

Lepidochelys olivacea

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.

<u>Beach 7* (South Sound Beach)</u> 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 7. FORAGING AREAS INVENTORY

Name of Area	Approx. Area	Species Foraging	Nature of Evidence
(or give coordinates)	(Km ²)	(use abbreviations & approx. numbers)	(observation, fishery, incidental catch)
1. North Sound	75	Cm; E	Observation
2. Shelf area other	180	Cm; E	Observation
than North Sound			
Species	Abbreviation	1	
Caretta caretta	Сс		
Chelonia mydas	Cm		
Dermochelys coriacea	D		
Eretmochelys imbricata	a E		
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk		
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo		

TABLE 11. LANDING SITE	S FOR TURTLE	S AND TURTLE PRODU	CTS	
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 caug	ht incide	ntal to c	other fish	ning ope	rations	(e.g., sh	rimp trawling)
			Υe	ear			
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

					00001			
Complete one of the	se tables	for eac	h specie	s taken i	in the fis	hery.		
Species: Eretmochel	lys imbria	cata						
			Ye	ear				
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 Index of the Staff Assigned to Turtles Index of to Turtles Index of to Turtles

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.
- 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.

	MESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM San Jose, Costa Rica July 1963	NATI TWAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF CATMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY - JUSE PARSONS The National Representative Address: Ministry of Agriculture, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT	ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CATMAN ISLANDS MATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY JOE PARSONS - EISHERIES OFFICER	DATE SUBMITTED: <u>29 NOVEMBER 1982</u> I Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to: TOC Assistant Secretary for TOCANIDE, 5 UNDP, Apartado 4540, San Jose, Costa Rica.
THE NATIONAL REPORT EL REPORTE NACIONAL	FOR THE COUNTRY OF POR EL PAIS DE CAYMAN ISLANDS	ISLAS CAYMAN ISLAS CAYMAN National Representative Rectonal	JOE PARSONS	Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental 5en Jose: Costa Rica

~



3-119

	204	255		9 9	N/A to	N/A G	<u>K/A</u> Ke	
				•	•	•	•	
1	•	•		•	•	•	•	
1	•	•		•	•	•	•	
	•	•		•	•	•		
1	•	•		•	•	•		
1	•	•		•	•	•		
1	•	•		•	•	•		
t i	·	•		-	•			
i i	•	•		•				
1	•	•			2		1	
	•	•					-	
1		•						
	•							
1	•				-			
1	•					•		
1								
1				~	-	•		
	•	-	1	•		•		
		Ē	Ē	•		E		
	•	~	Ĕ	•	8	8	1	
1	-		÷	•		5	•	
1		, A	5	_	1	Ē		
1		-		. <u>.</u>	- 2	Ê	.	
		2	2		8	- 4	Ŀ	
	1	1	¥		ال با	10		
	- 8	ជ	- # -	- h	- <u>X</u>	7		
	*	- 5	3	Ŧ	1	<u> </u>	5	
*			P	ŧ	2	3	Ś	
b 🛛	é	÷.				ų,	÷	
5	- 2	2	- I					
5								

TABLE 1. SECREMENTS INVENTORY

	MARE OF BEACH	88 9 9	SPECIES NESTING (Use bboreviations) ^a	NUMTHS OF RECORDED RESTING
	and a state			
			*	
	agte rlyon	10.7		
		1		
-	BLUFF 3AY	 		
-	EAST END	£ 5		
-	PRANK BOUND			
-	BODDEN BAY	9. D	c	11965
		1		
~	CUIDS BUILD	1.2		
	42.9T 3AY	61 1-		
•	BARKERS BEACH	-		
	BOUTH BRAR	' 		
2				

	1	y succerning	
NAME AND A CONTRACT	OVELOPED	0+0340T3A30	TOTAL
1. Same banch (Total)	28.5	2.55	52.4
A. Nigh Energy	18.5		24.8
9. Law Essenty	10.0	17.0	27.6
2. Med (upped)	0.0	5.4	9 .4
	46.3	14.0	59.3
4. C11005	32.7	14.0	46.7
5. Vesutation (Total)	36.0	•••	40,4
R. 111mes	;	1	1 1 1
1. Sranses	•		•
Mungrywes	36.0	4.4	
D. Cocomut Trees	1	•	•
E. Other Trees or Skrybs	1		.
F. Marshes		•	•
k Nonthe of Leconds, rivers, canalit	1	,	•
7. Total Shereiline	142.5	81.7	204

.

Mefer to SEA TURTLE MADIAT INTERTORY OF MADIAE SHORELINE ** Human development or use [see MANUAL]

NUME OF BEACH	LENGTH THE ROM	species mestime (use abbreviations)*	NUCTING OF RECORDED RESTLINE
CATHAN BRAC	12.0		
LITTLE CAYNAN	16.4		
LITTLE CAYMAN NORTH SHORE	13.2		
1			
6,			
r .			
•			
10,			
TABLE 3. MESTING DEACH IN 11st beaches in 9 brovida addition	Entiony soyraphic see 1 information	anns. an feileaing mas.	Species Abbrevistions: Co Dirigity carried Democratics Co Errimon (1) Schlaub Errimon (1)

38. 33

Spectes Abnewlations: Garille curelle Garjonie ar<u>des</u> Dermochelys corfecte retmoche rs labricate aufdoche rs labricate antdrache v al l'acce

MESTERS BEACH INVESTORY List benches in seconsubits sequence. Provide additionel Information an Taileming page.

TABLE 3.

(Supplementery page)

Please give additional information about and meeting based identified to Table 1. Include information action of sum, particle sits, based purfiely backmeeting, artificial lighting, etc... Land Brunarico, droedend sand. Files particles and back vioce to within 3 feet of mater in most places - more artificial lighting.

- ... Beach
- Mostly low profile bigh emergy drift material and men grame white same and broken coral rubbles ees grape and other vegetation background not much artificial light. ei. Peech
- As above (Neach 2). ń Beach
- An Neech 2 and 3 but with more artificial light and approxi-mately 796 developed. ÷ Beach
 - As above approximately 205 developed. ń Brech
- Mortly amell-white mand and drift material and see grass low proble cove beaches with cliffs or beary vegetation background mome artificial lighting fise particles. ĥ Beach

I

- Los profile white easd highly developed-much artificial lightag fise particles. . Beach
- Los profile white mand fime particles drift material
 and ess grames moch development or artificial light ess grame and other vegatation background. ė Beach
 - - A truck P. é Beach
 - 11. Beach
- At above Ľ.
 - An above 19.

3-121

NAME OF POINT MR SITE	Sector Se	usen nege anteres	NUMBER OF	umetik i veloitis (Estimte
1. GEORGE TOPE EARBOUR		6113	YEAR NOUND	35/2386 CH 1.6/73 E
*				
ť	.		:	
Ŀ,				
ŝ				
7.				
4				

ួនគ	¥233
at lon	
문 등) 동 등) 전 기관	

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TSPALES & THRALE PHODUCTS

NAVE OF MEEA (er give coordinates)	UPPER AREA	gectrs smaketer (the abbraviations appres, ambars)	(Anierration, fishery, incluents) catch)
1. Morth Sound	75	Ca P 2	Observation
Shelf area other 2. than North Sound	180	Ca • 5	Obset vation.
			, ,
			:
•			
theic 2. Fonderins Antris II	APE INT MEY		Species Abbreviations: C Species Abbreviations: C Service and any der Fernacheristy contigua Fernacheristy familieta t Levicanelist All maria Levicanelist all maria

Mar and Andrewson and Andrews	2041	1961	CH + I			1. N. N. N.	METON
wells territe centte	1	•				۲	PORT RECORDS
Chelania mida	170	¢	328	2	166	20 0	PORT LANDING RECORDS
fermochelys cariacen	1		•	1		ı	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Eretmodialys labricata		~	1	*	2	2	PORT LANDING RECORDS
Legidochelys tempi	•	·	1	1	1	ı	;
Leptdechelys eliveces -	,	، 	•	•	I	•	
TABLE 12. TOTAL ANNUAL TAY Do not include to fishing operation	11 C. 00 11 C. 00 111				\$ (a/Kg)		

		TEARS					
RATLE PROPERTY	1985	1961	1961	MARKET Price/Unit	127	- Sangerge	Provin contection
met (11)	Í	ł					And the second sec
	•	613 ki	• 1	• .	•	454 kc	91 kg.
Stia Re. At.	ł	į					
Stuffed deventles	ļ	, i	!	!			
Other							

NTAJCATA STATISCHED STATE SPECIES HARE IS. OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF TURILE PRODUCTION Complete one of these tables for each species taken in the fishery.

REBULATORY AUTHORITY (Supplementary mor) THUE 20.

Planse Tist Martional, regional, and Tacal Tepislation concerning tartic management and conservation. List title, date, and stated purpose. CATMAN ISLANDS

1) The Marine Compervation (Turtle Protection) Regulations, 1976. PURPOSE:

To protect female turtles and turtle eggs during the mesting eason of May to September.

The Rudangered Species Protection and Propagation Law, 1975 (Law 21 of 1975) Section 4., Puragraph (2) ŝ

: ISOUND4

To allow the traditional fishing of turtles, within the fishery limits of the Cuyman I slands, for consumption by persons within the falands while preventing trade in cadangered species. (Subject to the limitations of the Turtle Protection Regulations).

COMMENTS OF LITHILL OF COMMENTARY					
A STAFF		1	1		
ALLOOKTON ALLOOKTON TO THIRLES		+		1 : :	
MME AND ADDRESS OF DODMEDITION	PONTPOLIO OF AGAICULTURE LANDE AND NATURAL RESOUNCES DOY, ADMIN, BLOG. GRAND CATRAN.	CATEAR ISLANDS POLICE			

THUE 20.

REGULTIMY ADTWORLTY Indicate all antition with statebory responsibilities (a.g., Fisheries Departments and Ministaries, Police, Coast Gaerd, etc.)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO TABLE 20 REGULATORY AUTSORITY

The Portfolio of Ariculture, Lands and Matural Resources tha responsible for the formulation of regulations for subjects covered in the Portfolio which factured Marine Merulations. Burveillance and enforcement are primarily the responsibility of the Corpus Planade Police with the help of volunter finnery isspectors. Farlanted anapover and vessels available for isspectors. For lasted anapover and vessels available for the response server of lasted anapover and vessels available for isspectors. For the fishing activities. The fishing results for the "Kath Beau", consequently, it is in-possible to determine that they do not fish in violation of other constrine Exclusive Boomanic Zense.