

# Migratory patterns of leatherbacks in Puerto Rico

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WIDECAST ANNUAL MEETING 2019



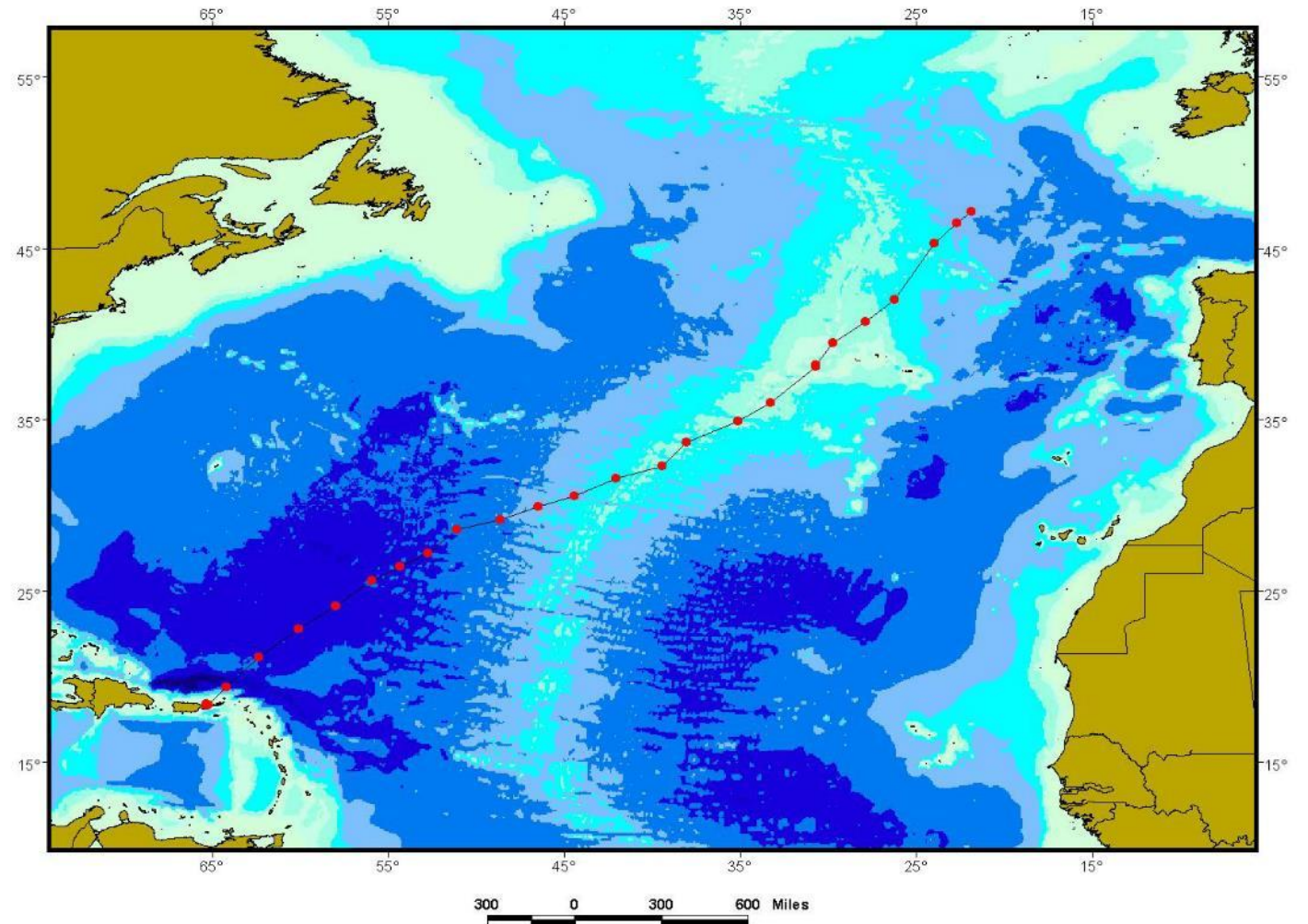


# Different efforts and locations

- ▶ Since 1998 transmitters have been deployed in different nesting beaches.
  - ▶ 1998 in Culebra island
    - ▶ University of N. Hampshire to test new deployment methods.



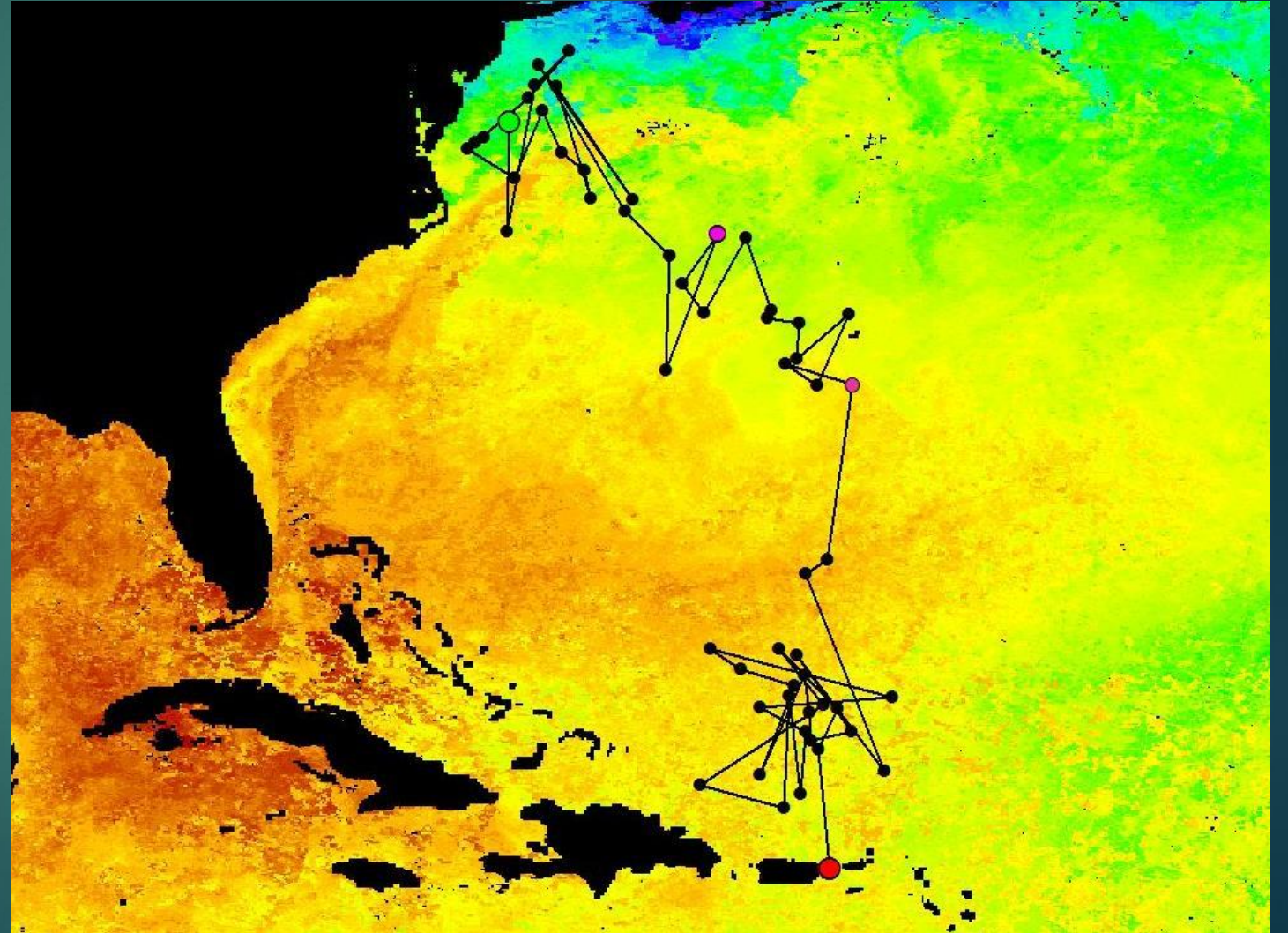
Locations and Inferred Movements of Turtle 27581





# 2002 CEN- Northeast ecological corridor

- ▶ University of N. Hampshire- study interesting movements between Culebra Island and CEN



# 2010 CEN- Tour de Turtles

► Sea Turtle Conservancy



## Bimini

Distance traveled: 905 km / 562 mi  
Time it has taken: 51 days  
Distance to go: 1,715 km / 1,066 mi





# 2011 ATMAR- Tour de Turtles

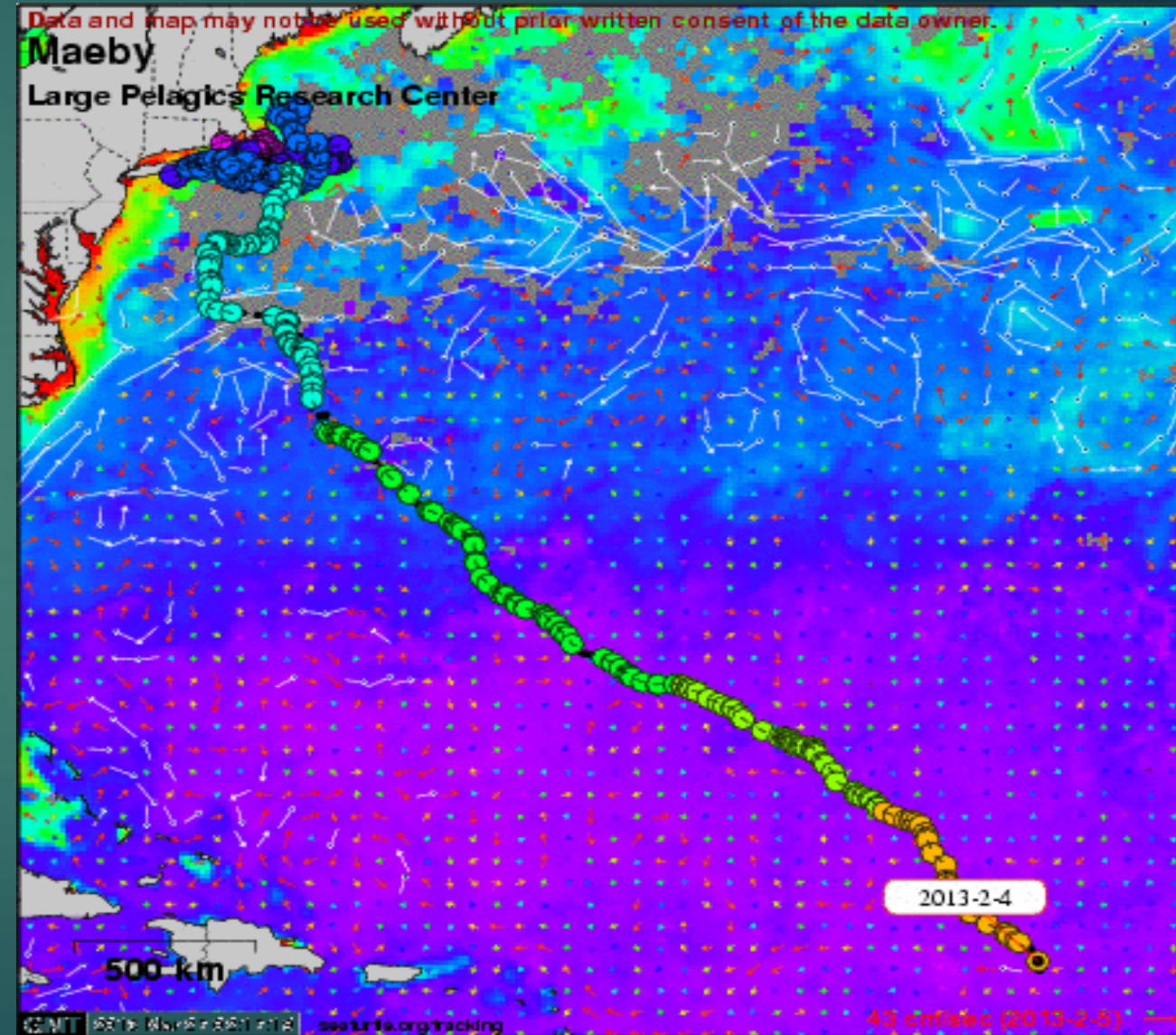
► Sea Turtle Conserveancy





# 2016

- ▶ Maeby- tagged in Nantucket Massachusetts by Dr. Kara Dodge and her team in 2012
- ▶ Found nesting on May 2016 in Maunabo



# 2018

- ▶ Maeby was found again nesting on the same beach in Maunabo by ATMAR volunteers.
- ▶ Luis Crespo contacted Dr. Kara Dodge to invite her and her team to try to recapture Maeby and put a new transmitter to find if she follow the same migratory route or if she take other route to go back north.
- ▶ Dr. Dodge and Connie Merigo came to try to recapture Maeby and they bring 3 transmitters.
- ▶ We didnt found Maeby...maybe Maeby already finished her nesting cycle...but we installed 3 new transmitters.







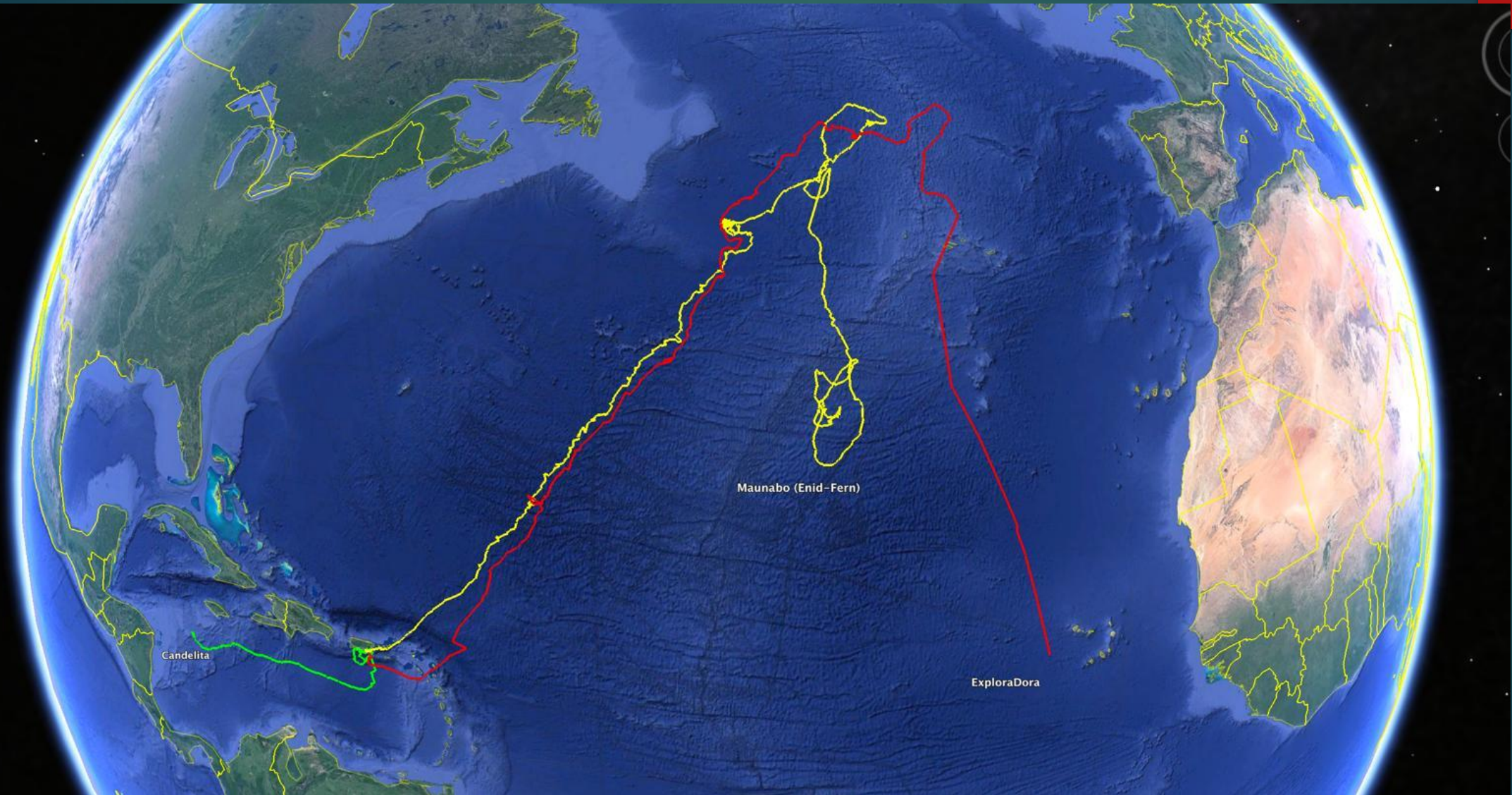
# Interesting...internesting

- ▶ We installed 2 transmitters to leatherbacks already tagged in Maunabo Beach
- ▶ But very interesting, 2nd night we found a turtle tagged in Sandy Point...she didnt nested, but she returned next night and we put a transmitter to her...
- ▶ Looks like there is an aggregation area south of Maunabo and west fo Sandy Point...Student and researcher Ayaka Asada shared with us maps with similar points...



- ▶ Picture courtesy of Dr. Kara Dodge

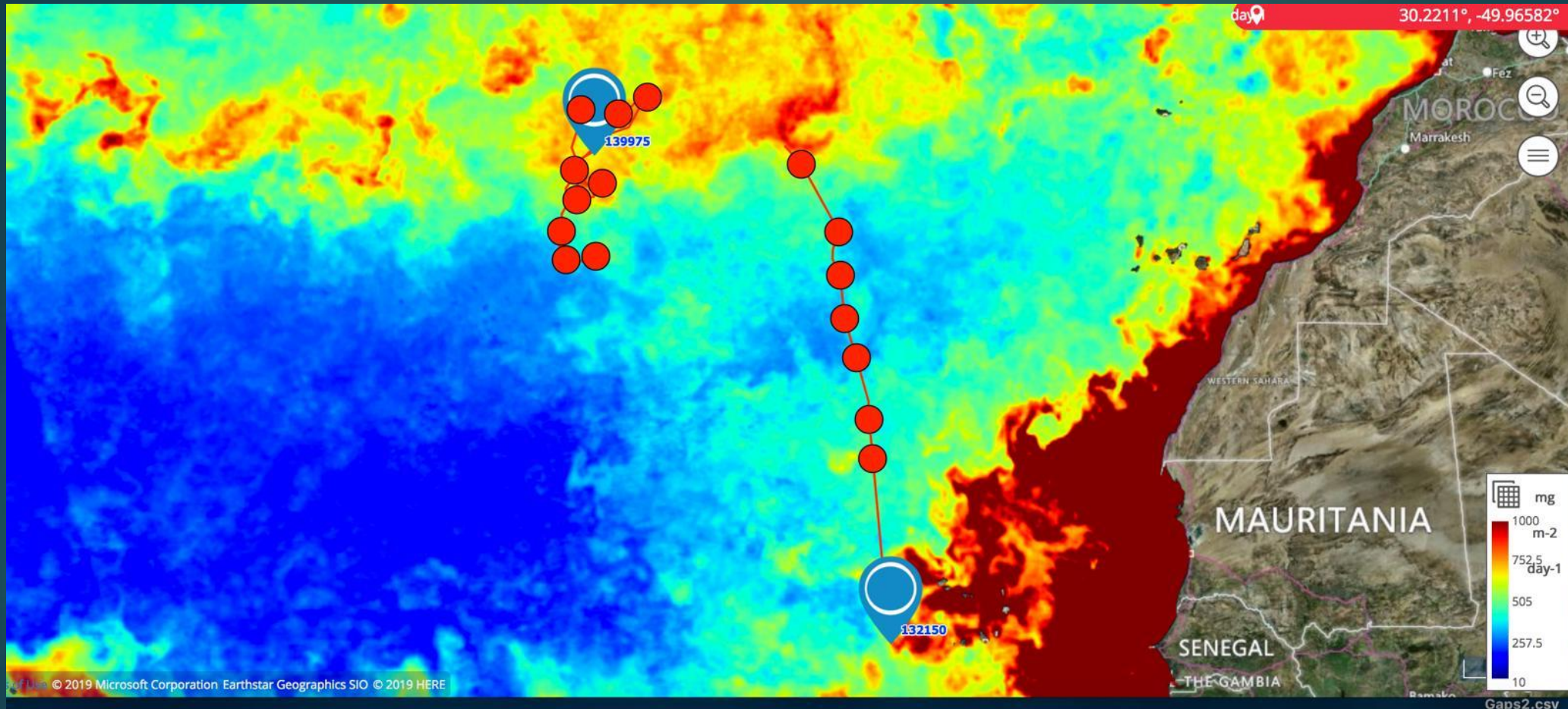
# Where they are...



► Picture courtesy of Dr. Kara Dodge



# Why there...

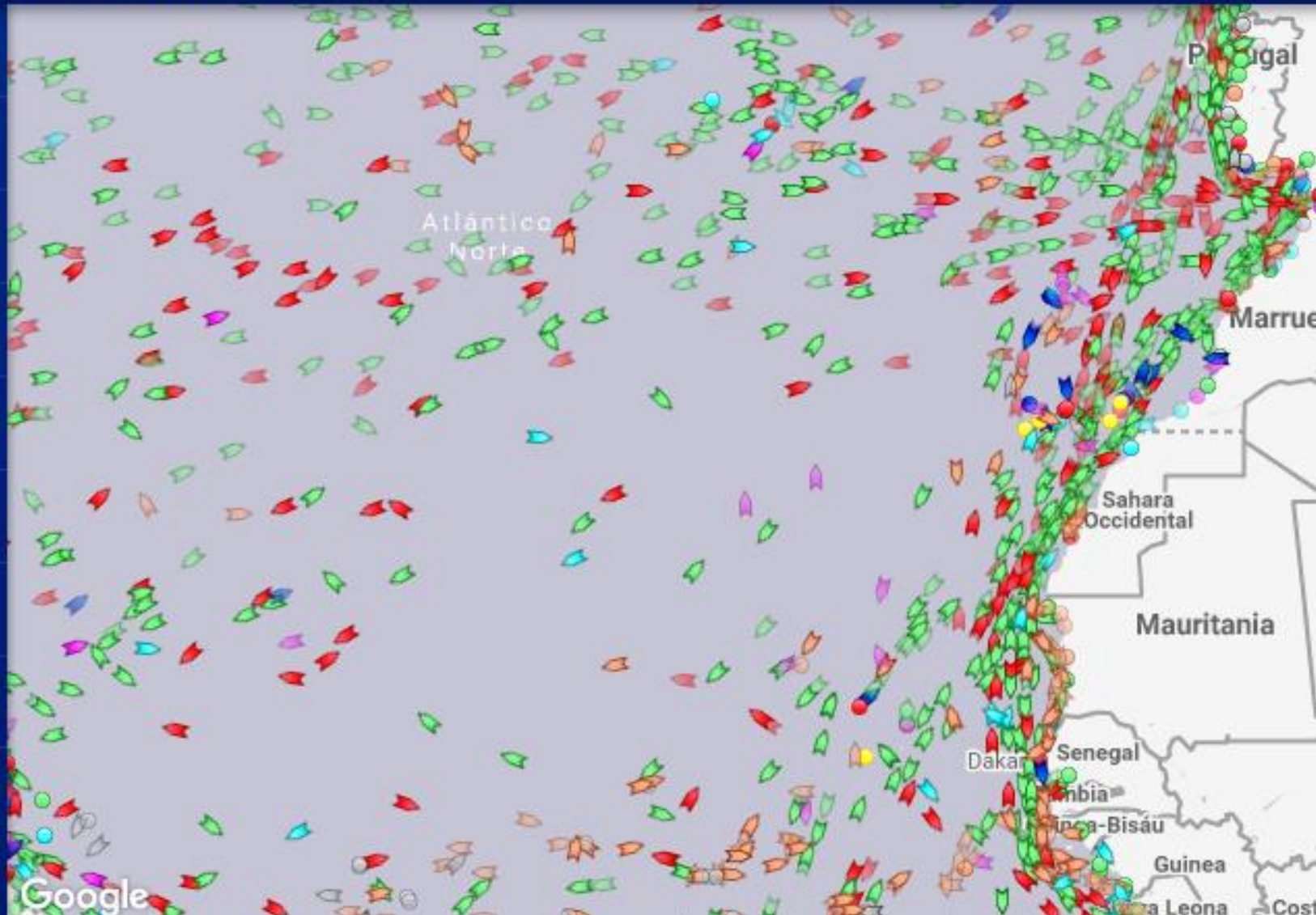


► Picture courtesy of Dr. Kara Dodge





Navigation sidebar with icons for search, zoom, layers, and other map controls.



**Ship Type**

- Enable/Disable all ship types
- Cargo Vessels
- Tankers
- Passenger Vessels
- High Speed Craft
- Tugs & Special Craft
- Fishing
- Pleasure Craft
- Navigation Aids
- Unspecified Ships



# Plans...for 2019

- ▶ Deploy 10 satellite tags, 5 in Maunabo beach, Puerto Rico, and 5 in Sandy Point, St. Croix at same time early on the nesting season.
- ▶ To investigate internesting habitat and understand inter-island exchange and dispersal and travel throughout Northern Caribbean.
- ▶ Team
  - ▶ Kelly Stewart
  - ▶ Kara Dodge
  - ▶ Connie Merigo
  - ▶ Carlos Diez
  - ▶ Luis Crespo

# Thanks to:

- ▶ Dr. Kara Dodge- Woodshole Oceanographic Institute and New England Aquarium
- ▶ Connie Merigo- New England Aquarium
- ▶ Carlos E. Diez- Puerto Rico DNER
- ▶ ATMAR volunteers