

**2013 Annual Meeting
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)**

**Baltimore, Maryland, United States
February 2-3th, 2013**

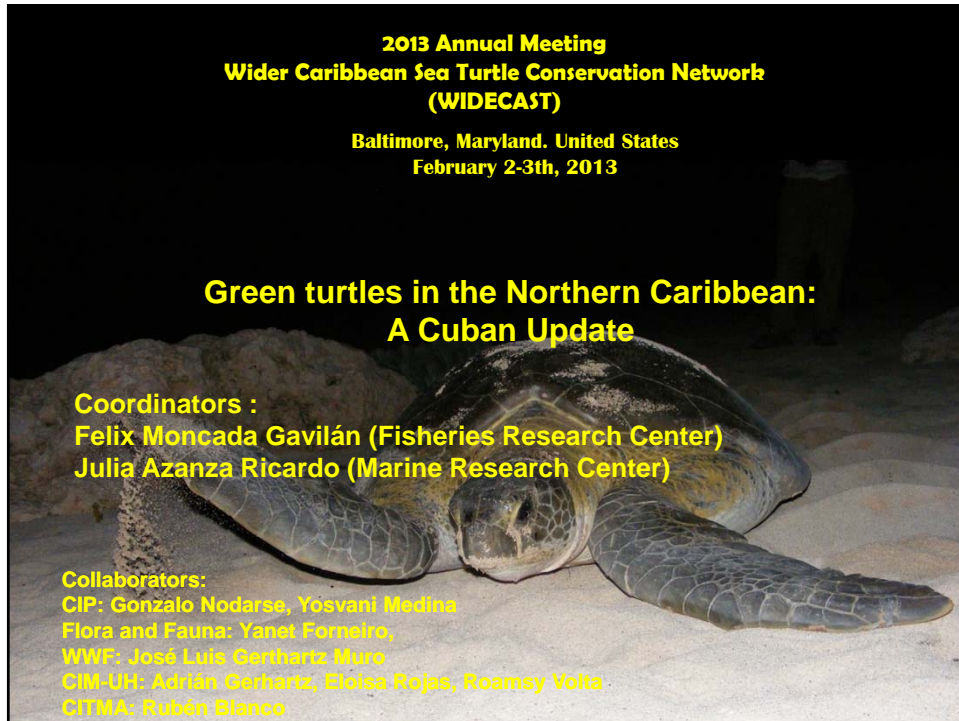
**Green turtles in the Northern Caribbean:
A Cuban Update**

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Collaborators:

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Within the Greater Caribbean, the Cuban shelf offers optimal conditions for the various life stages of marine turtles and hosts habitats for five of the region's six species. One of the main species is the Green turtle, which is widely distributed in the all the Cuban shelf where there is extensive sea grass beds that provide foraging areas. Also important nesting areas are located mainly in the south coast. Main nesting beaches in Cuba are periodically surveyed in order to know sea turtle nesting activity.

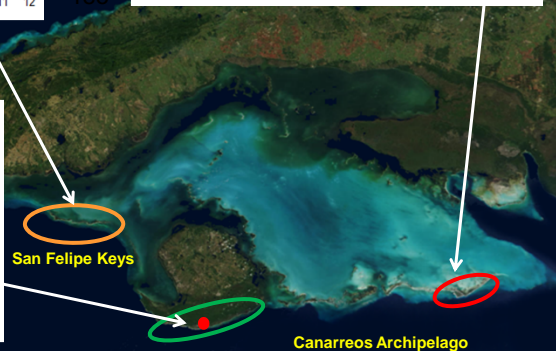
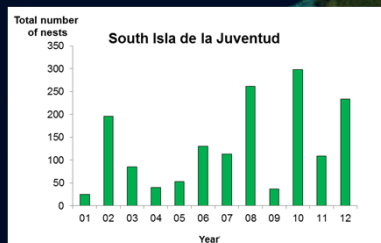
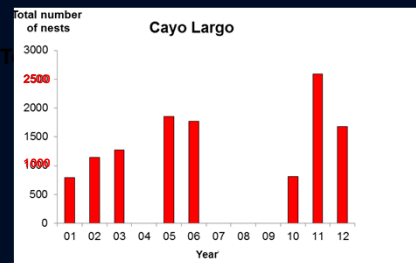
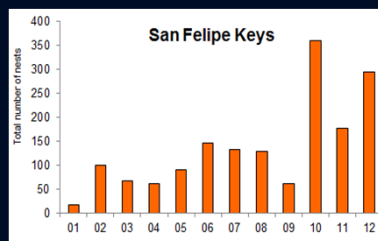


Most Important nesting areas of Green turtles in Cuba which are:

- San Felipe keys
- Canarreos Archipelago (Cayo Largo and south of Isla de la Juventud)
- Guahanacabibes Peninsula: main area in the big Island.
- Jardines de la Reina Archipelago

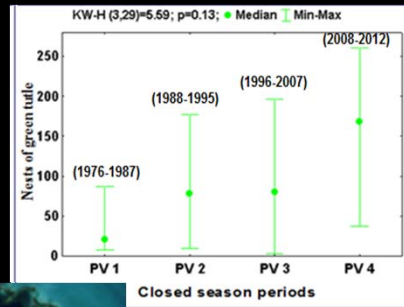


Nesting in Canarreos Archipelago and San Felipe Keys

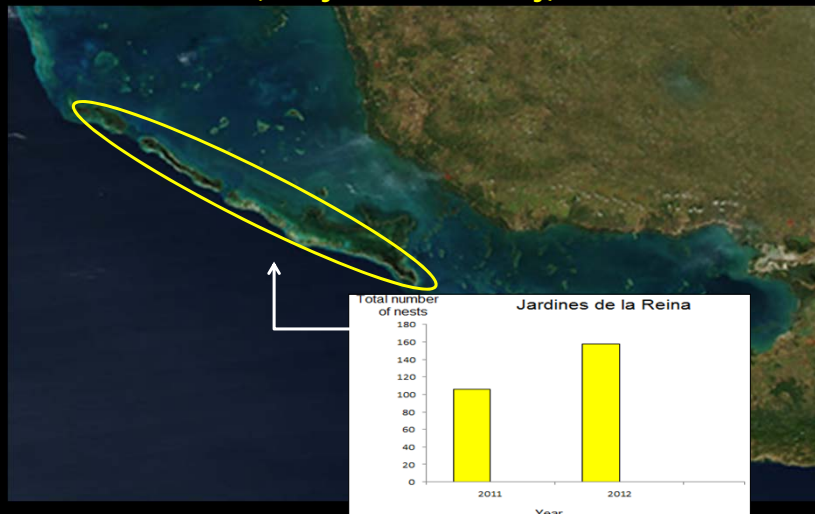


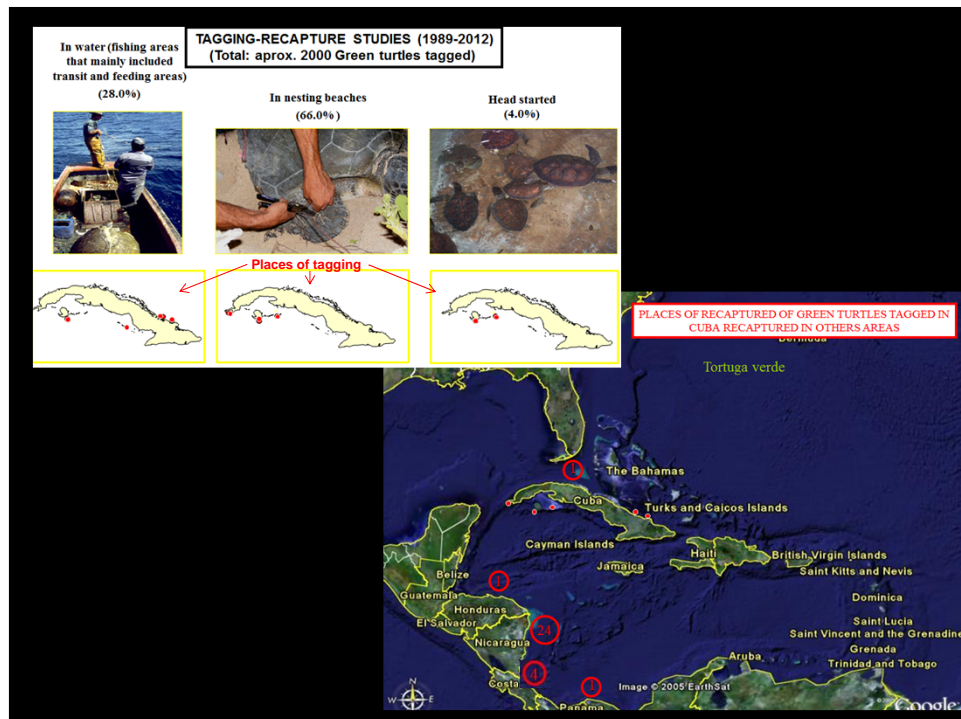
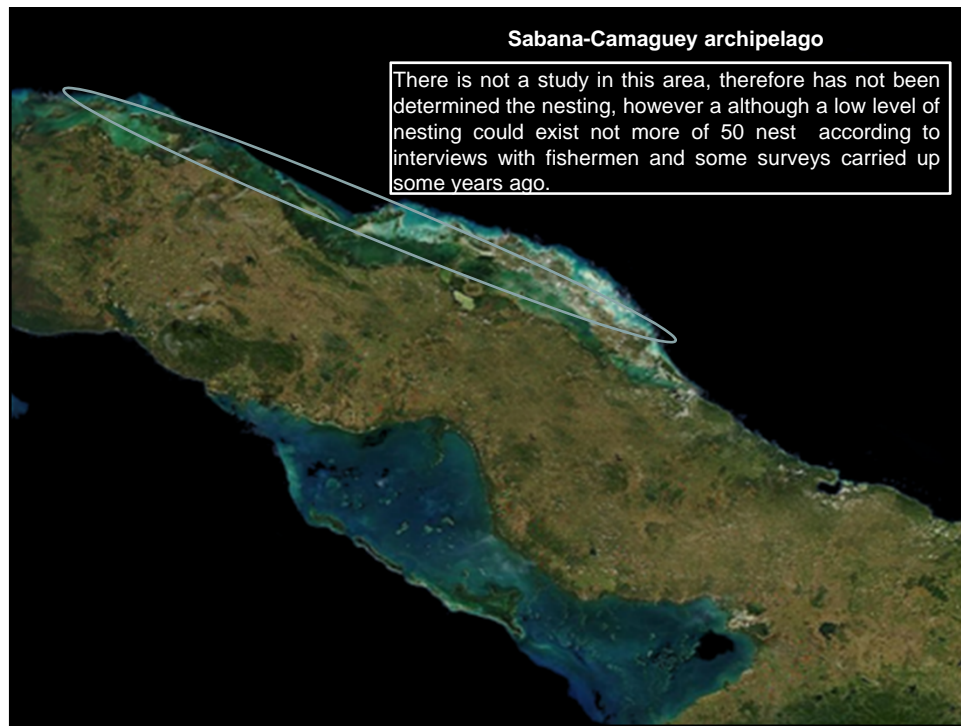
The increase of nesting could be due a major effort of monitoring, but mainly as a consequence of the measures for the conservation of sea turtles in the last 30 years in Cuba, like is possible observe in the case of south of the Isla de la Juventud, where the nesting have been monitored for 30 years, and an increase of the nesting in relationship with the different periods of close seasons is observed.

Closed season	Year	Period
Closed season (PV1)	1976	1st of June – 31 of Agosto
Modify closed season (PV2)	1988	1st of May – 31 of July
		1st of September – 31 of November (southeastern region)
Total closed season (with exception of two traditional site: Isla de la Juventud and Nuevitas) (PV3)	1995	1st of May – 31 of July
Total closed season in all country (PV4)	2008	All the year



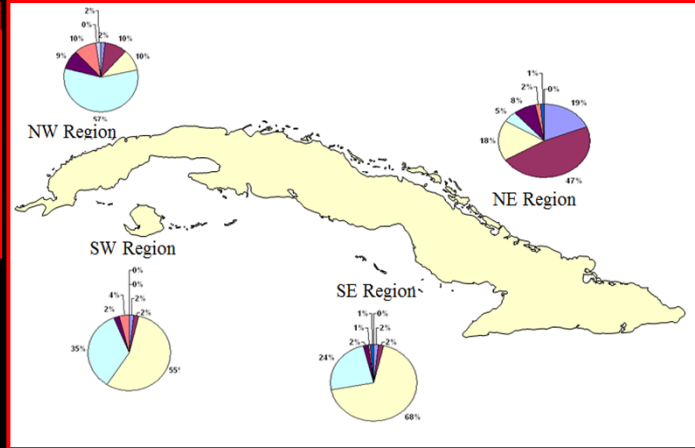
(Nesting area Jardines de la Reina Archipelago (No systematic survey))





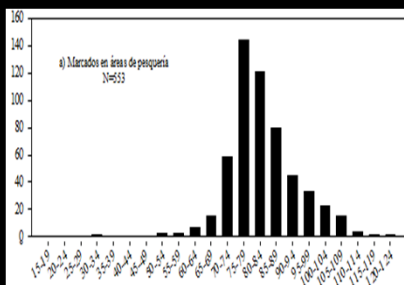
OTHERS RESULTS ON GREEN TURTLES IN CUBA BASED IN TURTLES TAGGED OUTSIDE OF CUBA INDICATED GREEN TURTLE FROM DIFFERENTS ORIGIN OF TAGGING AND LIFE STAGE (ADULT NESTING FEMALES AND SUBADULTS; JUVENILES (HEAD-STARTED AND WILD-REARED) GO TO CUBA WITH A DISTRIBUTION IN THE FOUR REGIONS OF THE CUBAN SHELF.

ORIGIN OF TAGGING:

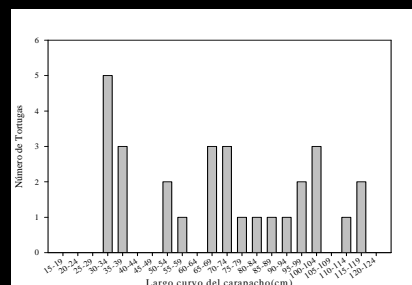


Therefore, the long distance movements by both adults and juvenile of green turtles from various countries converge on the Cuban habitats

Size composition interval (cm LCC = 33 – 121 cm., mean = 83.9 ± 10.3 , mode = 79 cm.), of turtles tagged in Cuban waters (fishing areas that mainly included transit and feeding areas) as well as of turtles from others areas recaptured in the Cuba shelf indicated the size distribution of this specie in these Cuban habitats.



(A) Sizes at tagging of turtles studied at fishing areas in the northeast region of Cuba.



(B) Sizes of turtles from others areas recaptured in different areas of the Cuban shelf.

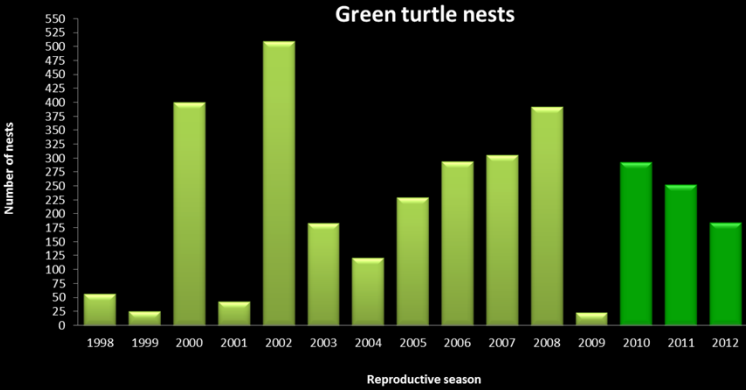
Monitoring in Guanahacabibes Penninsula



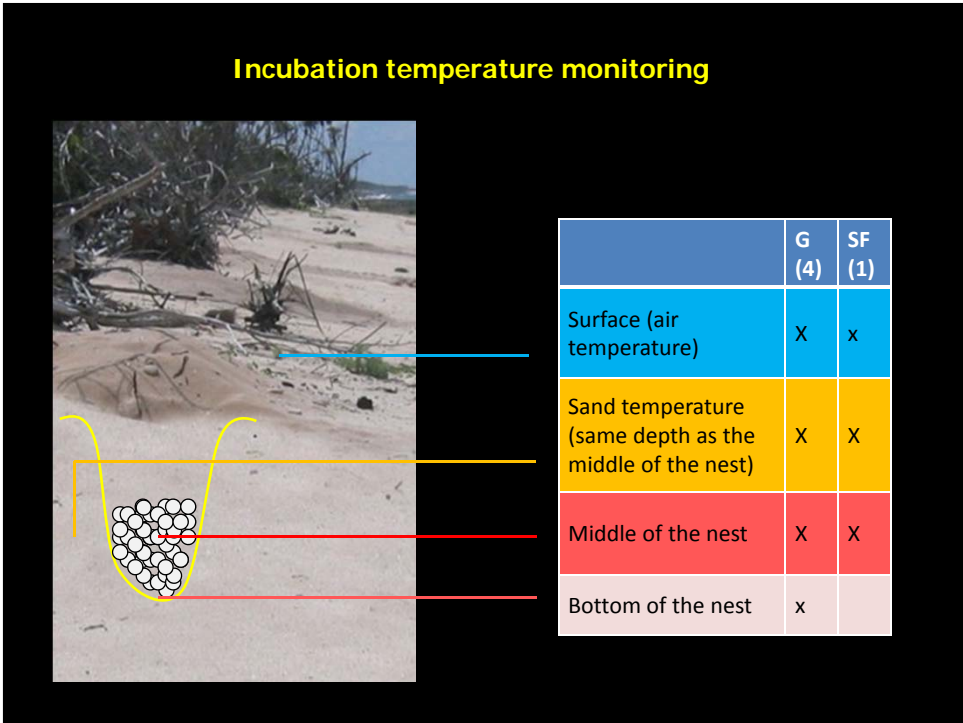
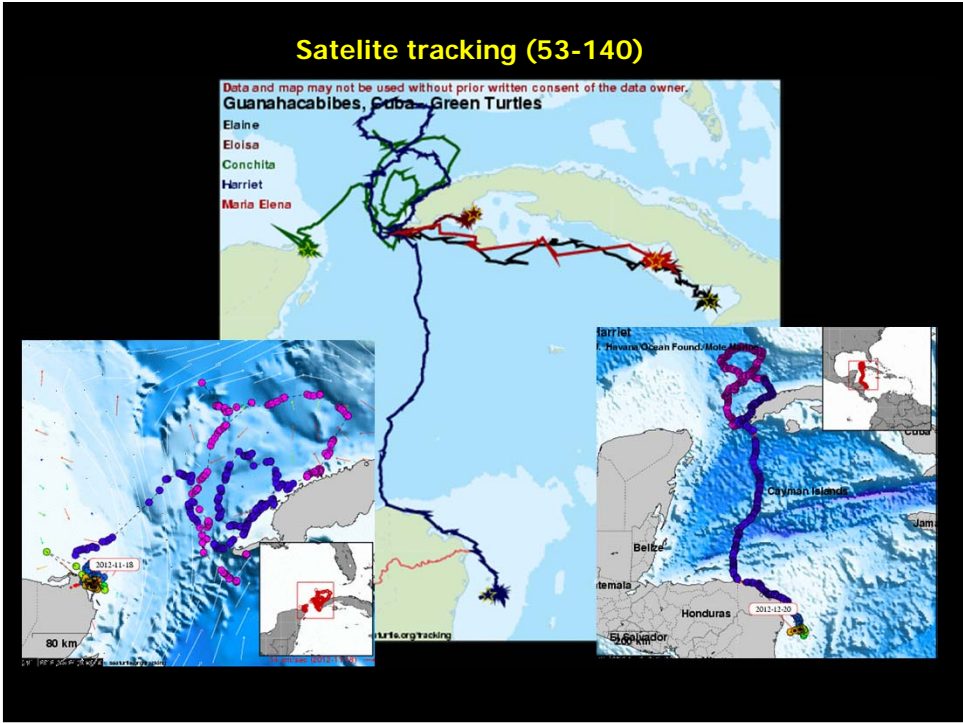
Monitoring effort and nesting levels

	Days of monitoring	No. of participants	No. of camps	Monitored beaches
2010	54	84	5	10
2011	68	113	4	10
2012	65	93	3	11

1881 volunteers in 15 years







**Turtle workshop in Cuba
celebration 15 years of the
University project
13-16 October, 2013**

Thank you