

November, $16^{th} - 18^{th}$, 2004 - Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Second Annual Report Form

Directory

Country	Belize
Agency or institution responsible for preparing this	Belize Fisheries Department
Name of the person in charge of this form	Isaias Majil
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E-mail	species@btl.net
Website	

Others who participated in the preparation of this form

Name	Affiliation	Contribution/ Topic	Telephone	E-mail
Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community	Community organisation	nests, ongoing monitoring		mcsweaney@ hotmail.com
Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve	Government of Belize	nests, ongoing monitoring	501- 2244552	bacalarchico- belize@hotmail .com
South Water Caye Marine Reserve	Government of Belize	nests, ongoing monitoring	501- 2244552	nids21@hotma il.com
Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve	Government of Belize	5 6 6	501- 2244552	pgboy2003@y ahoo.com

Focal Point

Institution:	Belize Fisheries	Department
Name:	Isaias Majil	
Signature:		2-May-06
Date:		



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1. Biological Information

1.1. Species present

Charles	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
Species	Phase(s)	Phase(s)	Phase(s)
Lepidochelys olivacea			
Lepidochelys kempii			
Dermochelys coriacea			m
Eretmochelys imbricata			m,r,f,
Chelonia mydas			m,f,r,
Caretta caretta			m,r,f,

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

	Gales	ei,cc	May-		7 miles	Special	Limited
	Point		Novembe			Deveopment	development
	Manatee		r			Area	allowed
	Bar						
	Sapodilla	ei	May-	16Q364290		Marine	sea turtles are
	Cayes		Septembe	1781198		Reserve, 66	protected
	Marine		r			ft. National	
	Reserve					Zone	
Foraging	Belize	ei,cm,cc	All year		185 miles	Species	
Site	Barrier					protected by	
	Reef					law for no	
						posesion	
Migratory	Offshore	Dc,cm,ei,cc	all year			species	
Routes							

^{*} include a brief and concise summary of relevant information regarding the population status on a separate page (for further information see the instructions)



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2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

					unknown		patrols, informatio
							m
							disseminati
subsistenc						fishermen	on to
e	cc,cm	meat		X		anecdotal	fishermen
					unknown		patrols,
							informatio
							m
							disseminati
ornament							on to
al	ei	shell		X			fishermen

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats

^{*} L = legal, I = illegal

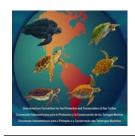


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waste in the	ei,cc,cm,dc	not available	teritorial waters	annual reports	none
ocean					
hurricanes	ei,cc,cm,dc	eggs	nesting beaches	annual reports	none

3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

capture of sea	ei,cc,cm		nesting beaches	beach annual	beach
turtles on beach				reports	surveillance by
					volunteers and
					officers
incidental	ei,cm,cc		Reef lagoon	arrest logs	prosecuted
capture for					cases relating to
personal					sea turtle
ornamental					posesion
decoration		unknown			



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4. Legal Framework

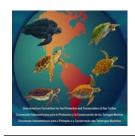
4.1. International instruments

Convention on Biological Diversity	s June 13, 1992 r
	December 30, 1993
Cartagena Convention	12-May-04
United Nations Law of the Sea	ratified August 13, 1983
Central American Biodiversity Convention	
Convention for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the	signed 1971
Protection of Priority Areas in Central America	
The Convention on wetlands of International Importance	
especially as Waterfowl Habitats RAMSAR	

4.2. National legislation

		TED violation \$2000 Bz or one year imprisonment or to both fine and imprisonment
National Lands Act	National teritory	Depends on infraction
Land Utilizaton Act	National teritory	Depends on infraction
Environmental Protection Act	National teritory	Depends on infraction

4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved. NONE



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4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
Belize Fisheries Department	All legal responsibility over seaturtles
Belize Audubon Society	Monitoring
Sea Turtle Conservation Network	Advisory to policy formulation
Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community	Monitoring and protection
Management Committee	

5. Exceptions

Under the present regulations extraction can only occur with a permit from the Fisheries Administrator for traditional and cultural use. However since 2002 no permit has been issued even though various applications have been received. A management plan has not been elaborated as yet for the sea turtle fishery thus none is legally occurring. A fishery management plan is presently in the process of elaboration for the fishing industry in general whereby it will incorporate the sea turtle as a sub section.

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)

6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

A Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize was prepared by WIDECAST in 1992 and plans are underway for possible funding for its updating. This plan list the actions needed in the stress reduction of our sea turtle population and is the document used by the Fisheries Department in the management of the resource. Many sea turtle conservation programs are complimentary of other projects geared towards the sustainable management of our tourism and fishing industries. In its effort to control the illicit fishing of the lobster and conch fishery, the Fisheries Department embarks in consistently monitoring the activities within the territorial waters of Belize. These Conservation Compliance Unit patrols thus gear efforts in minimizing illegal sea turtle captures. The Fisheries Department also declared 8 marine reserves which have as objective the conservation and protection of the areas biodiversity which incorporates the sea turtles. All programs under this component involve sea turtles. Programs under this component are but not limited to enforcement of reserve and Fisheries regulations, monitoring of the biodiversity and environmental education to local communities and stakeholders. These areas are strategically all



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along the Belize Barrier Reef, 185 miles long, creating an enforcement presence throughout the Belize territorial waters and atolls.

A working group named the Sea turtle Conservation Network meets every two months to discuss issues in regards to the reptile and recommends actions to the Fisheries Department. Also it updates all members on the recent developments in the effort to conserve and protect the sea turtles.

Local NGO's approached the Fisheries Department to help in the monitoring and conservation of the sea turtles habitat and nesting beaches. This is reflected in the community participation of Gales Point Manatee Bar, one of the most important nesting areas for the hawksbill in Belize. Another example is the Belize Audubon Society who posses responsibility for the monitoring of a nesting beach at one of the atolls.

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Gales Point Manatee Bar	sea turtle monitoring and	secured 65 ei	May	September
	conservation, protection	nest		
Sapodilla Cayes Marine	sea turtle monitoring and	secured 26 ei	May	September
Reserve	conservation, protection	nests		
Belize Audubon Society	sea turtle monitoring and	secured 6 nest	June	September
	conservation, protection	ei, cc		
South Water Caye Marine	sea turtle monitoring and	secured 6 ei	May	September
Reserve	conservation, protection	nests		

7. International Cooperation

Wildlife Conservation Society

Collaboration in staff training and technical support. Has listed the hawsbill turtle as an indicator species in a project to be implemented at the Glover's Reef Atoll in the Glovers reef Marine Reserve.

GAP Challenge



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A UK based volunteer organization that provides human resource support to the nesting areas for day and night beach patrols. These are done on a free base with limited investment from the supported agency.

EARTH Watch

Assisted financially to the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee for the 2004 nesting monitoring. Support was offered for the 2005 season in the form of volunteers.

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur ECOSUR

Quintana Roo, Mexico based academic institution support with technical advise to the agencies involved in sea turtle conservation.

WIDECAST

Updated information as to opportunities and technical assistance available.

8. National Directory



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Name	Institutional affiliation	Line of work / Specialty	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Website
Melanie McField	WWF	Marine	501-2237680	501-	mcfield@wwf.org	
		Biologist		2237681		
Roberto Pott	Belize Audubon	Marine	501-2234988	501-		
	Society	Protected		2234985		
		Areas				
		Coordinator				
Lincoln	Gales Point	Director	501-2277466			
Mcsweaney	Wildlife					
	Sanctuary					
	Community					
	Management					
	Committee					
Linda Searle	Independent	marine	501-2235505	5012237007		
	Researcher	biologist			info@seasportsbelize	.com
Janet Gibson	Wildlife	WIDECAST	501-610-2090	501-223-	'	
	Conservation			3005		
	Society				jgibson@btl.net	

9. Sources of Information

Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005 Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005 **South Water Cave Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005** Gales Point Sea turtle data 2005 **CITES** web page

Convention on Biodiversity web page

Fishermen Anecdotal information

WWF Belize

WCS Belize

Smith, Gregory W., Karen L. Eckert, and Janet P Gibson. 1992. WIDECAST Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize 1992 (Karen L Eckert, Editor). CEP Technical report 18. UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston Jamaica. 86p.

10. Annexes