**Lepidochelys kempii: Kemp’s ridley (Eng), Tortuga Lora (Sp), Tortue de Kemp (Fr)**

### Physical Characteristics
- **Length-adult:** Carapace (upper shell) length of 2-2.5 feet (ca. 60-75 cm), smallest sea turtle
- **Length-hatchling:** Carapace length of 1.6-1.8 in (ca. 40-47 mm)
- **Weight:** 75-110 lb (ca. 35-50 kg)
- **Color-adult:** Carapace is grey or black; Plastron (belly) is pale yellow
- **Color-hatchling:** Uniform in color; grayish black

### Gulf of Mexico Reproduction/Nesting
- **Peak nesting:** April-July (no nesting south of the Gulf of Mexico)
- **Number of nests:** On average, 2-3 times per season; often a daytime nester
- **Average clutch size:** 100-105 eggs per nest
- **Incubation time:** about 45-55 days

### Global Status
- **Critically Endangered** (World Conservation Union: IUCN Red List); international trade prohibited by CITES; Protected (Annex II) by the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) to the UNEP Cartagena Convention; Protected by the Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

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*Images of Lepidochelys kempii and its physical characteristics.*