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
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.


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

![Comparison of nesting activities chart]

- **Nests (Confirmed/Unconfirmed)**
- **False crawls**

Yearly breakdown from 2007 to 2018:
- 2007: 6 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 1 (False crawls)
- 2008: 17 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 7 (False crawls)
- 2009: 12 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 16 (False crawls)
- 2010: 4 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 18 (False crawls)
- 2011: 2 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 2 (False crawls)
- 2012: 2 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 4 (False crawls)
- 2013: 8 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 2 (False crawls)
- 2014: 29 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 6 (False crawls)
- 2015: 4 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 2 (False crawls)
- 2016: 29 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 17 (False crawls)
- 2017: 19 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 6 (False crawls)
- 2018: 7 (Confirmed/Unconfirmed) + 9 (False crawls)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name of entity</th>
<th>No. of nests</th>
<th>No. of hatchlings released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Gilbraltar beach</td>
<td>Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>19,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fisherman’s Beach</td>
<td>Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Cay</td>
<td>Goldeneye</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flemming beach</td>
<td>Goldeneye</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Ann</td>
<td>Jamaican Inn and White River beach</td>
<td>Jamaican Inn</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East beach</td>
<td>Sandals Beaches</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandals Royal Plantation</td>
<td>Sandals Royal Plantation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Fort Bay</td>
<td>Private Villas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIU</td>
<td>RIU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laughing Waters</td>
<td>Urban Development Corporation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grizzley Plantation</td>
<td>Grizzley Plantation (Private)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St James</td>
<td>Half Moon</td>
<td>Half Moon Hotel</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover</td>
<td>Grand Paladium</td>
<td>Grand Paladium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trelawny</td>
<td>Melia Braco</td>
<td>Melia Braco</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Turtle Cove, Frenchmans cove, Big Bay Beach</td>
<td>Alligator Head Foundation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>Long Bay, Curla beach, Lamona beach</td>
<td>APCAFC</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
<td>Bluefields, Achindown</td>
<td>BBFFFS</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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