

ANGUILLA MARINE RESOURCES



Photo by Suzan Croft Anguilla

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Designation: Director, Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources

Country: Anguilla

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WIDECAST AGM Puerto Rico

DFMR Responsibilities

- Fisheries
- Coastal Resources
- Marine Parks

Mission of the DFMR

To manage & regulate the use of Anguilla's fisheries and marine resources, in a suitable manner, for the maximum economic & recreational benefit of the people residing in Anguilla

Regulations on Marine Turtles

- 1986 Fisheries Protections Act R.S.A c. F40
- 1987 Anguilla Fisheries Development Plan, by Albert Stephenson proposed a moratorium
- 1995 introduction of a 5 year moratorium
- 2000 extension for 5 years
- 2005 extension for 15 years
- 2014 Anguilla signed on to CITES. Appendix I of CITES prohibits international trade

Marine Turtles in Anguilla



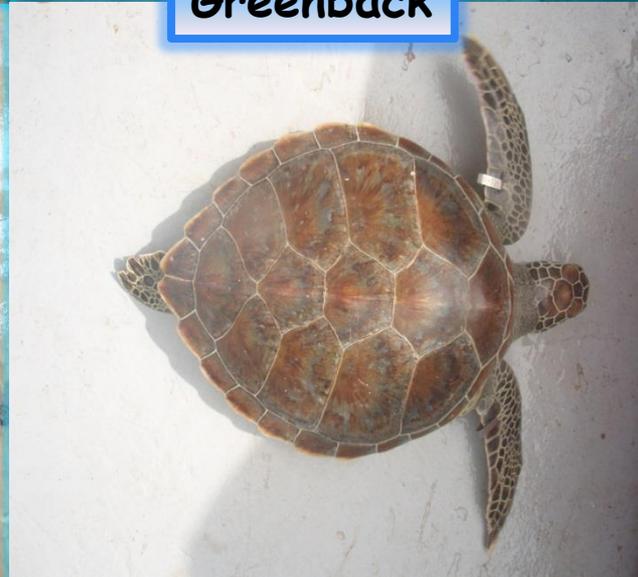
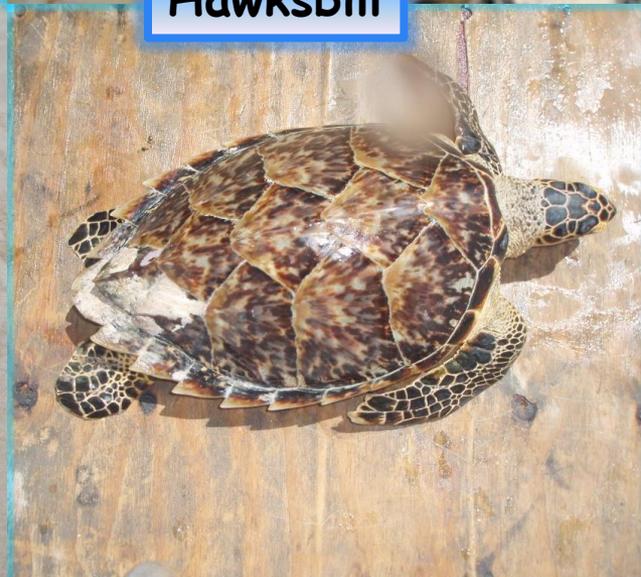
Leatherback



Hawksbill



Greenback



Marine Turtles Ongoing Work

- Enforcement of regulations on marine turtles
- Weekly in water Hawksbill tagging & DNA tissue samples
- Bi-annual Greenback netting exercise
- Outreach
- 2014, 15 Greenbacks caught in one netting exercise. 2 were recaptures. All tagged
- Greenbacks average CCL 45.20cm & SCL 42.86cm
- Largest Greenback CCL 67.2 & SCL 67.7
- 2014, Feb-Jul, 5 Hawksbills captured and tagged

Weekly Hawksbill Tagging



Bi-annual Greenback Netting



Bi-annual Greenback Netting



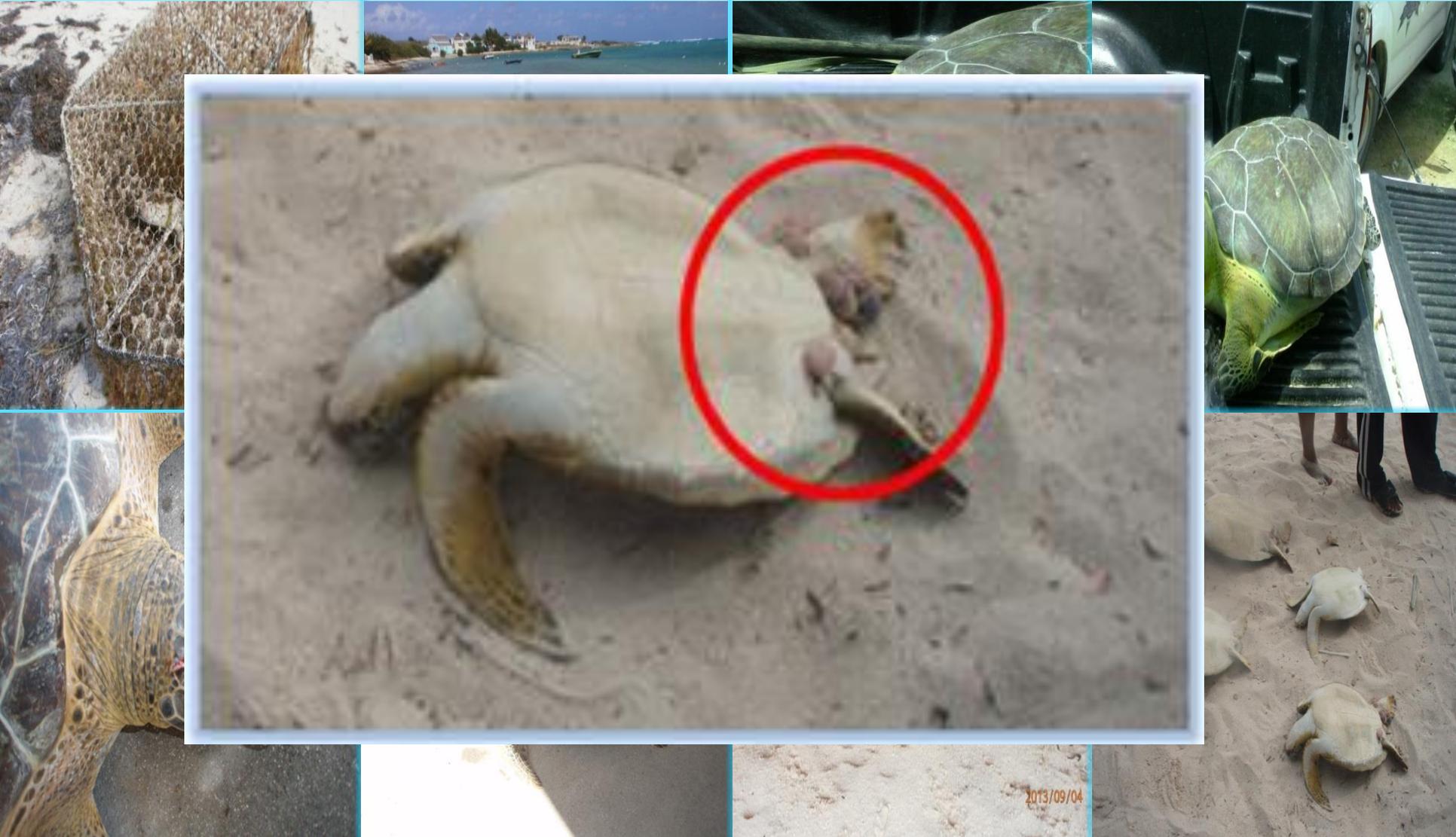
Future Work

- Continue in water tagging
- Research on marine turtles in collaboration with ANT. Funded by Flora, Fauna Flagship Species Fund
- Extend outreach sessions to the private schools and community centres

Management Challenges

- Politics
- Cultural practices
- Poaching
- Not been able to send samples for DNA analysis
- General understanding of marine turtles importance & observed population increase
- No community based management
- Anguilla Fisheries Development Plan 2015-2025 will have to address turtle fishery

Local Threats to Turtles



Sea turtle nesting activity and distribution in Anguilla



- Sea turtle monitoring programme is divided into two components.
- In water- Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR)
- On land/Beaches- The Anguilla National Trust/ Anguilla Sea Turtle Conservation Group (ANT/ASCG)



- 2012 ANT assumed the responsibility for monitoring nesting beaches.
- Monitor 8 indicator beaches around the island, along with other beaches that are frequented by sea turtles occasionally.
- Also started monitoring 4 indicator beaches on offshore cay (Dog Island).

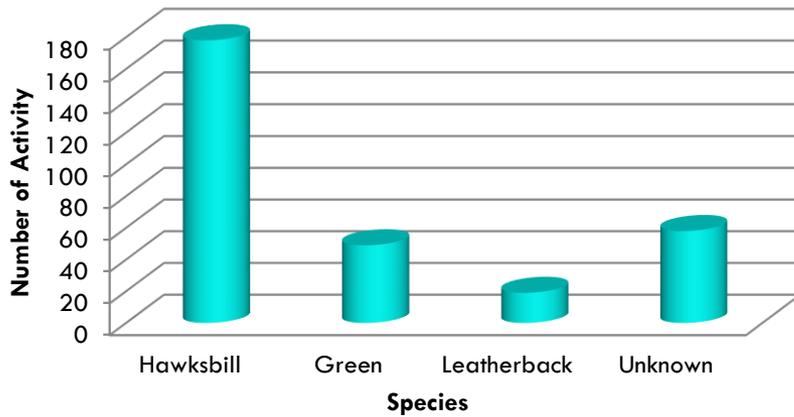


- Sea turtle moratorium implemented since 1995-2020 (25 years), to allow populations to recover.
- Suggestions made to remove the moratorium before the due date.

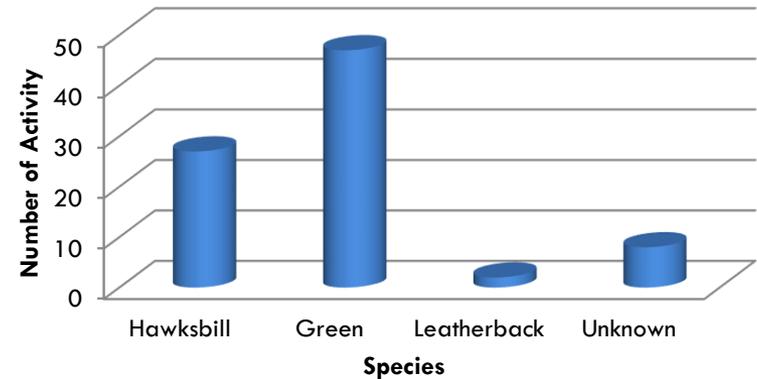
- Currently the ANT is analyzing the data that has been collected thus far on our sea turtles.
 - To inform decision makers of the status of Anguilla's sea turtle population.
 - Encourage a holistic approach to sea turtle conservation. (E.g. Protecting important habitats
 - Being realistic.....

Sea Turtle Activity (2009-2014)

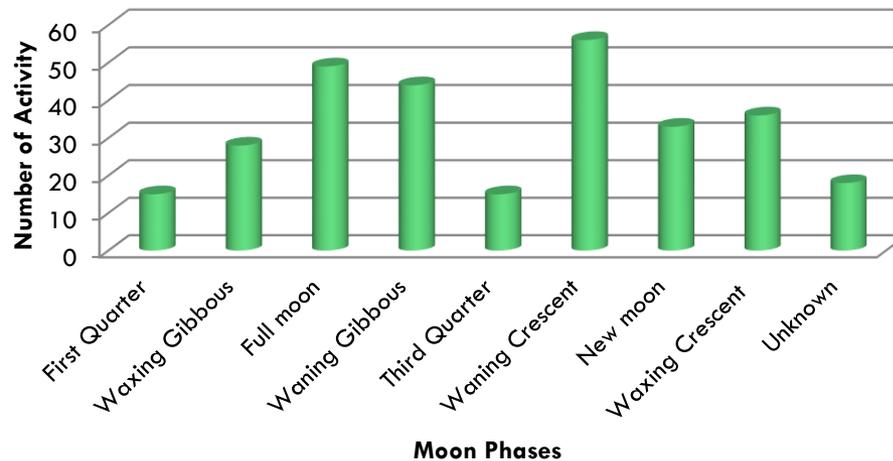
Species Activity 2009-2014



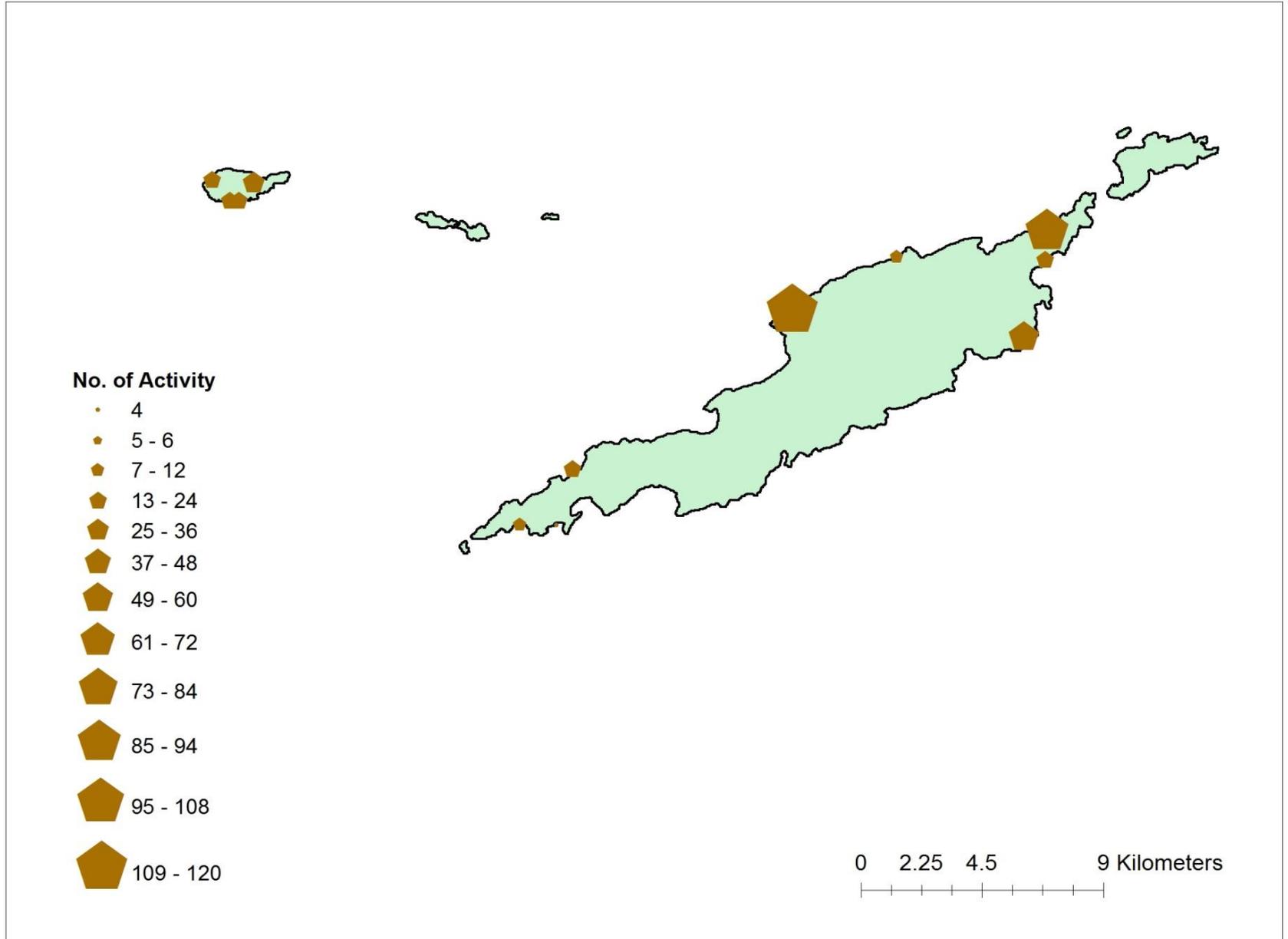
Species Activity (Dog Island) 2012-2014



Moon Phases 2009-2014



Sea Turtle monitoring Programme



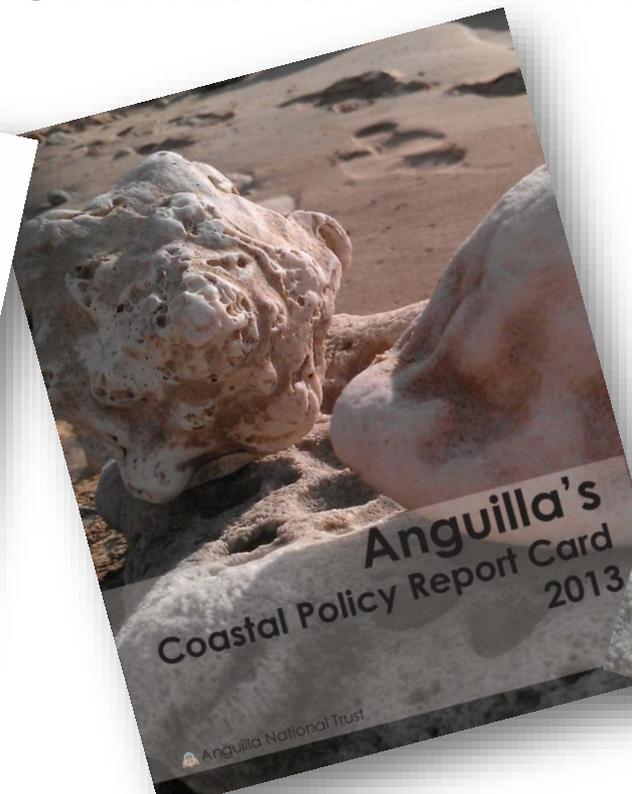
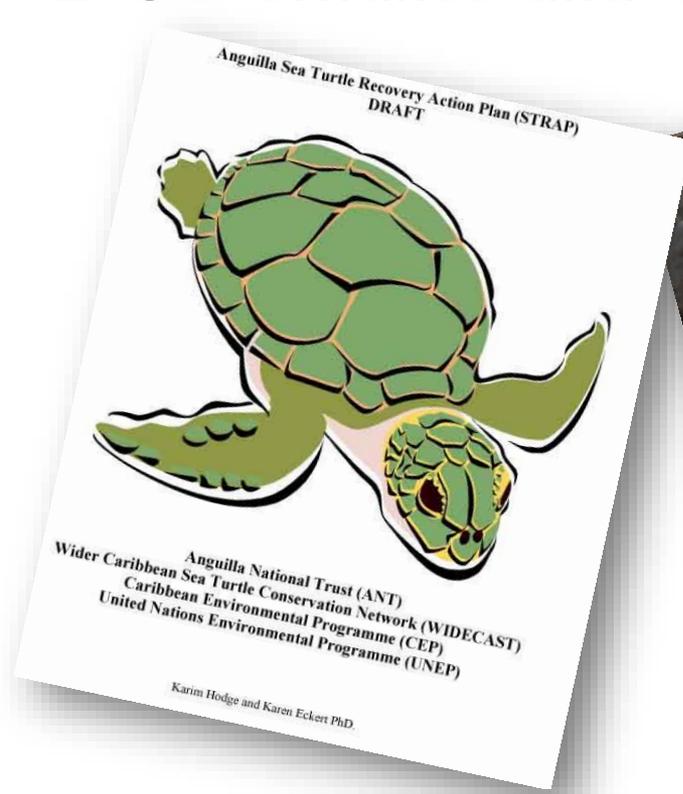
Moving Forward

- Funding from Fauna and Flora International's Flagship Species Fund (2014-2015).
- A pilot study using GPS technology, to identify key foraging areas for breeding and foraging populations.
- To increase understanding of the reproductive success of Anguilla's nesting sea turtle populations.



Documents

- Revised/ updated Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP)
- Governance and Coastal Assessment reports



Public Awareness



Questions ?



Thanks for your attention

