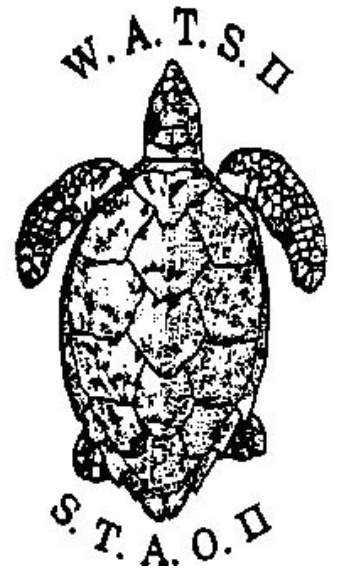


WATS II REPORT / DATA SET



National Report to WATS II for St. Kitts/Nevis

Ralph Wilkins and Audra Barret

12 October 1987

WATS2 055



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 sizes and trends, 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.

Despite the potential value of this information to agencies responsible for conducting stock assessments, monitoring recovery trends, safeguarding critical habitat, and evaluating conservation successes in the 21st century, the National Reports submitted to WATS II were not included in the published proceedings and, until now, have existed only in the private libraries of a handful of agencies and symposium participants. To help ensure the legacy of these symposia, we have digitized the entire proceedings – including National Reports, plenary presentations and panels, species synopses, and annotated bibliographies from 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 can be cited (with the number of pages based on the layout of the original document) as:

Wilkins, R. and A. Barret. 1987. National Report to WATS II for St. Kitts and Nevis. Prepared for the Second Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS II), 12-16 October 1987, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Doc. 055. 33 pages.

Karen L. Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director
June 2009

**STATUS OF SEA TURTLES IN ST. KITTS/NEVIS
NATIONAL REPORT FOR W.A.T.S. II**

October 11th - 16th, 1987

MAYAGÜEZ, PUERTO RICO

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

RALPH WILKINS

and

AUDRA BARRET

October 1987

1. INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, sea turtle fishing in St. Kitts and Nevis has never been more than a subsistence level. Of the approximately 650 fishermen engaged in the fishing industry, only about 40 are engaged in the turtle fishery. Turtles are generally taken by the use of nets specifically designed for this purpose, ranging in length from 50 to 75 feet, 7 to 10 feet deep, and carry a mesh size of about 8 to 10 inches. Some turtles are taken during spear fishing or more traditionally during nesting. Four species of turtles are known to be nesting on beaches in St. Kitts/Nevis. These are: (i) the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), (ii) the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), (iii) the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the occasional (iv) loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*).

Since 1948, regulations have been developed and tailored to protect the harvesting of turtles under twenty (20) pounds in weight and the harvesting, interference and possession of any turtle product during the closed season observed 1st June through September 30th annually. New harmonized regulations developed by the O.E.C.S. countries proposes a moratorium on the turtle fishery but have not yet been made law in St. Kitts/Nevis. No trade between the islands has been developed for the turtle products from St. Kitts/Nevis except for the occasional sale of shells to buyers from neighbouring islands. Since WATS I in 1983, turtles have been observed to be relatively low in abundance around St. Kitts/Nevis.

2. NESTING BEACHES AND ACTIVITY

Situations have changed since tropical storm Clause in 1984. Beaches on the leeward side of the islands have been suffering serious erosion problems. Hence, turtles seem to be attracted to the larger of the remote beaches. Examples can be seen where the once popular Penney Beach in Nevis and the Sandy Point Beach in St. Kitts with a normal 100-150 feet stretch of sand between the shoreline and back beach vegetation are now subjected to emergency conservation measures. The beaches that are most used by turtles are those beaches on the South East Peninsular. Access to most of those beaches is mainly by boat. Access is expected to be much easier with Government's proposal to develop that area for tourism with the construction of a penetration road proposed to start within the near future. Previous nestings were either taken by humans or ravaged by wild animals.

3. IMPORTANT FORAGING AREAS

Turtles are seen almost everywhere by divers and seine fishermen. The more popular areas, however, are Dieppe Bay to Sandy Point, Old Road to Basseterre, the entire Peninsular, Conaree to Cayon in St. Kitts. In Nevis, Black Bay, Indian Castle, and Charles Town to New Castle. More turtles are observed in foraging areas close to nesting beaches on the Peninsula.

4. RESEARCH CONDUCTED

Through the assistance of WATS II, research has been conducted through this nesting season to determine:

- (1) The number of nesting females by species
- (2) Nest protection and emergence counts
- (3) Harvest mortality and market activities
- (4) Observation of non-nesting females

The research was conducted separately for both islands. (See report attached for Nevis).

4.1. Strategy

Two of the more active beaches in St. Kitts were selected at Sandy Point (Caribbean site) and Conaree (Atlantic site). Two beach observers were hired to monitor these beaches. The beaches were sectioned and monitored randomly during May 3rd and September 30th, which incorporated the regulated closed season June 1st through September 30th. Observers were provided with the necessary facilities and instructed by the National Representative on procedural matters. Measurements were taken using the curved method. Regular checks were made with observers to straighten out problems that might develop.

4.2. Findings

Surprisingly to date no turtles have nested on the popular Sandy Point beach. No turtles have been caught neither before nor during the nesting season, but juveniles (hawksbill and green) were observed within the foraging areas of Sandy Point. At Conaree, turtles started nesting from late April until the middle of August (see Appendix). Each nesting was recorded and measurements were taken from those that were possible. No false tracks were made and to date over 18 turtles have nested including one hawksbill. Most nests were discovered the next day. Attempts were made to obliterate the area after taking physical marks of the nest. The nests were soon discovered within a day or two and eggs taken by locals. Prior to and during the survey period two turtles (Dc) were taken by locals, but were taken before the closed season.

5. MARKET STUDY

A market study was conducted for St. Kitts for 1986-1987 based on information supplied by the fishermen; over 50 turtles were caught during the period. These include hawksbill, green, loggerhead and leatherback turtles. All the meat was consumed locally and shells from the hawksbill either sold to a buyer from neighbouring islands or sold to a local buyer who sells to an outside buyer.

6. CONCLUSION

This might have been a bad year for nesting females but, from information gathered, turtle stocks in this part of the region are on the decline. Establishing erosion control measures might never bring back beaches for the nesting of turtles. The O.E.C.S. countries should be encouraged to implement the harmonized regulations giving effect to the moratorium on sea turtle fishing. Steps should be taken to encourage this to the wider Caribbean countries.

STATUS OF THE TURTLE FISHERY AND RESEARCH PROJECT

Nevis is basically an agricultural community with farming and fishing providing employment for the majority of its citizens.

According to the 1980 census, the population of Nevis is approximately 9,000; it has dropped drastically due to migration. Out of the present population some four hundred and fifty (450) persons are engaged in the fishing industry. The mode of fishing is somewhat multiple.

Traditional artisanal fishing is still practised amongst the fishermen on the island. An approximate total of twenty (20) fishermen are fully engaged in turtle fishing, while others occasionally catch them, especially when engaged in spear fishing.

The fishermen fish turtles with gill nets locally known as 'Turtle Nets'; a length of 50-75 feet and depth of 10 feet with mesh size of 8-10 inches. During the last season they operated some thirty-six (36) nets in the inshore areas, along the peninsula of St Kitts, and on beaches in Nevis that are known to be frequented by turtles. The total catch for the 1986-87 season (October-May) was about 110 turtles, mainly hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the green back (*Chelonia mydas*), with an average weight of sixty-five (65) pounds. The leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is caught occasionally and released because locals do not consume the meat. The most frequent type caught or seen is the hawksbill. The meat of both hawksbill and green back turtle are sold mostly to the hotels. The shells are used for decorations, jewellery and some fishermen swinge it to be used as bait for their fish traps.

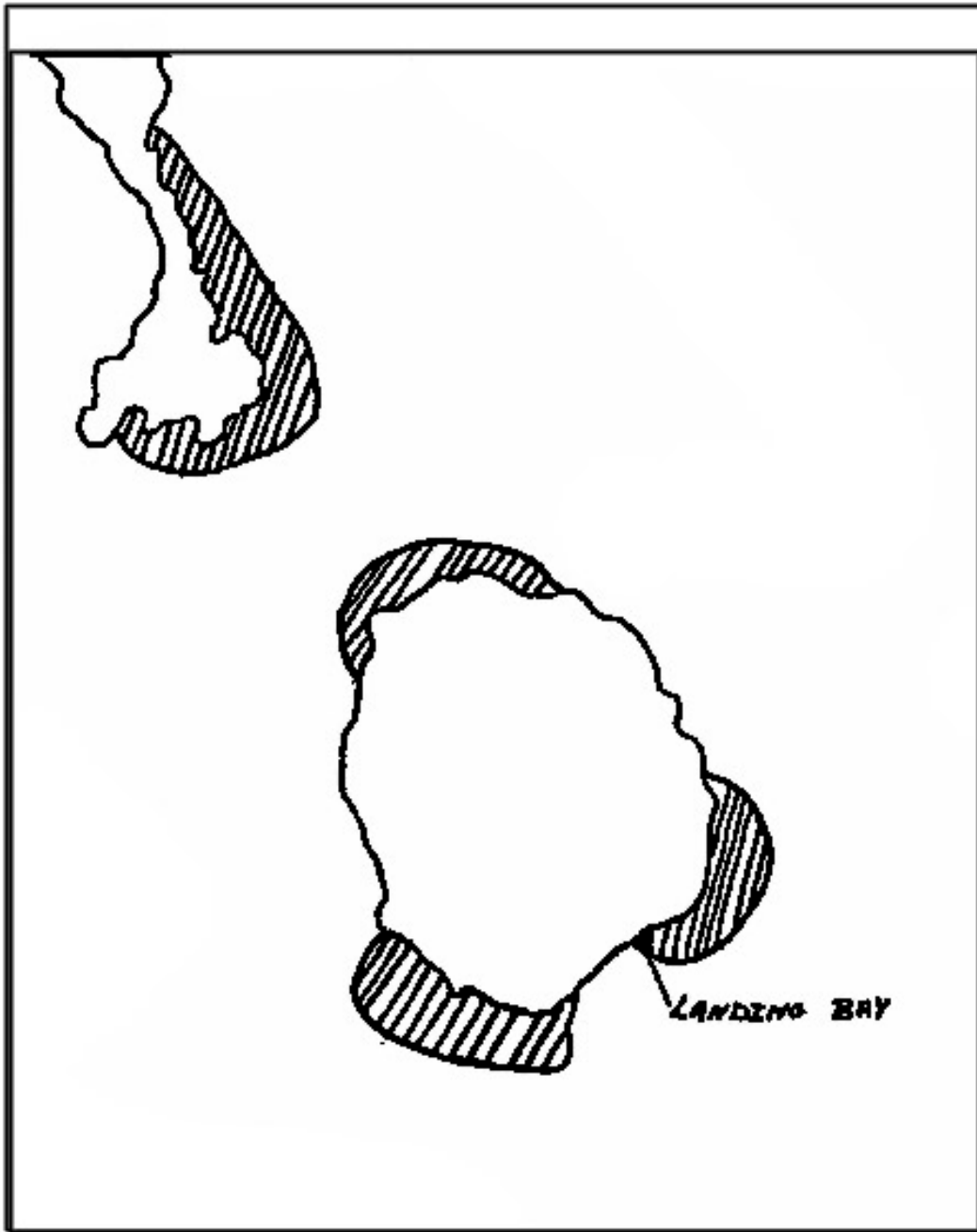
Although the fisherman gave the information from the previous season willingly, it was difficult to convince them to lend their assistance with the monitoring of the Turtle Project, even though they would have been compensated. Only one assisted and I worked with him, for the past three months. In spite of that, I was able to measure some shells of the turtles from last season. Measurement of the shells are attached.

Monitoring of the beaches has been effected from April this year. On the 10th day, a leather-back beached but made a false nest. To date we have found one more track; that too was identified as false. Monitoring is still active and occasionally beach surveys are carried out along the beaches of the St Kitts peninsula.

Sometime during June a fisherman saw turtle shells on one of the beaches. No information was collected as to how many he saw. Another fisherman reported that one evening while fishing on a beach that is not monitored, he saw and estimated well over a hundred juvenile turtles (hatchlings as they are called) heading towards the sea. He also informed me that turtles normally beach for nesting during the changing of the moon. My assistant is now in the process of monitoring the beaches two days before and two days after the changing of the moon. This information was passed by one of the older fishermen who, by checking the sky at a certain time, can predict when a turtle would be beaching to nest. It was also said that Landing Bay is the major nesting site on the island. This bay is situated on the south coast well isolated and can only be reached by foot or boat depending on the weather. The fisherman who operate around the reefs and shoals of that area always see a number of small turtles - estimated weight 10-15 lbs.

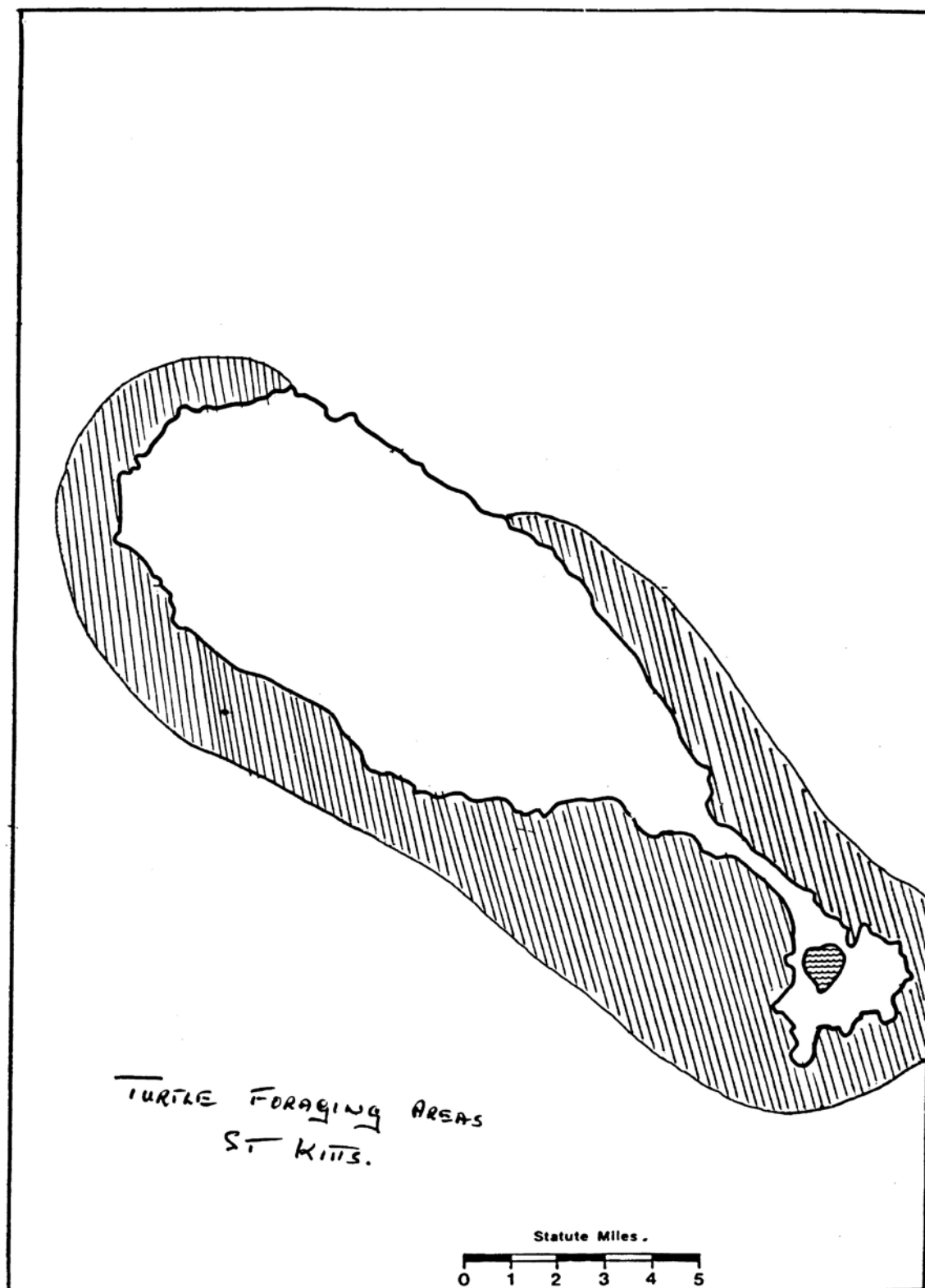
The Research project is still in process and will be continuing even if funds are exhausted. The results will be forwarded to Dr. Robert R. Lankford, Executive Secretary WATS II and copied to Mr. Ralph Wilkins, National Representative of St. Kitts/Nevis.

Audra Barrett
Fisheries Assistant
September 8, 1987

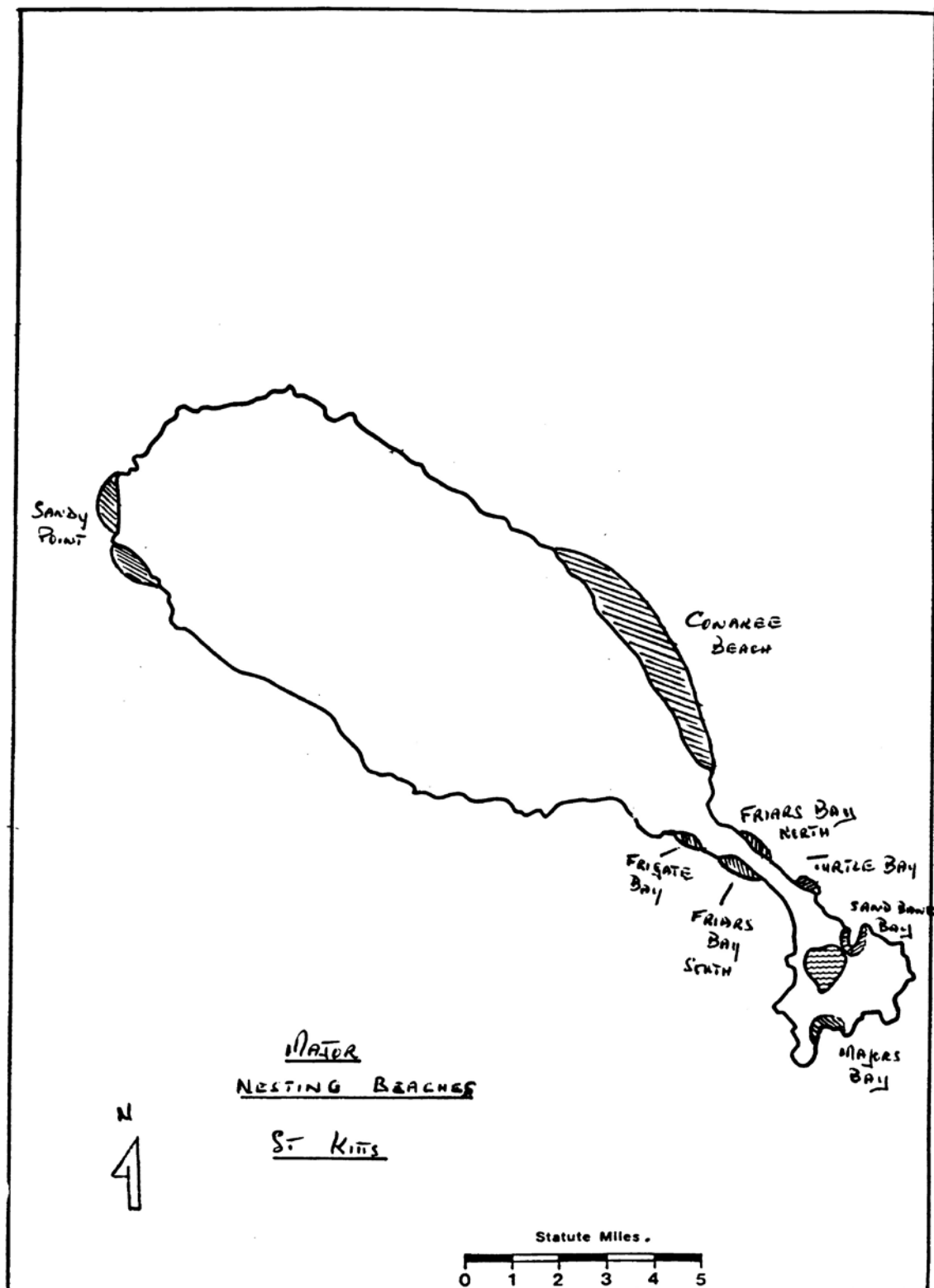


Turtle fishing areas, St. Kitts and Nevis

Editor's note (2009): Maps and figures are reprinted exactly as they appear in the original document; we regret the poor quality exhibited in some cases.



Turtle foraging area, St. Kitts



Major nesting beaches, St. Kitts

MEASUREMENT OF SEA TURTLES

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

1.	Total carapace length	72 cm
	Carapace width	62 cm
	Approximate weight	65 lbs
2.	Total carapace length	68 cm
	Carapace width	55 cm
	Approximate weight	55 lbs
3.	Total carapace length	74cm
	Carapace width	60 cm
	Approximate weight	75 lbs
4.	Total carapace length	63 cm
	Carapace width	55 cm
	Approximate weight	50 lbs
5.	Total carapace length	67 cm
	Carapace width	59 cm
	Approximate weight	65 lbs
6.	Total carapace length	57 cm
	Carapace width	47 cm
	Approximate weight	45 lbs
7.	Total carapace length	75 cm
	Carapace width	60 cm
	Approximate weight	85 lbs

Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

1.	Total carapace length	82 cm
	Carapace width	60 cm
	Approximate weight	160 lbs
2.	Total carapace length	68 cm
	Carapace width	56 cm
	Approximate weight	60 lbs

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 28.04.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	None
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*;
 Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*i; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 29.04.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*;
 Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*i; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 03.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	C
Units in Cm or inches	51 ins
5. Number of Eggs	
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	---
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	---
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	---
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	---
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	Y

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 Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 05.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	---
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk=*Lepidochelys kempi*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 08.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

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WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 10.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:30AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	C
Units in Cm or inches	59 ins
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	None
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

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WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 16.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	C
Units in Cm or inches	54 ins
5. Number of Eggs	---
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	Y

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk=*Lepidochelys kempi*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 23.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	5:45AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

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 Lk=*Lepidochelys kempi*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 24.05.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

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WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 01.06.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*i; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 02.06.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

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 Lk=*Lepidochelys kempi*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 08.06.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1	2
1. Time	6:00AM	6:30AM
2. Species *	Dc	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units in Cm or inches	---	---
5. Number of Eggs	Uk	Uk
6. Emergence date	---	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested **	Uk	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*;
 Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

** Eggs taken by locals

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY

Country: St. Kitts State: Name of Beach: Conaree
 Name of Observer: C. Solous Date: 09.06.1987 Time Start/Stop: Distance Surveyed:

Number Nest	1
1. Time	6:00AM
2. Species *	Dc
3. Tag No. N=New; O=Old	---
4. Carapace Length (S/C)	---
Units in Cm or inches	
5. Number of Eggs	Uk
6. Emergence date	---
7. Number of Hatchlings	---
8. Erosion Danger? (Y/N)	N
9. Nest Protected? (Y/N)	N
10. Nest relocated to Another Beach Site? (Y/N)	N
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	Uk
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	---
14. Number of Head-started Eggs	---
15. Females Harvested? (Y/N)	N

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk=*Lepidochelys kemp*i; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

TABLE IV. MORTALITY

Country: St. Kitts State: Year: 1987 Observer: National representative

Date	Species *	Sex	Length	Weight	# Eggs	Locality	Cause
July 1987	Cm	F	42 in	230 lb	---	Helden-St. Pauls	Accidentally taken by net set for sharks

* Cc=*Caretta caretta*; Cm=*Chelonia mydas*; Dc=*Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei=*Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk=*Lepidochelys kempfi*; Lo=*Lepidochelys olivacea*; Uk=Unknown

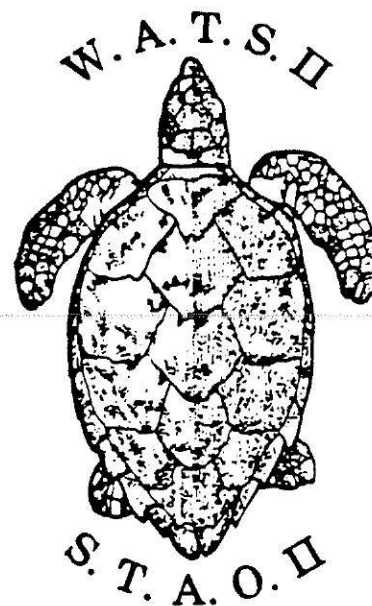
Comments: Turtle was found dead in net; Tag # P1803 from Department of Biology, University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, USA was found attached. Information sent back.

WATS II REPORT/DATA SET

National Report to WATS II for St. Kitts/Nevis

Ralph Wilkins and Audra Barret

12 october 1987



WATS2 055

STATUS OF SEA TURTLES IN ST. KITTS/NEVIS

NATIONAL REPORT FOR W.A.T.S. II.

Oct. 11th - 16th, 1987.
MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO.

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
RALPH WILKINS
AND
AUDRA BARRET

October 1987

0.1. INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, turtle fishing in St. Kitts and Nevis has never been more than a subsistence level. Of the approximate 650 fishermen engaged in the fishing industry only about 40 are engaged in the turtle fishery.

Turtles are generally taken by the use of nets specifically designed for this purpose, ranging in length of 50 to 75 feet, 7 to 10 feet deep and carry a mesh size of about 8 to 10 inches. Some turtles are taken during spear fishing or more traditionally, during nesting. Four species of turtles are known to be nesting on beaches in St. Kitts/Nevis.

These are (i) the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), (ii) the Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), (iii) the Leather back (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the occasional (iv) Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*).

Since 1948 regulations have been developed and tailored to protect the harvesting of turtles under twenty (20) pounds in weight and the harvesting, interference and possession of any turtle product during the closed season observed 1st June through September 30th annually.

New harmonized regulations developed by the O.E.C.S. countries proposes a moratorium on the turtle fishery but have not yet been made law in St. Kitts/Nevis.

No trade between the island has been developed for the turtle products from St. Kitts/Nevis except for the occasional sale of shells to buyers from neighbouring

islands. Since W.A.T.S. 1 in 1983 turtles have been observed to be relatively low in abundance around St. Kitts/Nevis.

0.2 NESTING BEACHES AND ACTIVITY

Situations have changed since tropical storm Clause in 1984. Beaches on the leeward side of the islands have been suffering serious erosion problems. Hence, turtles seem to be attracted to the larger of the remote beaches. Examples can be seen where the once popular Penney Beach in Nevis and the Sandy Point Beach in St. Kitts with a normal 100 - 150 feet stretch of sand between the shoreline and back beach vegetation are now subjected to emergency conservation measures. The beaches that are most used by turtles are those beaches on the South East Peninsular. Access to most of those beaches is mainly by boat. Access is expected to be much easier with Government's proposal to develop that area for Tourism with the construction of a penetration road proposed to start within the near future. Previous nestings were either taken by human or ravaged by wild animals.

0.3. IMPORTANT FORAGING AREAS

Turtles are seen almost everywhere by divers and seine fishermen. The more popular areas however are Dieppe Bay to Sandy Point, Old Road to Basseterre, the entire Peninsular, Conaree to Cayon in St. Kitts. In Nevis; Black Bay, and Indian Castle, Charles Town to New Castle. More turtles are

observed in foraging areas close to nesting beaches on the Peninsular.

0.4. RESEARCH CONDUCTED

Through the assistance of W.A.T.S. II research have been conducted through this nesting season to determine:

- (1) The number of nesting females by species
- (2) Nest protection and emergence counts
- (3) Harvest mortality and market activities
- (4) Observation of non-nesting females.

The research was conducted separately for for both islands. (See report attached for Nevis).

0.4.1. STRATEGY

Two of the more active beaches in St. Kitts were selected at Sandy Point (Caribbean Site) and Conaree (Atlantic Site).

Two beach observers were hired to monitor these beaches.

The beaches were sectioned and monitored randomly during May 3rd and September 30th, which incorporated the regulated closed season June 1st through September 30th. Observers were provided with the necessary facilities and instructed by the National Representative on procedural matters.

Measurements were taken using the curved method. Regular checks were made with observers to straighten out problems that might develop.

0.4.2. FINDINGS

Surprisingly to date no turtles have nested on the popular Sandy Point beach. No turtles have been caught neither

before nor during the nesting season but juveniles (hawksbill and green) were observed within the foraging areas of Sandy Point. At Conaree turtles started nesting from late April until the middle of August. (See Appendix). Each nesting was recorded and measurements were taken from those that were possible. No false tracks were made and to date over 18 turtles have nested including one hawksbill. Most nests were discovered the next day. Attempts were made to obliterate the area after taking physical mark of the nest. The nests were soon discovered within a day or two and eggs taken by locals. Prior to and during the survey period two turtles (D.C) were taken by locals but were taken before the closed season.

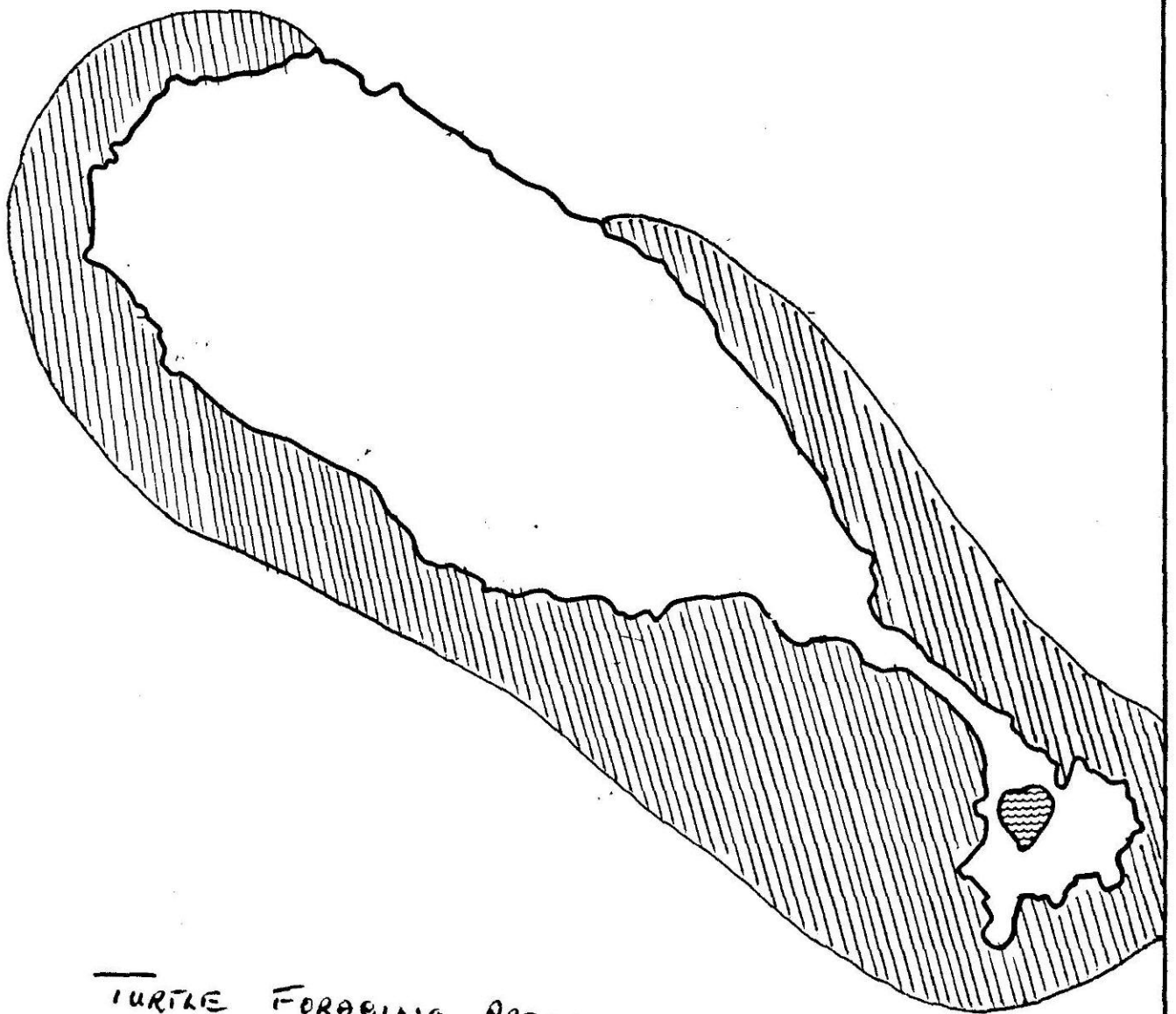
0.5. MARKET STUDY

A market study was conducted for St. Kitts for 1986 - 1987 based on information supplied by the fishermen, over 50 turtles were caught during the period. These include hawksbill, green, loggerhead and leather back turtles. All the meat was consumed locally and shells from the hawksbill either sold to a buyer from neighbouring islands or sold to a local buyer who sells to outside buyer.

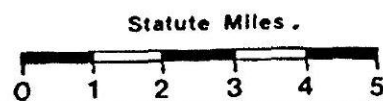
0.6. CONCLUSION

This might have been a bad year for nesting females but from information gathered turtle stocks in this part of the region is on the decline. Establishing erosion control measures might never bring back beaches for the nesting of

turtles. The O.E.C.S. countries should be encouraged to implement the harmonized regulations giving effect to the moratorium on sea turtle fishing. Steps should be taken to encourage this to the wider Caribbean countries.



TURTLE FORAGING AREAS
ST. KITTS.





MAJOR
NESTING BEACHES

St. Kitts

N
4

Statute Miles.

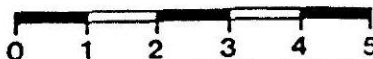


TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREENAME OF OBSERVER C. SOLORS DATE 28/4/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	①						
1. Time	6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	NONE						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	uk						
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N.						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N.						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	No						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	uk						
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; E1 = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

Page 3

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREE
 NAME OF OBSERVER C Solous DATE 29/4/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	Ø					
1. Time	6 AM					
2. Species*	Dc.					
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—					
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—					
5. Number of Eggs	UK					
6. Emergence Date	—					
7. Number of Hatchlings	—					
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N					
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N					
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N					
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N					
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK					
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—					
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—					
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N					

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

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TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. Solous DATE 3/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number							
1. Time	6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	C 51.25						
5. Number of Eggs							
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	—						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	—						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	—						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	—						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested							
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	Y						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; E1 = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

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TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. Foxous DATE 5/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number							
1. Time	① 6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	uk						
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N.						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	—						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested							
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; El = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREENAME OF OBSERVER C. Solous DATE 8/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	①						
1. Time	6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs							
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested							
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; El = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

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TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREE
 NAME OF OBSERVER C. Srouss DATE 10/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	①					
1. Time	6:30 AM					
2. Species*	Dc.					
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—					
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	C 59 ins					
5. Number of Eggs	UK					
6. Emergence Date	—					
7. Number of Hatchlings	—					
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N					
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N					
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N					
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N					
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	NONE					
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—					
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—					
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N					

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; El = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

Page 3

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONARRE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. Solous St Kitts DATE 16/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number							
1. Time	①	6 AM.					
2. Species*		Dc					
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old		—					
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches		54" C					
5. Number of Eggs		—					
6. Emergence Date		—					
7. Number of Hatchlings		—					
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)		N					
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)		N					
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)		N					
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)		N					
12. Number of Eggs Harvested		UK					
13. Number of Eggs Depredated		—					
14. Number of Head-start Eggs		—					
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)		Y					

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; El = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY S. Korea STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONARENAME OF OBSERVER C. Sonour DATE 23/5/89 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	①						
1. Time	5:45 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	UK						
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK						
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONARREENAME OF OBSERVER C Solons DATE 24/5/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	①						
1. Time	6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	UK						
6. Incubation Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK						
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; E1 = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

Page 3

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY S. KIRIBATI STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CENARAE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. SOLOMONS DATE 1/6/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number							
1. Time	① 6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	UK						
6. Incubation Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	—						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK						
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

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TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY St. Kitts STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONARRE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. Solons DATE 2/6/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	(1)						
1. Time	6 AM						
2. Species*	Dc.						
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—						
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—						
5. Number of Eggs	uk						
6. Emergence Date	—						
7. Number of Hatchlings	1						
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	2						
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	2						
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	2						
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	2						
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	uk						
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	1						
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	1						
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	2						

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

Page 3

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY 8-KITS STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONARRE

NAME OF OBSERVER C Solous DATE 8/6/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number	1	2					
1. Time	6 AM	6:30 AM					
2. Species*	dc	dc					
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—	—					
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—	—					
5. Number of Eggs	UK	UK					
6. Incubation Date	—	—					
7. Number of Hatchlings	—	—					
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	N	N					
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	N	N					
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	N	N					
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	N	N					
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK	UK					
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—	—					
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—	—					
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	N	N					

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kemp; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

Eggs TAKEN BY LOCALS

WATS II SEA TURTLE SURVEY DATA FORM

Page 3

TABLE I. NESTING BEACH SURVEY:

COUNTRY PT KITS STATE _____ NAME OF BEACH CONAREE

NAME OF OBSERVER C. SOROS DATE 9/6/87 TIME START/STOP _____ DISTANCE SURVEYED _____

Nest Number						
1. Time	6 A.M.					
2. Species*	dc					
3. Tag Number N = New O = Old	—					
4. Carapace Length (S/C) Units cm or inches	—					
5. Number of Eggs	UK					
6. Emergence Date	—					
7. Number of Hatchlings	1					
8. Erosion Danger?(Y/N)	2					
9. Nest Protected?(Y/N)	2					
10. Nest Relocated to another beach site (Y/N)	2					
11. Number of Eggs to Hatchery? (Y/N)	2					
12. Number of Eggs Harvested	UK					
13. Number of Eggs Depredated	—					
14. Number of Head-start Eggs	—					
15. Females Harvested?(Y/N)	2					

*Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; E1 = Eretmochelys imbricata; Lk = Lepidochelys kempi; Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; UK = Unknown

STATUS OF THE TURTLE FISHERY AND RESEARCH PROJECT

Nevis is basically an agricultural community with farming and fishing providing employment for the majority of its citizens.

According to the 1980 census the population of Nevis is approximately 9,000; it has dropped drastically due to migration. Out of the present population some four hundred and fifty (450) persons are engaged in the fishing industry. The mode of fishing is somewhat multiple.

Traditional artisanal fishing is still practised amongst the fishermen on the island. An approximate total of twenty (20) fishermen are fully engaged in turtle fishing, while others occasionally catches them, especially when engaged in spear fishing.

The fishermen fishes turtle with gill nets locally known as 'Turtle Nets'; a length of 50 - 75 feet and depth of 10 feet with mesh size of 8 - 10 inches. During the last season they operated some thirty-six (36) nets in the inshore areas, along the peninsula of St Kitts, and on beaches in Nevis that are known to be frequented by turtles. The total catch for the 1986 - 87 season October - May was about 110 turtles, mainly Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys Imbrata*) and the Green Back (*Chelonia Mydas*) an average weight of sixty-five (65) pounds. The Leather Back (*Dermochelys Coriacea*) are caught occasionally and released because locals do not consume the meat. The most frequent type caught or seen is the Hawksbill. The meat of both Hawksbill and Green-back turtle are sold mostly to the hotels. The shells are used for decorations, jewelry and some fishermen swing it to be used as bait for their fish traps.

Although the fishermen gave the information from the previous season willingly, it was difficult to convince them to lend their assistance with the monitoring of the Turtle Project, even though they would have been compensated. Only one assisted and I worked with him for

the past three months. In spite of that I was able to measure some shells of the turtles from last season. Measurement of the shells are attached.

Monitoring of the beaches has ^{been} effected from April this year. On the 10th day a Leather Back beached but made a false nest. To date we have found one more track; that too was identified as false. Monitoring is still active and occasionally beach surveys are carried out along the beaches of the St Kitts peninsula.

Sometime during June a fisherman saw turtle shells on one of the beaches. No information was collected as to how many he saw. Another fisherman reported that one evening while fishing on a beach that is not monitored, he saw and estimated well over a hundred juvenile turtles (hatchlings as they are called) heading towards the sea. He also informed me that turtles normally beach for nesting during the changing of the moon. My assistant is now in the process of monitoring the beaches two days before and two days after the changing of the moon. This information was passed by one of the older fishermen who, by checking the sky at a certain time, can predict when a turtle would be beaching to nest. It was also said that Landing Bay is the major nesting site on the island. This bay is situated on the south coast well isolated and can only be reached by foot or boat depending on the weather. The fishermen who operate around the reefs and shoals of that area always see a number of small turtles - estimated weight 10 - 15 lbs.

The Research Project is still in process and will be continuing even if funds are exhausted. The results will be forwarded to Dr Robert R Lankford, Executive Secretary Watt II and copied to Mr Ralph Wilkin, National Representative of St. Kitts/Nevis.


Audra Barrett

Fisheries Assistant

September 8, 1987

MEASUREMENT OF SEA TURTLES

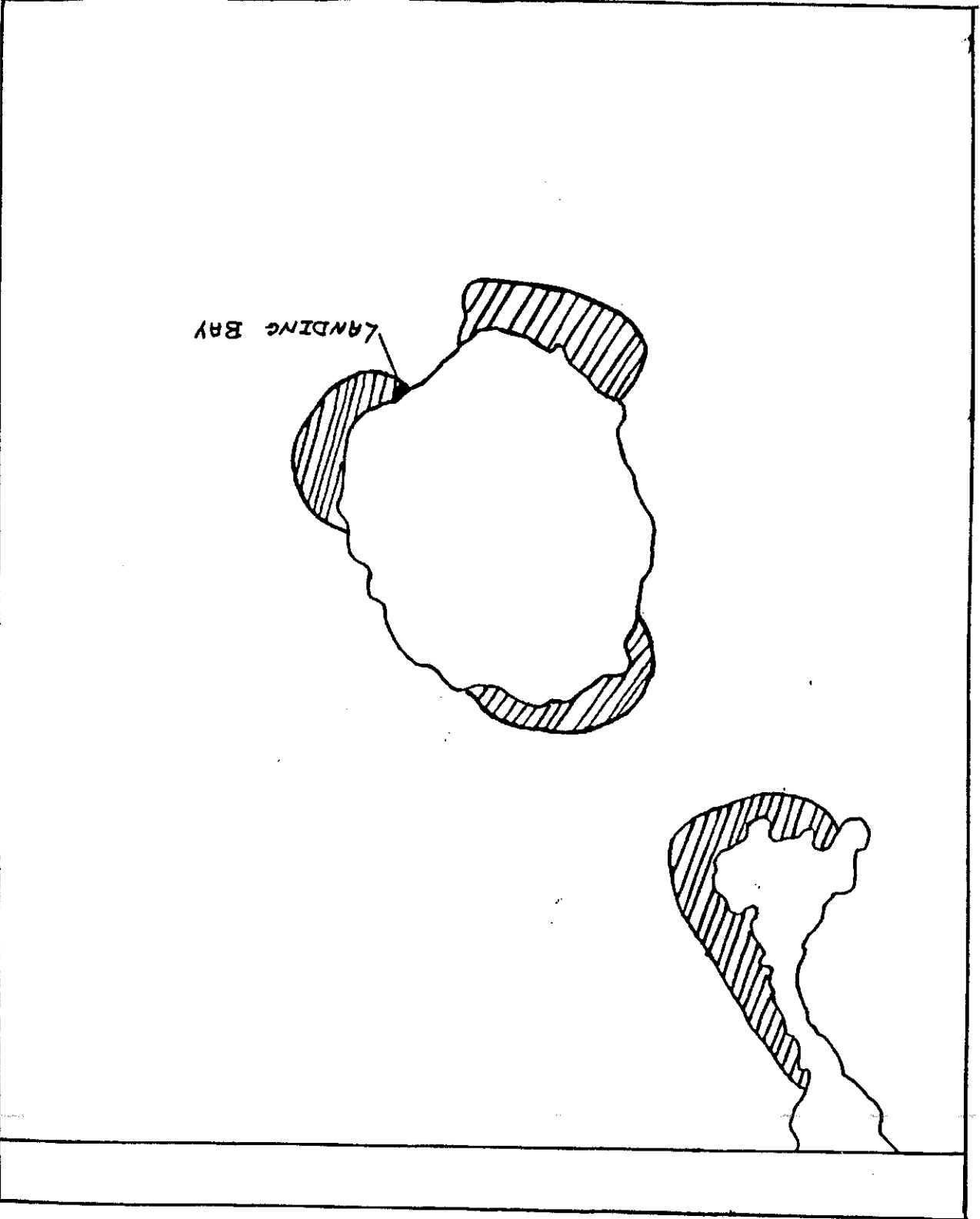
GREEN TURTLE (CHELOMIA MYDAS)

1.	Total Carapace length	72 cm	5.	Total Carapace length	67 cm
	Carapace width	62 cm		Carapace width	59 cm
	Approximate weight	65 lbs		Approximate weight	65 lbs
2.	Total Carapace length	68 cm	6.	Total Carapace length	57 cm
	Carapace width	55 cm		Carapace width	47 cm
	Approximate weight	55 lbs		Approximate weight	45 lbs
3.	Total Carapace length	74 cm	7.	Total Carapace length	75 cm
	Carapace width	60 cm		Carapace width	60 cm
	Approximate weight	75 lbs		Approximate weight	85 lbs
4.	Total Carapace length	63 cm			
	Carapace width	55 cm			
	Approximate weight	50 lbs			

HAWKSBILL (ERETMOCHELYS IMBRATA)

1.	Total Carapace length	82 cm
	Carapace width	60 cm
	Approximate weight	160 lbs
2.	Total Carapace length	68 cm
	Carapace width	56 cm
	Approximate weight	60 lbs

TURTLE FISHING AREAS.



THE NATIONAL REPORT EL REPORTE NACIONAL



FOR THE COUNTRY OF
POR EL PAIS DE

SAINT KITTS-NEVIS

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE/REPRESENTANTE NACIONAL

RALPH WILKINS



Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental

17-22 July/Julio 1983
San Jose, Costa Rica



WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM

San Jose, Costa Rica

July 1983

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

St Kitts / Nevis

NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY

RALPH WILKINS
The National Representative

Address: FISHING DIVISION

Ministry of Agriculture

P.O. Box 136, Basseterre
St Kitts W.I.

NATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY

RALPH WILKINS AND ANNE MEYER

DATE SUBMITTED: 1st June 1983

Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982
to: IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE, 3 UNDP, Apartado 4540,
San Jose, Costa Rica.

Country SEAN E. P. CHRISTIAN / NILES
 Length of Coastline 3.05 km from the T.M. point to the next km 102.5 km
 No² of Continental Shelf Area km
 Seaward Extent of Jurisdictions:
 Territorial Sea 12 km
 Extended Economic Zone km
 Fisheries Jurisdiction 12 km
 Other (Describe) km

TABLE 1. GEOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

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

1. St Kitts and Nevis are divided by a Strait called the Narrows and is two miles wide at the narrowest point.
2. Data on the area of the Continental Shelf is not available. However, it is believed to be bounded to about three miles from the coastline.

HABITAT BOTTOM TYPES	No ² OF HABITAT	
	INSIDE 25m (SHOREWARD)	OUTSIDE 25m (SEAWARD)
1. Sand		
2. Mud		
3. Rocks		
4. Submerged Vegetation		
5. Reefs (Total)		
A. Fringing Reefs		
B. Patch Reefs		
6. Other		

TABLE 3A. MARINE HABITAT INVENTORY OF BOTTOM TYPES

A detailed survey of the bottom has not yet been carried out. However some information can be obtained from the Resource, Habitat and Stock maps made by the Planning Unit. Surveys of which I am hoping to present at the Symposium.

MARINE SHORELINE CHARACTERISTICS*		No ² OF SHORELINE		
		UNDEVELOPED	DEVELOPED**	TOTAL
1. Sand Beach (Total)	St Kitts			21.1
A. High Energy	Nevis			2.0
B. Low Energy				
2. Reef (exposed)	St Kitts			9.2
3. Rocks	Nevis			15.0
4. Cliffs	St Kitts			19.8
5. Vegetation (Total)	Nevis			94.0
A. Vines				8.0
B. Grasses				
C. Mangroves				
D. Coconut Trees				
E. Other Trees or Shrubs				
F. Marshes				
6. Mouths of lagoons, rivers, canals				
7. Total Shoreline	St Kitts			19.9
	Nevis			22.8

TABLE 2. COASTAL HABITAT INVENTORY OF MARINE SHORELINE

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

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, beach vegetation, artificial lighting, etc.

NEVIS

1. All islands except the first km of Pinney's Beach and Nevis Cragie Beach are situated on the west coast.
2. All beaches are on white coral sand.
3. Beaches are vegetated in places and on sea wall seaward and in the case of Pinney's and Cragie Cragie Coconut trees dominate.

TABLE 10. NATURAL MORTALITY
(Supplementary page for additional biological data)

Please report below, and on additional pages if necessary, additional data obtained or available such as measurements (length, width, weight) of adult females, adult males, hatchlings, numbers of eggs per nest, hours of nesting, hours and conditions of hatching, etc.

1. THERE ARE ALREADY PRESENT OF HATCHLINGS OF WONGASAS, DOGS AND SHARKS AT SEA
2. IN MOST CASES NESTS ARE RAISED BY WIND FOR TWO EGGS - VERY LITTLE CHANCE FOR HATCHLINGS
3. SEVERAL TAGS FROM BIRD ISLAND HAVE BEEN RECOVERED OFF TURTLES BY FISHERMEN IN NAU'S SOME WERE SENT OVER TO THE NAU'S

NAME OF PORT OR SITE	SPECIES LANDED (Use abbrev)	FISHING GEAR USED	MONTHS OF LANDINGS	NUMBERS & WEIGHTS (Estimate)
1. BASSA-MAH	D. E. CA	SET NETS FROM NAU'S	1-12	
2. SANDY POINT	D. E. CA	SET NETS, SPOON, NETTING	1-12	
3. St. PAULS	G. CA	SET NETS, SPOON	1-12	
4. DREAM CITY	G. CA	SET NETS, SPOON	1-12	
5. INDIAN LITTLE	D. E. CA	SET NETS, SPOON	1-12	
6.				
7.				
8.				

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TURTLES & TURTLE PRODUCTS

Species Abbreviations:
 Caretta caretta Co
 Chelonia mydas Cm
 Dermochelys coriacea Dc
 Eretmochelys imbricata Ei
 Lepidochelys kempi Lk
 Lepidochelys olivacea Lo

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	NO. OF ACTIVE MEMBERS	ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS
NAU'S MEDICAL AND GEN ERATION SECURITY CHARLOTTEVILLE NAU'S	Approx 160	1. MONITORING AND CONSERVATION 2. REPORTING TO GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE LOCAL REGULATIONS.
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROJECT 212 G. BROADWAY (9104) NEW YORK N.Y. 10002	NOT KNOWN	1. POSTERS AND LITERATURE MATERIAL 2. PROPOSED PROGRAMS ON TURTLE CONSERVATION IN St. KINGS.

TABLE 12. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH TURTLE CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT/UTILIZATION

TABLE 18. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH TURTLE CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT/UTILIZATION

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION	BUDGET ALLOCATION TO TURTLES	NO. OF STAFF ASSIGNED TO TURTLES	COMMENTS ON LEVELS OF ENFORCEMENT
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service P.O. Box 100 Cape Girardeau, Mo. 63701	N/A	2	Strong law enforcement in the area of protection nears intensifying for certain conservation measures.
		TOTAL	Some level of enforcement during peak season.

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Indicate all entities with statutory responsibilities (e.g., Fisheries Departments and Ministries, 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.

See COPY OF TURTLE ORDINANCE

ATTACHED.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the major reports and publications concerned with national turtle resources (list author, date, title, and publisher).

1. E. CASAMP. DATA ANALYSIS SKILLS/NEWS 1980
2. CASWELL, D. K. AND RATHJEN, W. S. 1969. UNDERSTANDING WEST INDIAN NESTING SITES FOR D. E. CASWELL. 1969. 3. 364-645

0 1 2 3	TURTLE	(CAP. 99)	101
	CHAPTER 99.		
	TURTLE.		
	(1st January, 1900)	5/1947	
	1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Turtle Ordinance.	Short Title.	
	2. In this Ordinance, the word "turtle" means sea or river turtle.	Interpretation.	
	3. Any person who -	Offences.	
	(a) catches or takes, or attempts to catch or take, or causes to be caught or taken, any turtle between the first day of June and the thirtieth day of September, both days inclusive; or		
	(b) at any time catches or takes, or causes to be caught or taken, any turtle which is under twenty pounds in weight; or		
	(c) slaughters any turtle or buys, sells, or causes for sale or use in possession the whole or any portion of the meat of such turtle, between the first day of June and the thirtieth day of September, both days inclusive; or		
	(d) at any time between the first day of June and the thirtieth day of September, both days inclusive, takes, or attempts to take or causes to be taken, any turtle egg; or		
	(e) at any time between the first day of June and the thirtieth day of September, both days inclusive, buys, sells, or causes for sale, or has in his possession any turtle egg;		
	shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance, and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-four dollars.		
	4. If any constable shall have reasonable grounds for believing that any person is committing or attempting to commit an offence against this Ordinance he may arrest such person without a warrant.	Power of arrest.	
	5. Any constable may seize any turtle or part thereof or any turtle egg found in the possession of any person between the first day of June and the thirtieth day of September in any place and upon the conviction of the person the articles so seized shall be forfeited.	Forfeiture of turtle, etc.	
	6. Any net, instrument or thing which any constable has reasonable grounds for believing is being or has been used for or in connection with the commission of any offence against this Ordinance shall be seized by such constable, and any constable may upon the conviction of any person for an offence against this Ordinance in connection with which such net, instrument or thing was seized and used, order such net, instrument or thing to be forfeited.	Forfeiture of nets, etc.	