



CURRENT PROGRAMS : JAMAICA

2019 WIDECAST AGM

Paramaribo ,Suriname

19 -21 March 2019

Damany Calder
National Environment and Planning Agency



Status in Jamaica



- Jamaica's sea turtle stock has been in decline since the 1980s
- The Hawksbill Turtle has replaced Green Turtle as the most abundant species; the other species are very rare.
- The decline has been attributed to unsustainable exploitation of the nesting females and their eggs and disturbance of nesting habitats

Legislation



- **Laws**

- Caribbean sea turtles protected under the Wild Life Protection Act (1945)
- All turtles listed as Schedule 1 under the Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act (2000)

- Fines up to \$100,000 JMD

- Up to a year imprisonment



March 18, 2019



Government of Jamaica 



- Beach Guide
- List of Beaches
- Adopt A Beach
- Beach Clean-up
- Sea Turtles**
- Sargassum
- News Feed

Jamaica Beach Guide





Help protect our sea turtles

1. If you see a nesting turtle, hatchling or turtle tracks, report it to NEPA.
2. Do not touch turtles.
3. Stay clear of the path of females entering or exiting the beach.
4. Do not interfere with eggs or hatchlings.
5. If a turtle or its nest is in distress or immediate danger, contact NEPA immediately (876) 754-7540 , toll-free (1-888-991-5005) or social media Whatsapp (876) 819-6372 Facebook twitter instgram.
6. Leave nests, nest markers and signs undisturbed.
7. SHIELD or TURN OFF ALL LIGHTS that shine on the beach that are visible from the beach. This includes fishing lamps, flashbulbs, house lights and flashlights. Do not use flash photography.
8. Remove furniture, cabanas, sports equipment, and similar items from the beach at night.
9. Camp /Bonfires and motorized vehicles is strongly discouraged on the beach.
10. Do not remove sand and any sea life such as Urchins, Star fish and Coral.

Coral and all species of sea turtle are protected under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1945 and the Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act, 2000.



Offences must be reported promptly to the nearest police station.



Persons found in possession of turtles or any of these items can be fined up to \$100,000 or imprisoned for up to one year.



It is an offence to have sea turtles in one's possession, whether whole or part, dead or alive. This includes adult turtles, hatchlings, shells, meat, eggs and all other turtle products (for example, turtle shell craft items or jewellery).

Jamaica



- At its greatest extent **235 km** in length, and its **84 km** width

Palisadoes / Port Royal



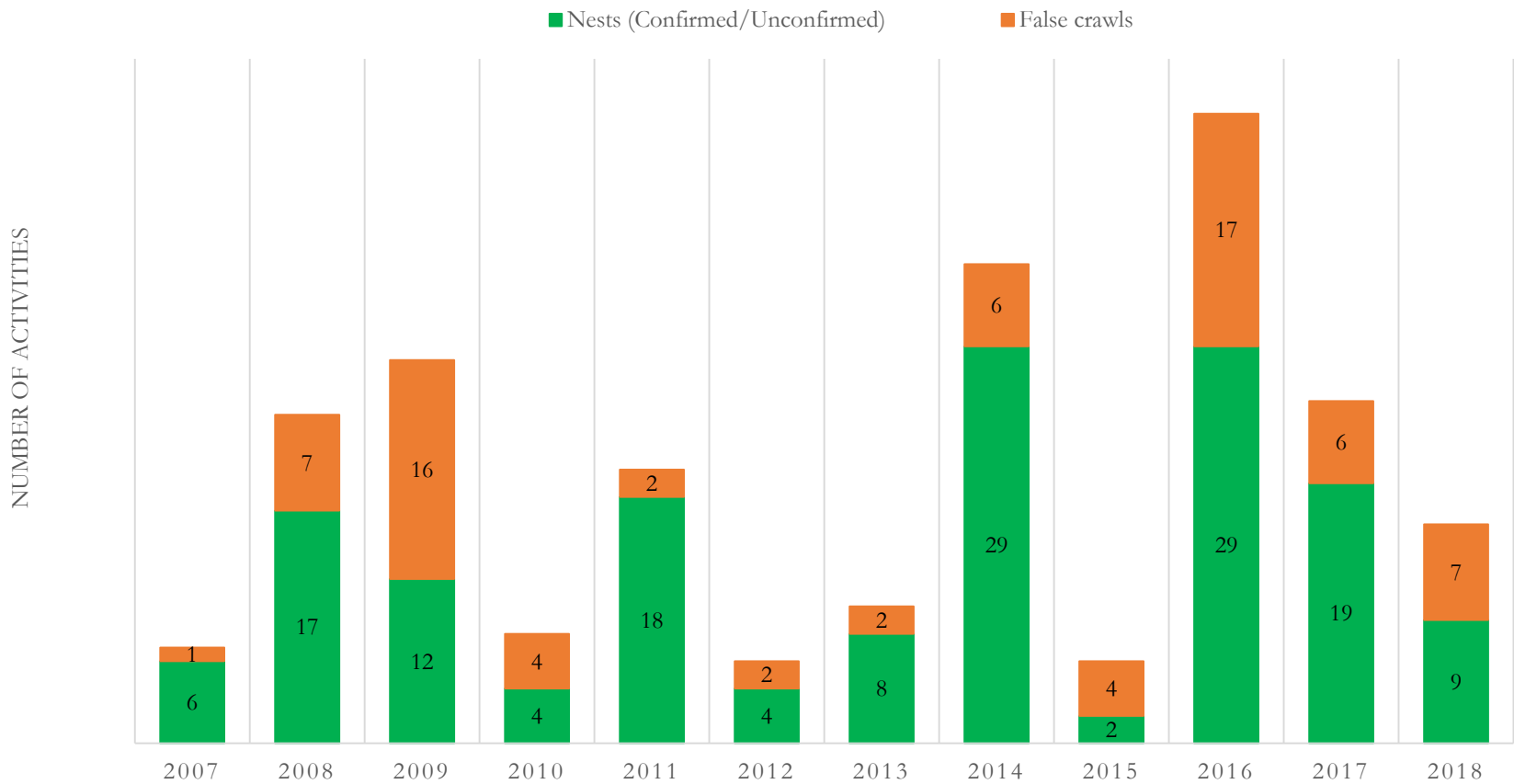
- EMB conducts annual monitoring of an index beach (Sept –Dec)
- The index beach is the stretch of beach from the Palisadoes tombolo towards the historic village of Port Royal and measures appx 10.4 km
- Continuous monitoring since 2007



Palisadoes / Port Royal



Comparison of nesting activities for 2007-2018 along the Palisadoes Tombolo



Nesting Reconfirmation



- Annual activity conducted by the Ecosystems Management Branch to determine if a particular site still supports sea turtle nesting.
- Conducted since 2005.
- A total of 150 beaches were surveyed in 2005.
- The surveys seek to determine which beaches are still active sea turtle nesting sites, and to identify the possible threats to nesting at each beach.

Nesting Reconfirmation

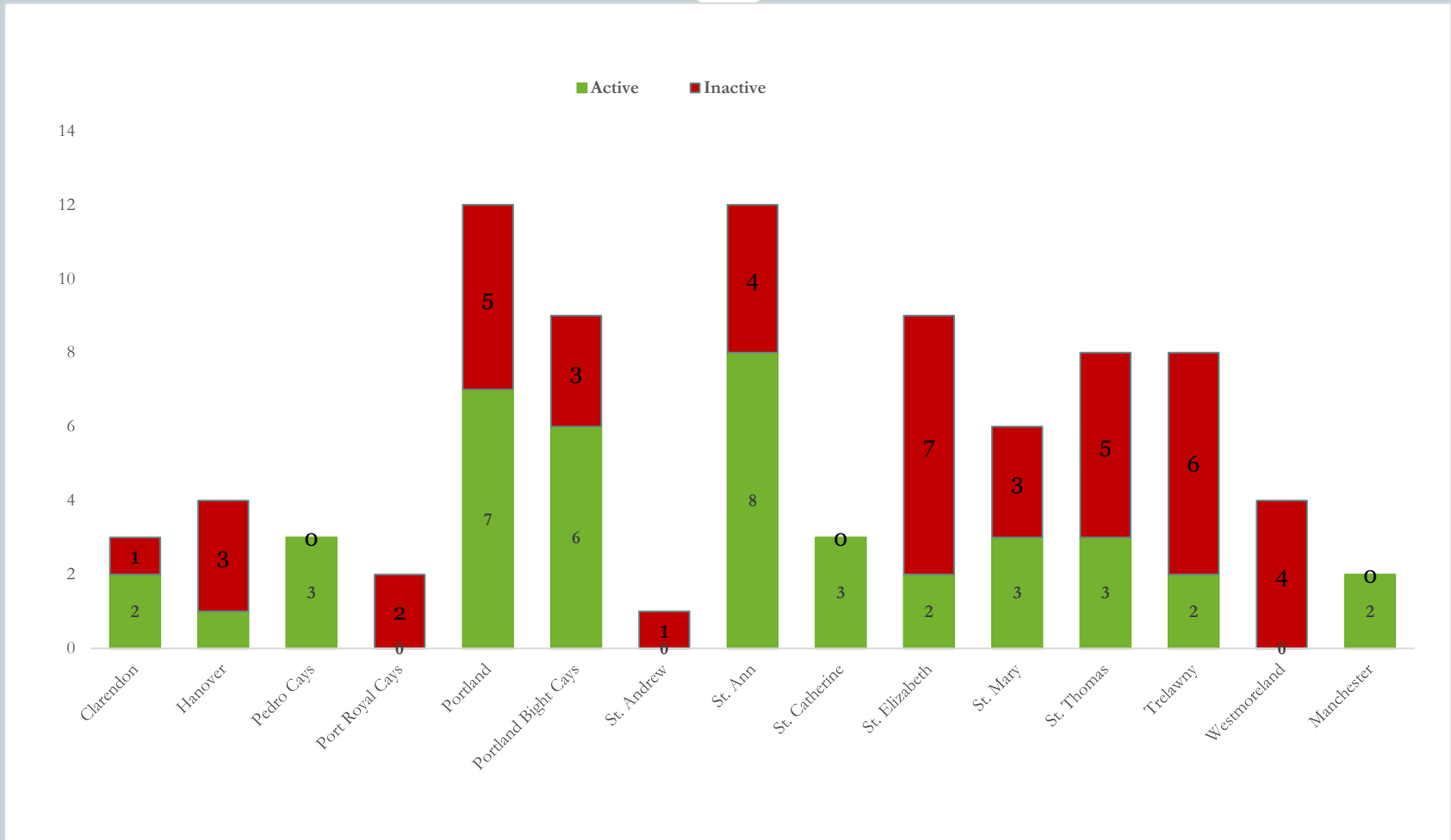


Disturbed nest at Big Pelican Cay,
Portland Bight



Eggshells on Pigeon Island

Ratio of Active Beaches to Inactive Beaches per Parish/Group of Offshore Cays

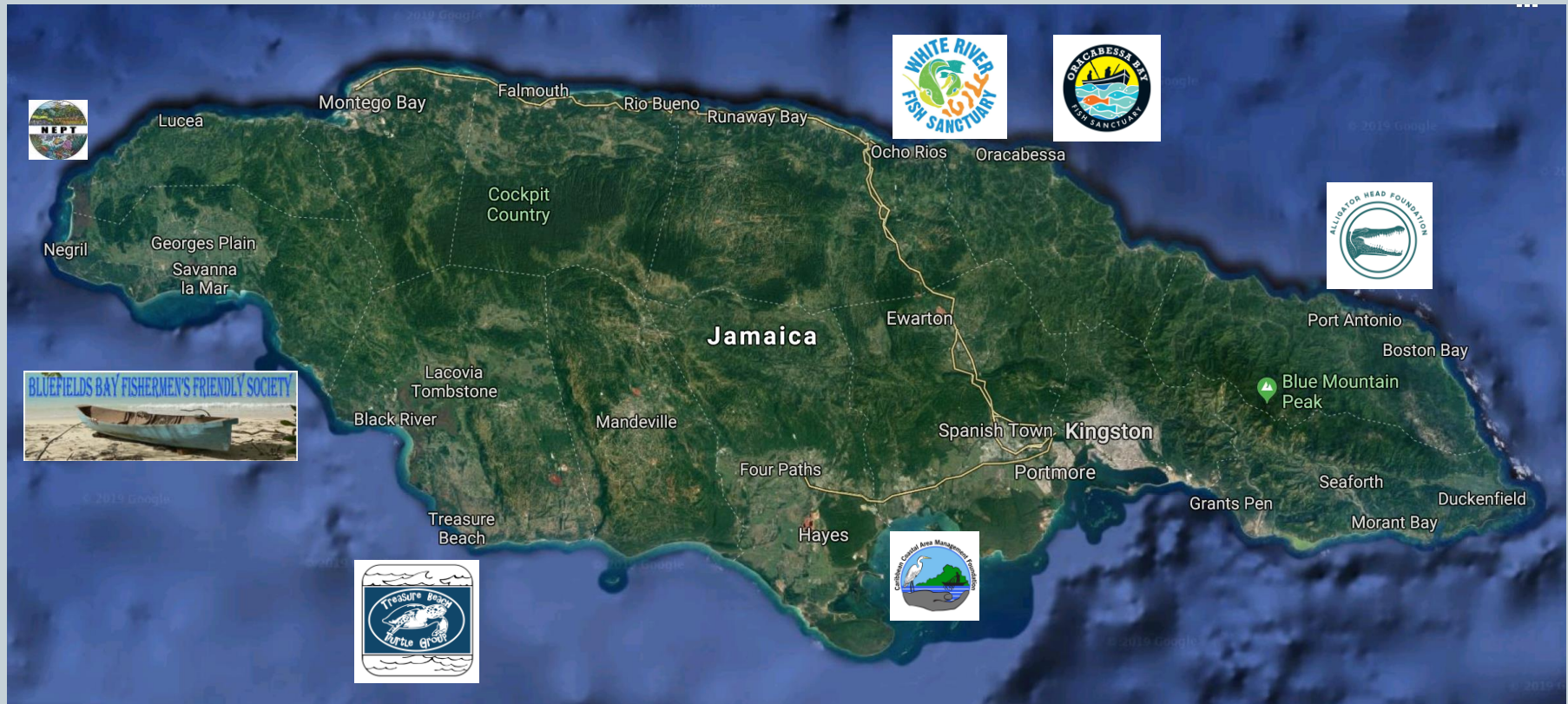


Non Governmental Organizations



- **MOUs with NGOs**
 - Oracabessa Fish Sanctuary
 - Alligator Head Foundation
 - Bluefields Bay Friendly Fisherman Society (BBFFS)
 - Alligator Pond Citizen Association and Fisherman's Corp (APCAFC)
 - Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM)
 - Negril Environment Protection Trust (NEPT)
 - White River Fish Sanctuary
 - Treasure Beach Turtle Group

Non Governmental Organizations



NGO 2018 numbers



Parish	Location	Name of entity	No. of nests	No. of hatchlings released
St Mary	Gibraltar beach	Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary	183	19,516
	Fisherman's Beach	Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary	15	1800
	Low Cay	Goldeneye	12	1812
	Flemming beach	Goldeneye	4	423
St Ann	Jamaican Inn and White River beach	Jamaican Inn	38	5400
	East beach	Sandals Beaches	1	137
	Sandals Royal Plantation	Sandals Royal Plantation	1	122
	Old Fort Bay	Private Villas	7	996
	RIU	RIU	1	154
	Laughing Waters	Urban Development Corporation	11	1500
	Grizzley Plantation	Grizzley Plantation (Private)	5	657
	Drax Hall	Drax Hall	1	N/A
St James	Half Moon	Half Moon Hotel	11	1427
Hanover	Grand Paladium	Grand Paladium	1	147
Trelawny	Melia Braco	Melia Braco	21	2500
Portland	Turtle Cove ,Frenchmans coveBig Bay Beach	Alligator Head Foundation	20	1623
Manchester	Long Bay, Curla beach, Lamona beach	APCAFC	332	230
Westmoreland	Bluefields ,Achindown	BBFFS	67	2453

Non Governmental Organizations



Dog attack
in Treasure Beach



Attempted poaching
in Alligator Pond

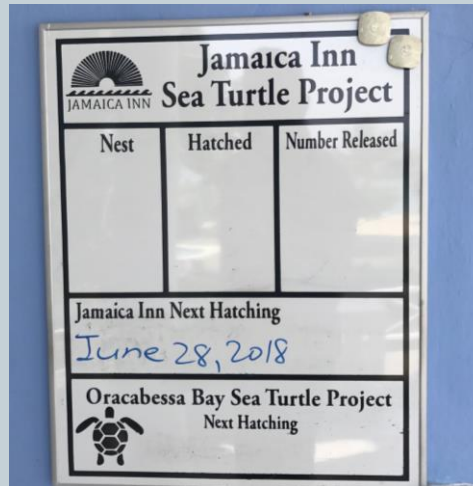


Spiteful poachers

Hotels



Half moon hotel ,Montego Bay



Jamaica Inn ,Ocho Rios



Grand Bahia ,Runaway Bay

Public Education



Alligator head Foundation



Oracabessa Fish Sanctuary

Public Education



- Publication of brochures, posters and flyers.
- Programs on sea turtle conservation in schools and in major hot spots.
- Seminars/workshops, including conflict resolution among stakeholders

Enforcement



Rescued from active construction site



National attention



Successful prosecution

Next Steps



- Sea Turtle Network
- Sign installation
- Sea Turtle friendly lighting campaign

Thank You

