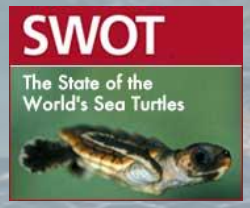
ProTECTOR – Coordinating Sea Turtle Research and Conservation in Honduras



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[2]Department of Earth and Biological Sciences, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350

[3]Turtle Awareness and Protection Studies (TAPS), Oak Ridge, Roatan, Honduras

[4]Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach and Research, Honduras (ProTECTOR), Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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INTRODUCTION

Sea turtles of the Caribbean highly threatened.

Decline attributed to:

- habitat degradation
- increasing marine pollution
- removal of eggs and females from nesting beaches
- capture of juveniles from feeding grounds for consumption
- entanglement in commercial and artisanal nets

INTRODUCTION

Lack of awareness and conservation efforts partly due to large gap in information available on any aspect of sea turtle biology, ecology, life history in Honduras.

De Rochefort (1666) reported on plentiful hawksbills on the islands in Gulf of Honduras.

Hodgson (1822), stated exports from the coast of Cen. Am. equated to ~3400 hawksbills/yr.

Parsons (1972) reports tortoiseshell as important trade item from the region, including Miskito area in **1722**.

Davidson (1979) reports that both hawksbills and greens had been plentiful sources of shells and food "for at least three centuries, but now are only caught occasionally."

INTRODUCTION

Honduras is conspicuously absent from reports, such as:

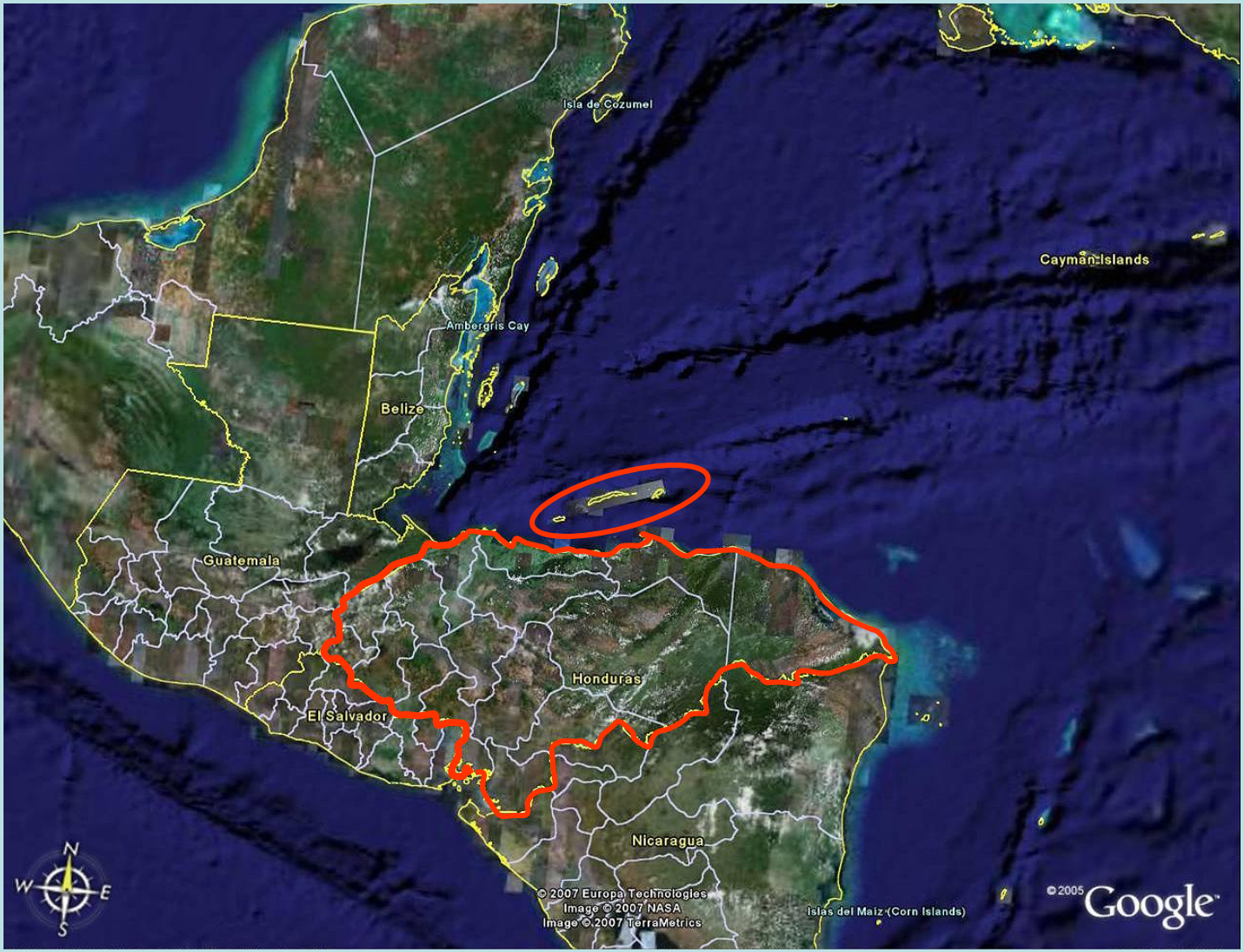
Meylan & Donnelly (1999) Status Justification…

MTSG (2004) Global Status Assessment…

Mast (2005) State of the World's Seat Turtles.

Roatan, Honduras

One of three, main islands of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef system.

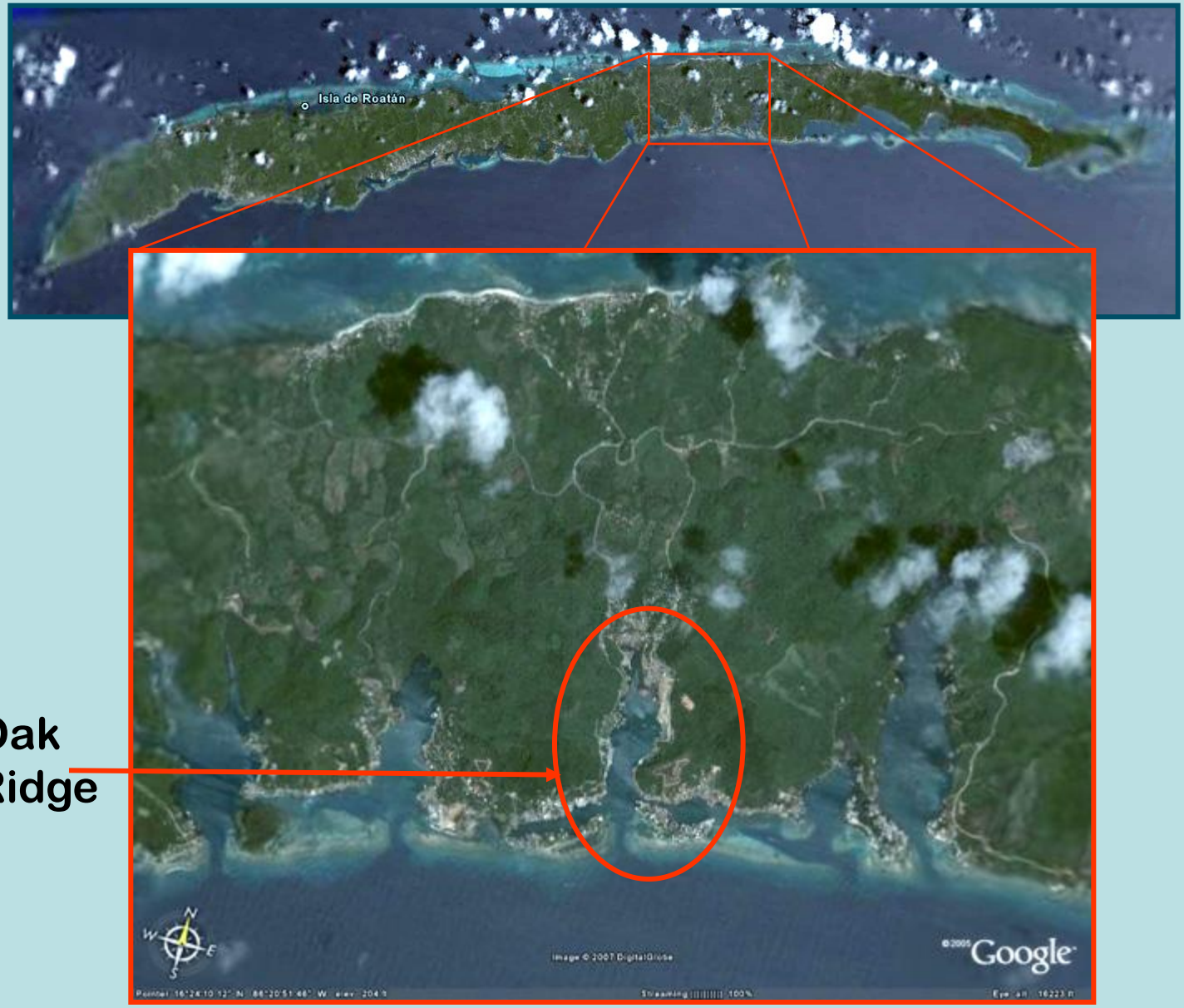


Roatan, Honduras

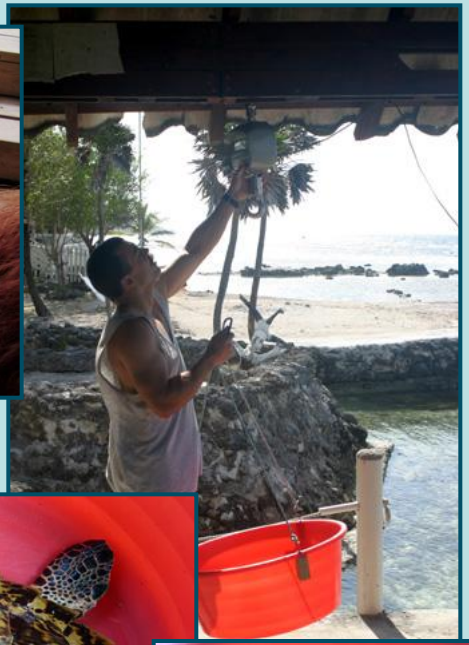
Threats to turtles here include:

- **Commercial fishing fleets**
- **Artisanal fishers.**
- **Increasing beach and water pollution.**
- **Development and alteration of beach habitat.**

Roatan, Honduras



Turtles are weighed, measured (SCL,SCW, CCL, CCW) checked for general health.

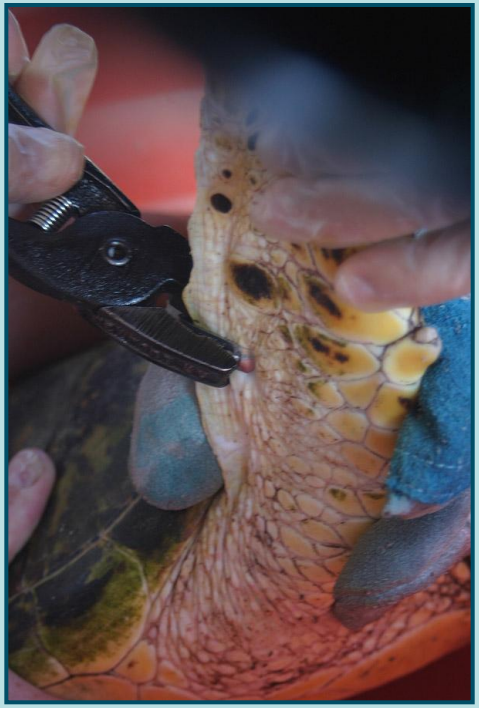


Each animal photo'd to keep a digital record of each individual.

Any special marks or unique features are also photographed for later identification.

Turtles receive a temporary ID number for easy tracking in the pool.

Each turtle is flipper tagged with two tags; one front, one rear.

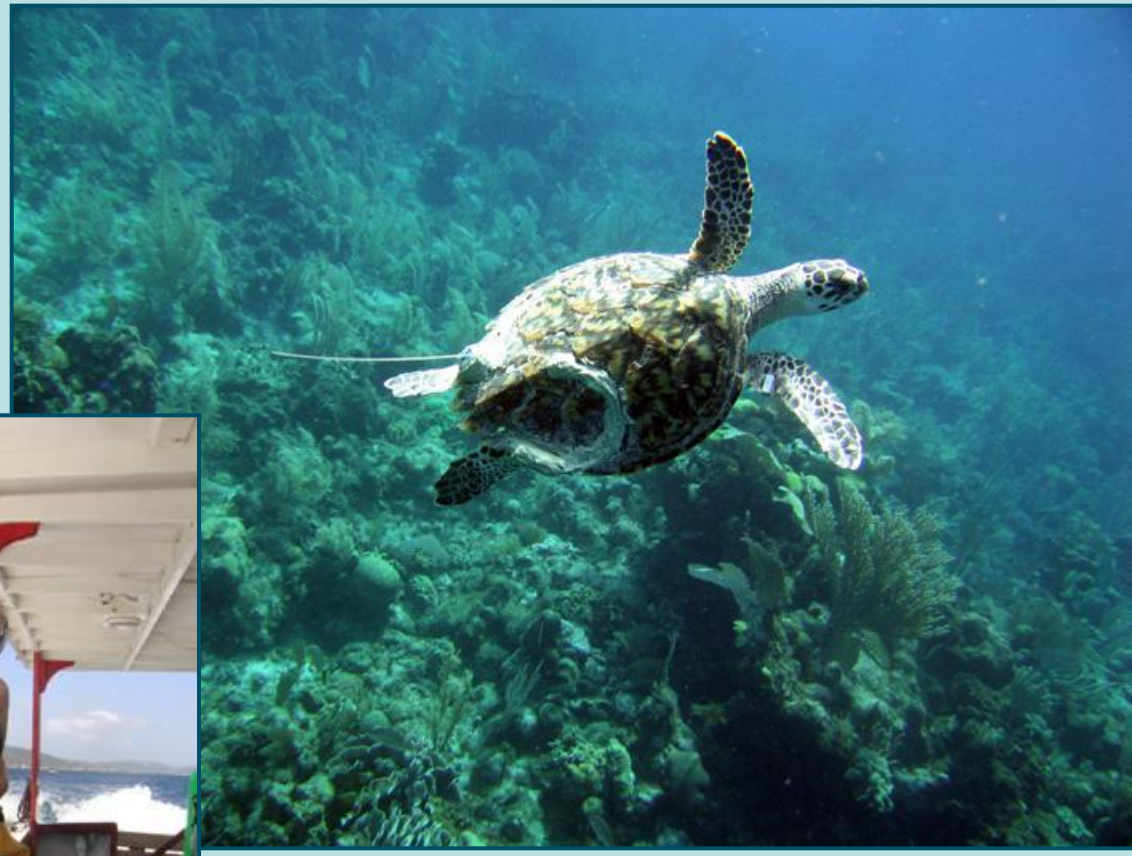


- Transported by boat ~10 - 20 min.

- Released one at a time.
- Observed for as long as possible: 3 – 48 min.
- Behaviors photographed and times recorded with stopwatch.

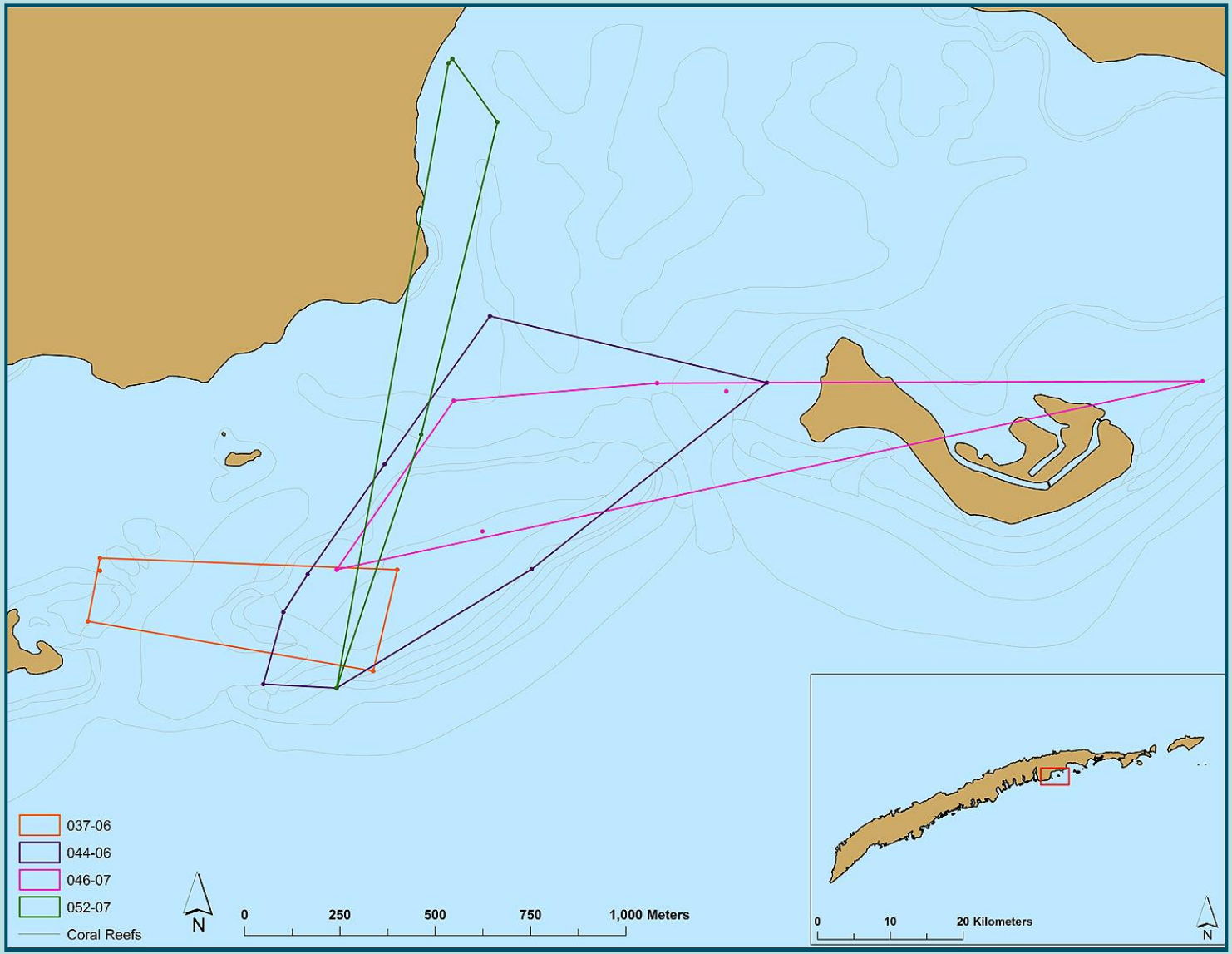
Radio Telemetry

Radio Telemetry



Melissa Berube tracking turtles with radio telemetry.

Radio Telemetry



M. Berube, 2009

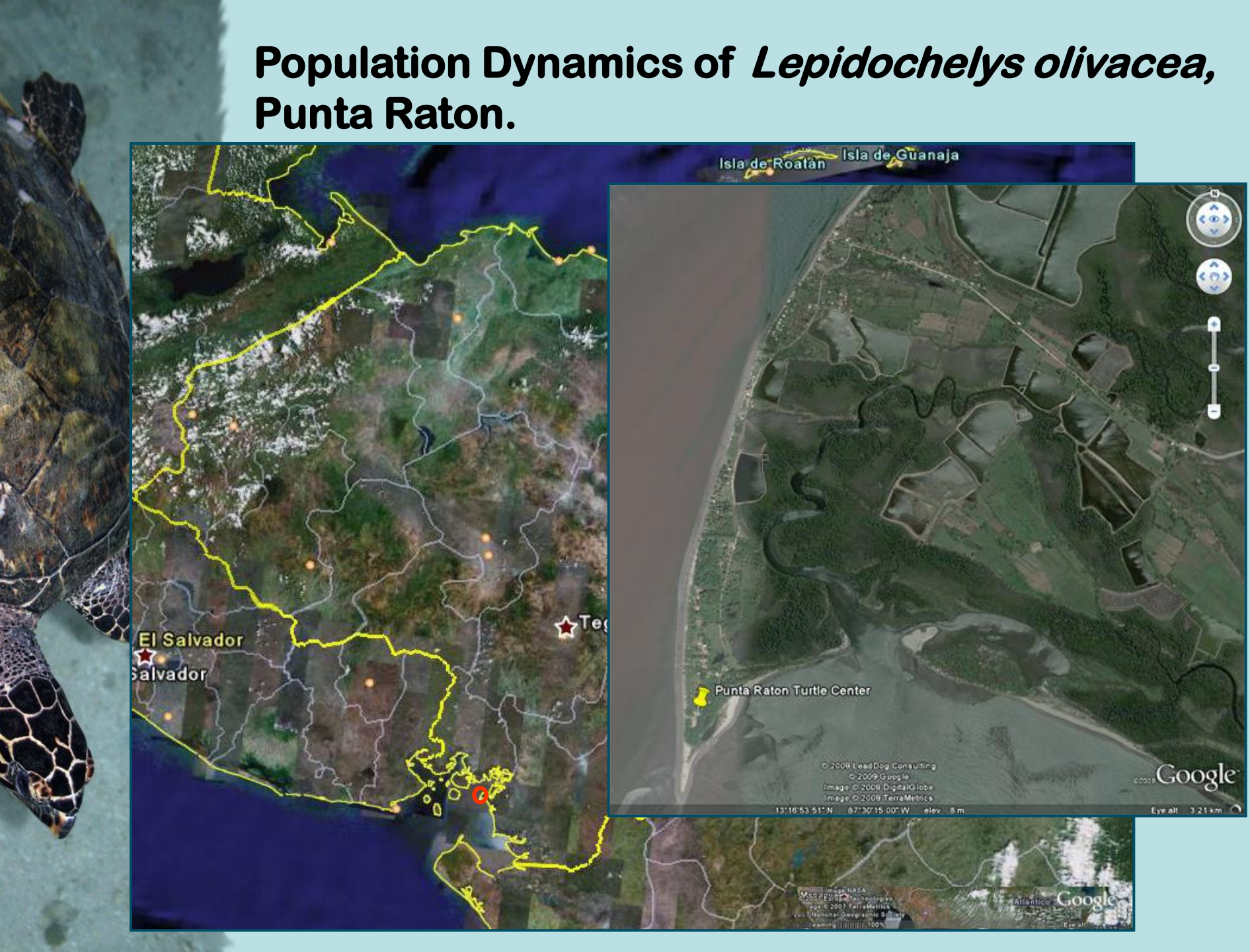
Mapping and Monitoring of Nesting Beaches

Monitoring Hawksbill Nesting

Dunbar & Berube, 2008. USFW Report

Bottle-2-Buildings Roatan Conservation Center Project

Population Dynamics of *Lepidochelys olivacea*, Punta Raton.



Population Dynamics of *Lepidochelys olivacea*, Punta Raton.

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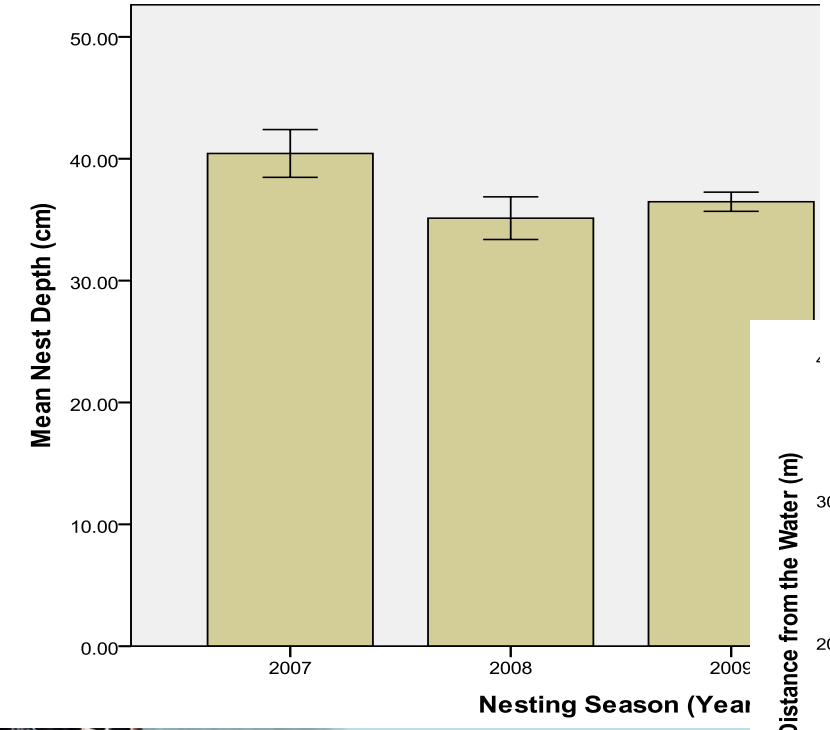
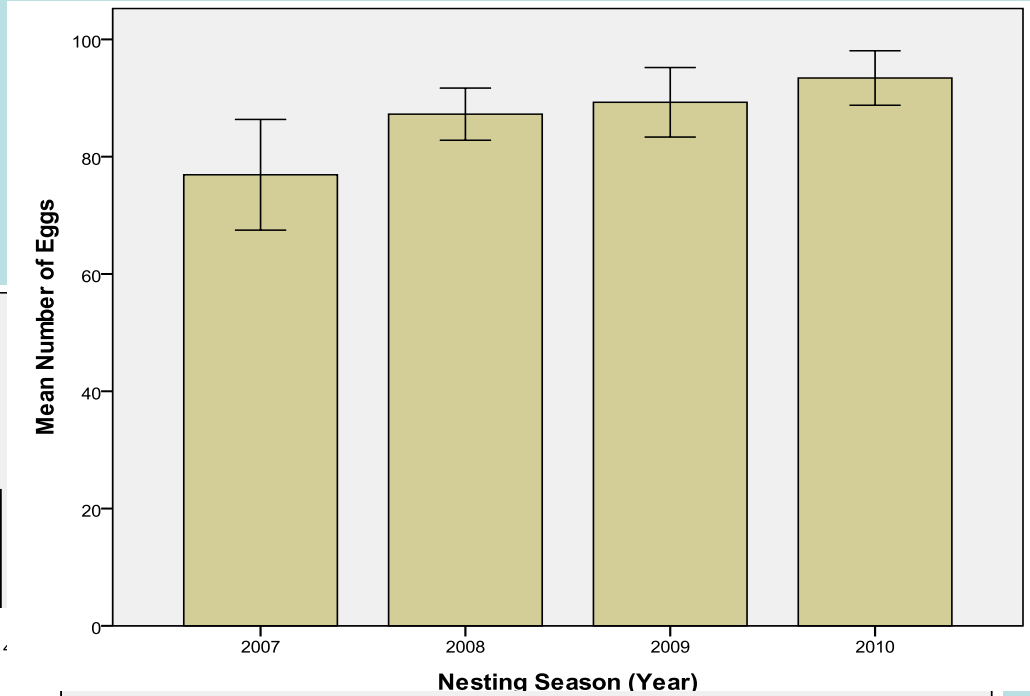
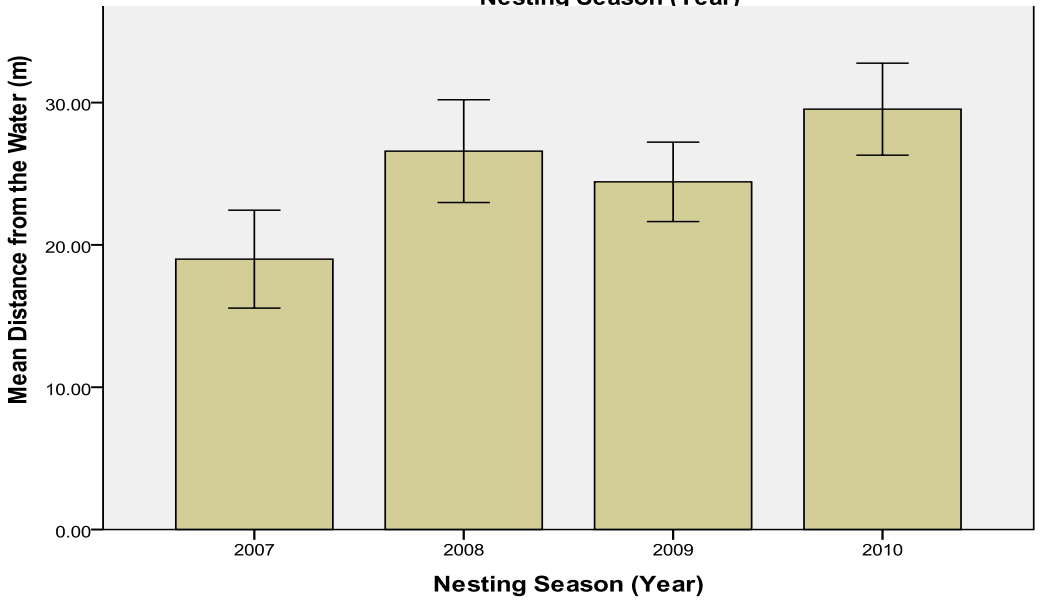
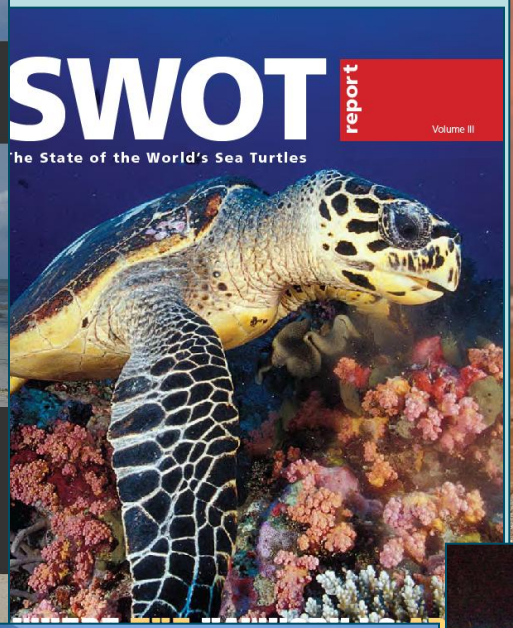






ProTECTOR's Efforts



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, DIGEPESCA, HONDURAS

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROTECTIVE TURTLE ECOLOGY CENTER FOR TRAINING, OUTREACH, AND RESEARCH, INC. (ProTECTOR) IN THE GOLF OF FONSECA, HONDURAS
2009 - 2010 ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 15, 2011

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, ONDURAS

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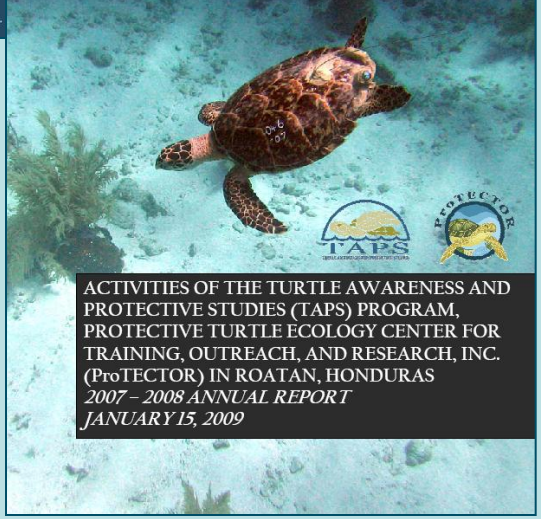
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, HONDURAS



ACTIVITIES OF THE TURTLE AWARENESS AND PROTECTIVE STUDIES (TAPS) PROGRAM, PROTECTIVE TURTLE ECOLOGY CENTER FOR TRAINING, OUTREACH, AND RESEARCH, INC. (ProTECTOR) IN ROATAN, HONDURAS
2007 – 2008 ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 15, 2009

RATÓN, HONDURAS
2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 15, 2010

Future Projects

1. Satellite tagging of nesting females.
2. Mapping historical and current distributions of sea turtles throughout Honduras.
3. Health and heavy metal monitoring of wild-caught and nesting turtles.
4. Bycatch in artisanal and commercial fisheries.
5. Embryological development.
6. Pain perception studies.
7. Nesting beach and foraging area monitoring.

Current and Future Projects

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- Department of Earth & Biological Sciences (LLU).
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- SWOT (CI)
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www.turtleprotector.org

Adopt a Sea Turtle