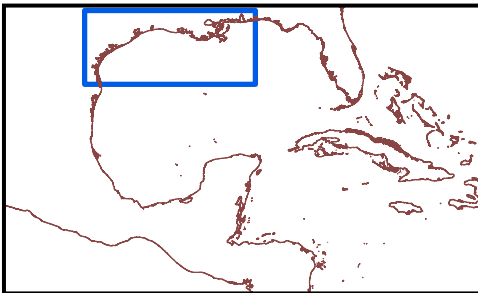



United States Sea Turtle Habitat Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Alabama

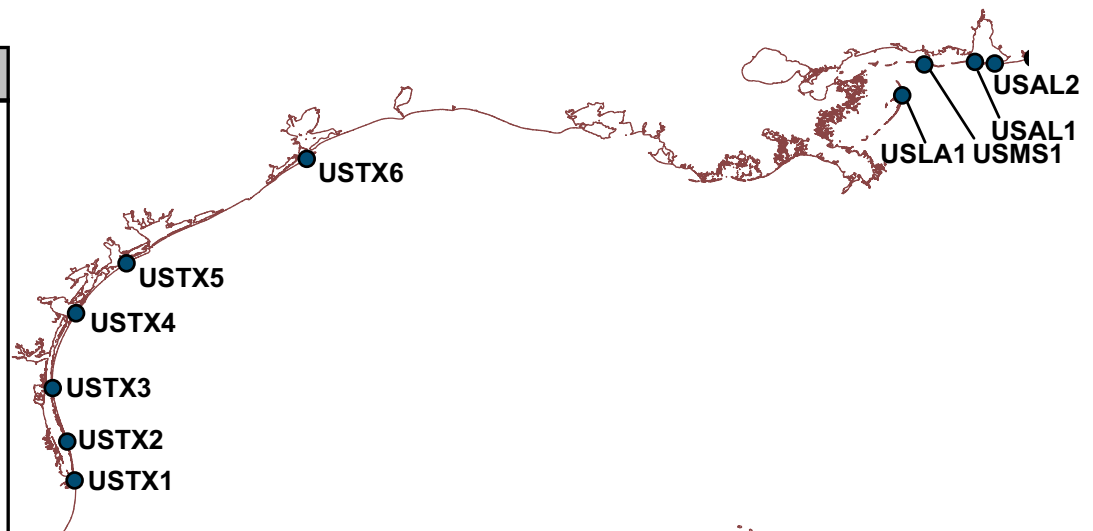
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Sea Turtle Presence	
Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	N, F
Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	N, F
Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	F
Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	IN, F
Kemp's Ridley Turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	N, F
Olive Ridley Turtle (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)	A
N = Nesting; F = Foraging; IN = Infrequent Nesting; IF = Infrequent Foraging; I = Infrequent (further detail unavailable); A = Absent	



Policy for the Protection of Sea Turtles	
Complete (indefinite) protection	Yes
Moratorium (fixed period)	–
Prohibition(s) on take	–
Closed season	–
Minimum size limits	–
Maximum size limits	–
Annual quota	–
Permits/licenses required	–
Gear restrictions	Yes
Area closures (MPA, park, reserve)	Yes
Reports of exploitation/sale nationally	No
Reports of illegal trade internationally	No
General public awareness of laws	Yes
Recent prosecutions or penalties	No
Enforcement considered adequate	Yes
Penalties are an adequate deterrent	Yes
E = Eggs; N = Nests; NF = Nesting Females; – = Not Applicable	

Data Providers	
Donna Shaver	
	National Parks Service
Sandra MacPherson	
	US Fish and Wildlife Service
	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
	University of Texas
	Texas A&M - Galveston
Sea Turtle, Inc.	



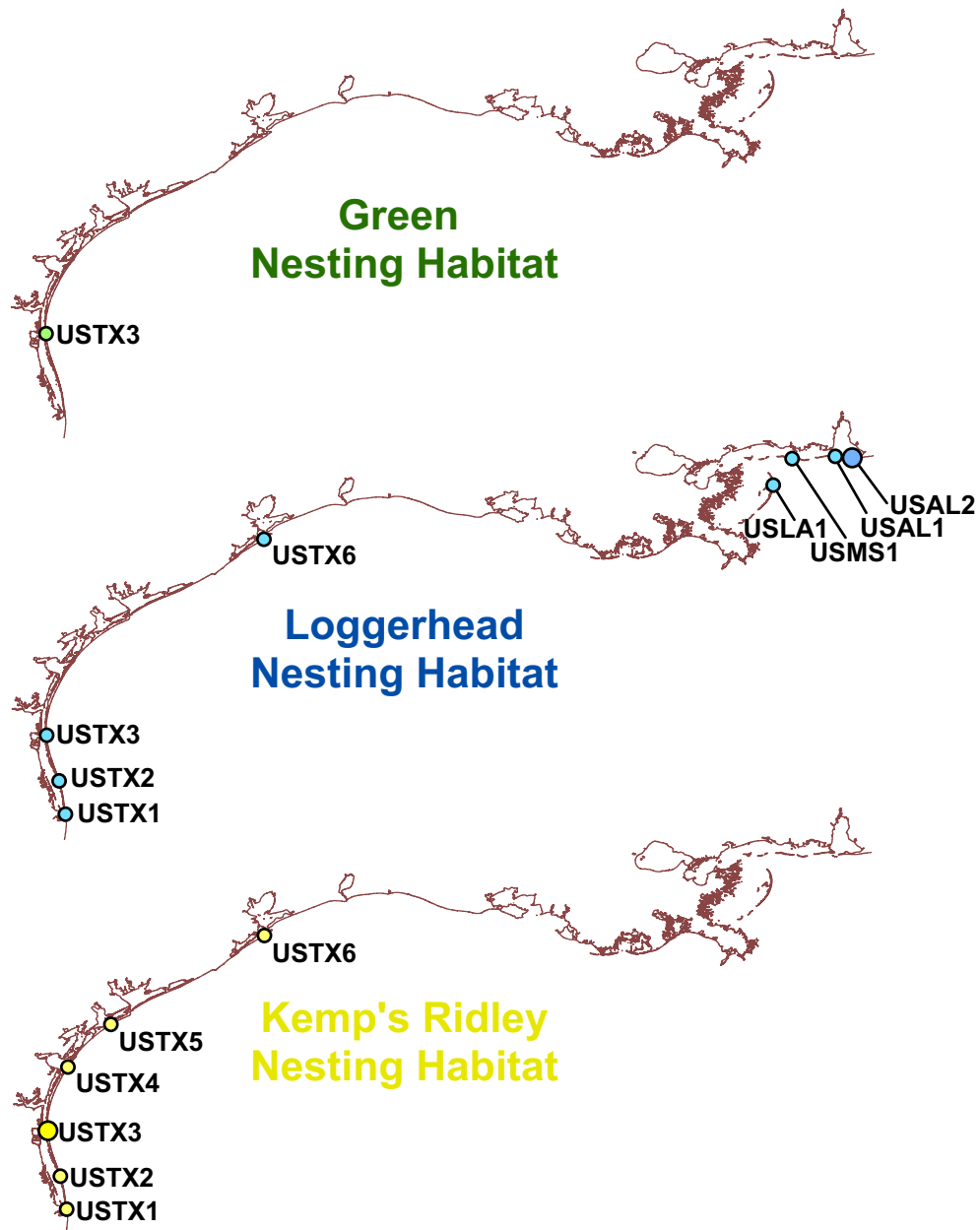
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● Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat
— GSHHS Caribbean Shoreline



United States Sea Turtle Habitat Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Alabama

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Green Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year

Loggerhead Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- 25-100 Crawls per year

Kemp's Ridley Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- 25-100 Crawls per year

— GSHHS Caribbean Shoreline

0 70 140 280 420 560 Kilometers



United States Sea Turtle Habitat

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Alabama

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Threats to Sea Turtles - Nesting		
Killing of Nesting Females by Humans	Yes (R)	One case - accidental, two cases - visitors attempted to take nesting female but left when deterred by other visitors
Killing of Nesting Females by Predators	No	
Nest Loss to Predators	Yes (O)	Ghost crabs, coyotes, racoons, badgers and fire ants (invasive)
Nest Loss to Abiotic Factors	Yes (U)	High tides
Egg Collection by Humans	Yes (R)	
Harassment Due to Increased Human Presence	Yes (R)	
Artificial Lighting	Yes (R)	
Pollution	Yes (U)	Beach litter/debris
Beach Erosion/Accretion	Yes (U)	Erosion on Galveston Island; in front of seawalls (North and South Padre Island) and jetties
Beach Armouring/Stabilization Structures	Yes (R)	Nesting is occurring in front of sea walls
Beach Nourishment	Yes (R)	Galveston Island and elsewhere in front of seawalls, homes, development and on the north side of jetties
Recreational Beach Equipment and/or Other Obstacles	Yes (U)	Rare in some areas, frequent in others; turtles seem to get around these obstacles
Mechanized Beach Cleaning	Yes (FA)	In developed areas
Beach Vehicular Use	Yes (F)	
Sand Mining	No	
Exotic (or Loss of Native) Vegetation	No	
Livestock Presence on the Beach	No	
R = Rare; O = Occasional; F = Frequent; FA = Frequent in one area; U = Unknown frequency		

Threats to Sea Turtles - Foraging/Migration		
Seagrass Degradation	Yes (R)	
Coral Reef Degradation	NA	No coral reefs present
Fisheries Bycatch	Yes (O)	Trawls (O), hook and line (O), gillnets (R - illegal in TX)
Hunting/Poaching	Unknown	
Pollution	Yes (U)	Marine debris
Predators	Yes (U)	Sharks
Disease/Parasites	No	
Harassment Due to Increased Human Presence	Yes (R)	Due to boat traffic
Dredging	Yes (O)	In jetty areas and bays
Marina and Dock Development	Yes (O)	
Boat/Personal Water Craft Collisions	Yes (O)	
Power Plant Entrapment	Yes (R)	
Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, Transportation	Yes (O)	
Entanglement	Yes (R)	Entangled in rope, fishing line and marine debris
Offshore Artificial Lighting	Yes (O)	
R = Rare; O = Occasional; F = Frequent; FA = Frequent in one area; U = Unknown frequency		

United States Sea Turtle Habitat

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Alabama

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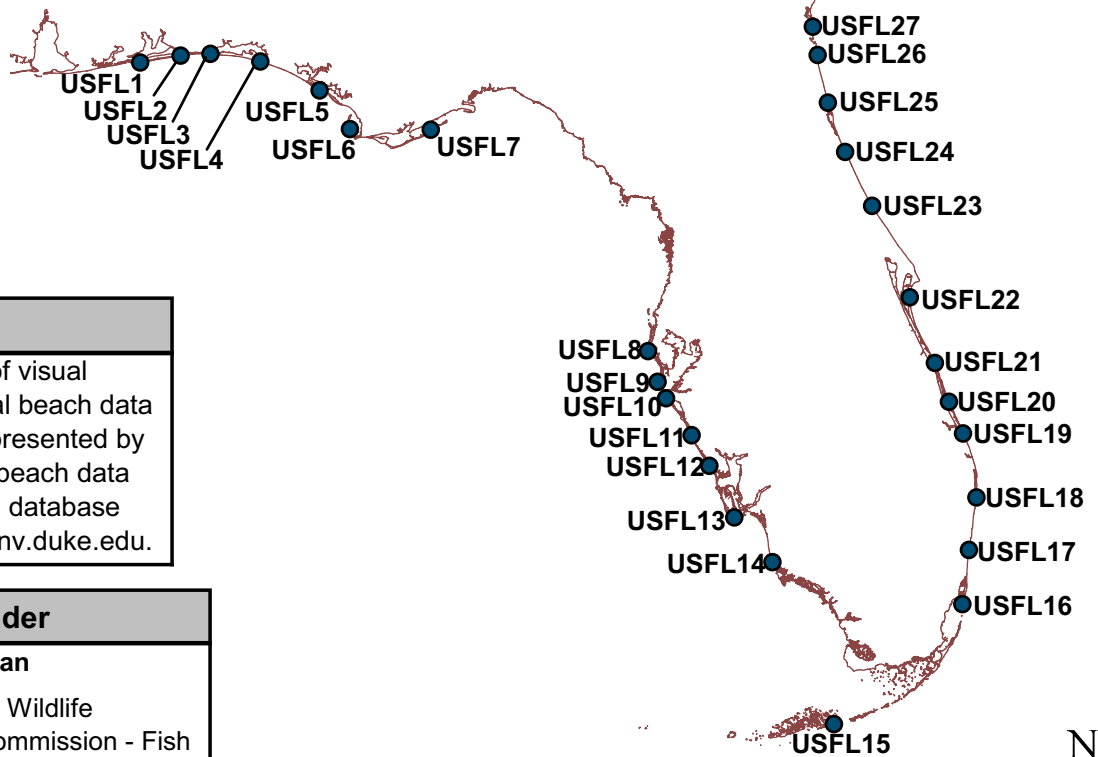
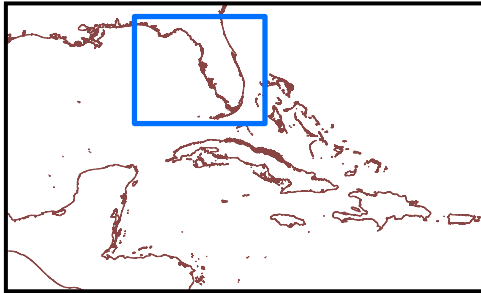
Beach Identification Codes with Beach Names			
USTX1	Boca Chica Beach	USTX6	Upper Texas Coast
USTX2	South Padre Island	USLA1	Breton National Wildlife Refuge
USTX3	North Padre Island	USMS1	Gulf Islands National Seashore
USTX4	Mustang Island	USAL1	Dauphin Island
USTX5	Matagorda Island	USAL2	Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

United States Sea Turtle Habitat Florida

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Sea Turtle Presence	
Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	N, F
Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	N, F
Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	N, F
Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	IN, F
Kemp's Ridley Turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	IN, F
Olive Ridley Turtle (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)	I
N = Nesting; F = Foraging; IN = Infrequent Nesting; IF = Infrequent Foraging; I = Infrequent (further detail unavailable); A = Absent	

Policy for the Protection of Sea Turtles	
Complete (indefinite) protection	Yes
Moratorium (fixed period)	–
Prohibition(s) on take	–
Closed season	–
Minimum size limits	–
Maximum size limits	–
Annual quota	–
Permits/licenses required	Yes*
Gear restrictions	Yes
Area closures (MPA, park, reserve)	Yes
Reports of exploitation/sale nationally	No
Reports of illegal trade internationally	No
General public awareness of laws	Yes
Recent prosecutions or penalties	No
Enforcement considered adequate	Yes
Penalties are an adequate deterrent	Yes
E = Eggs; N = Nests; NF = Nesting Females; – = Not Applicable; * For research, management and construction activities on nesting beaches	



Note

For the purposes of visual representation, individual beach data are aggregated and represented by county. For individual beach data please access the full database through <http://seamap.env.duke.edu>.

Data Provider

Anne Meylan



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission - Fish
and Wildlife Research Institute

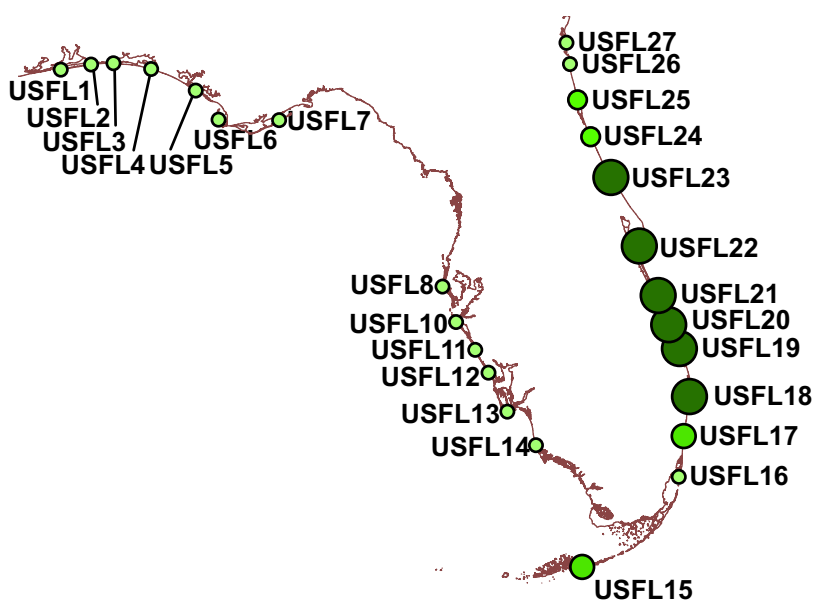
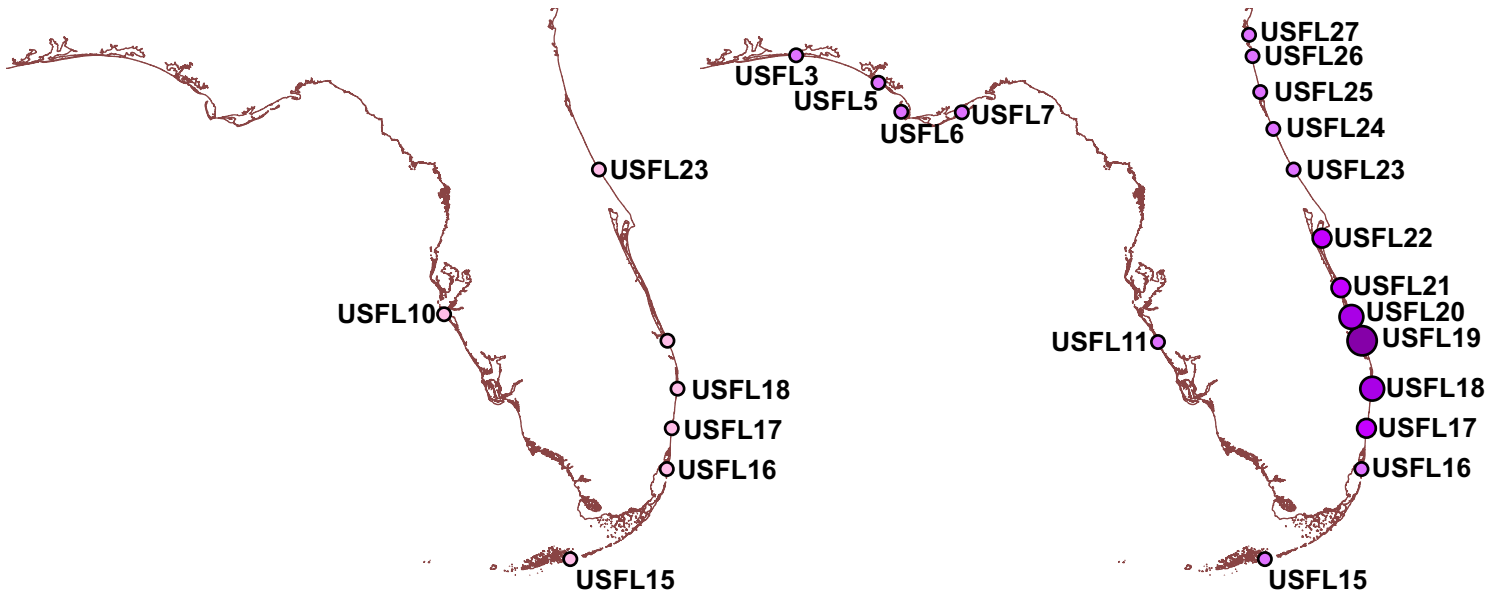
0 50 100 200 300 400 Kilometers

● Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat
— GSHHS Caribbean Shoreline



United States Sea Turtle Habitat Florida

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Hawksbill Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year

Leatherback Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- 25-100 Crawls per year
- 100-500 Crawls per year
- 500-1000 Crawls per year

Green Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- 25-100 Crawls per year
- 100-500 Crawls per year
- >1000 Crawls per year

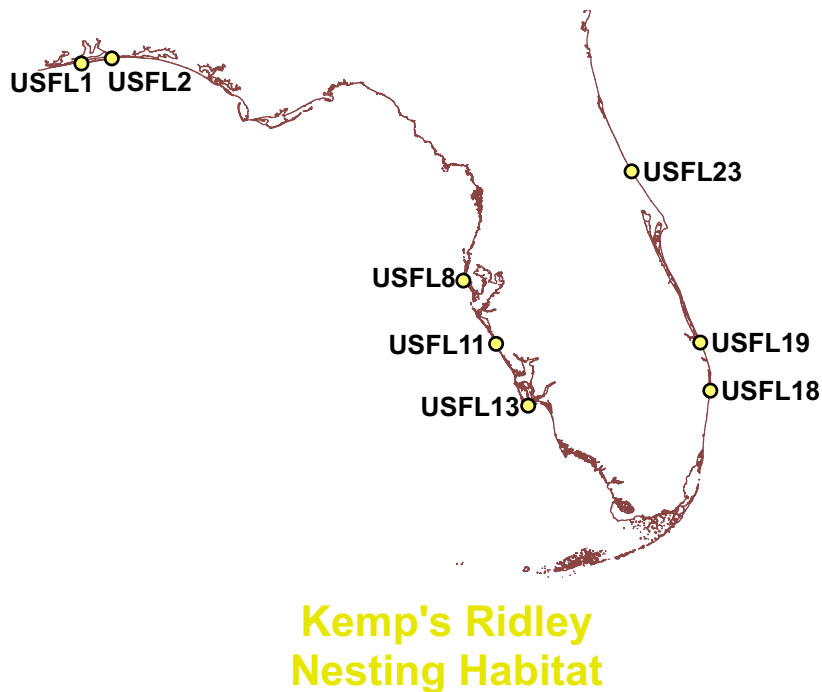
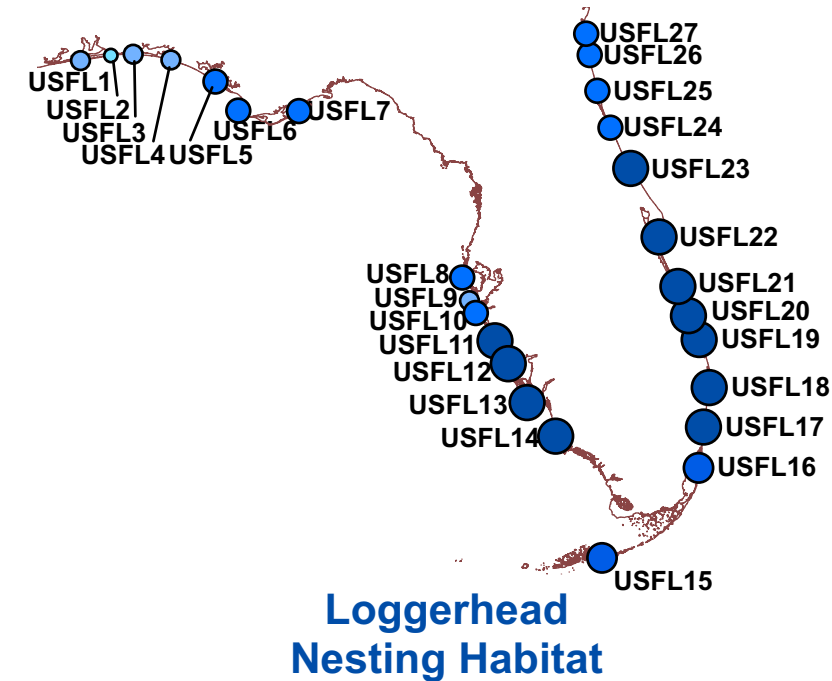
— GSHHS Caribbean Shoreline

0 70 140 280 420 560 Kilometers



United States Sea Turtle Habitat Florida

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Kemp's Ridley Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- GSHHS Caribbean Shoreline

Loggerhead Nesting Habitat

- <25 Crawls per year
- 25-100 Crawls per year
- 100-500 Crawls per year
- 500-1000 Crawls per year
- >1000 Crawls per year

0 70 140 280 420 560 Kilometers



United States Sea Turtle Habitat Florida

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Threats to Sea Turtles - Nesting		
Killing of Nesting Females by Humans	Yes (R)	
Killing of Nesting Females by Predators	Yes (R)	
Nest Loss to Predators	Yes (F)	Raccoon, bobcat, coyote, armadillo, fox, crabs and ants
Nest Loss to Abiotic Factors	Yes (F)	Erosion, tidal inundation and accretion
Egg Collection by Humans	Yes (R)	Confined to limited areas
Harassment Due to Increased Human Presence	Yes (O)	Mostly due to unguided turtle walks
Artificial Lighting	Yes (F)	Widespread
Pollution	Yes (F)	Tar in some areas, beach litter/debris widespread
Beach Erosion/Accretion	Yes (U)	Erosion in many regions - most cases are in highly developed areas
Beach Armouring/Stabilization Structures	Yes (F)	Present in most coastal counties
Beach Nourishment	Yes (F)	Widespread
Recreational Beach Equipment and/or Other Obstacles	Yes (F)	Some counties have ordinances requiring the removal of obstacles at night during nesting season
Mechanized Beach Cleaning	Yes (F)	Daily in many areas and regulated to occur after nesting surveys completed.
Beach Vehicular Use	Yes (O/F)	Limited areas open to public use; widespread access for official use
Sand Mining	No	
Exotic (or Loss of Native) Vegetation	Yes (F)	More common in southern Florida than elsewhere in state
Livestock Presence on the Beach	Yes (R)	Horseback riding in limited areas
R = Rare; O = Occasional; F = Frequent; FA = Frequent in one area; U = Unknown frequency		

Threats to Sea Turtles - Foraging/Migration		
Seagrass Degradation	Yes (F)	Anchor damage, vessel groundings, propeller damage, sedimentation and pollution
Coral Reef Degradation	Yes (F)	Anchor damage, vessel groundings, propeller damage, bleaching, sedimentation, human recreation impacts and pollution
Fisheries Bycatch	Yes (U)	Trawl, hook and line, pot/trap, nets, longlines in adjacent waters
Hunting/Poaching	Yes (R)	
Pollution	Yes (F)	Agriculture, petroleum, sewage, industrial runoff, pollution and marine debris
Predators	Yes (U)	Sharks, other fishes (on hatchlings)
Disease/Parasites	Yes (F)	Fibropapillomas, epizootics due to unknown causes, trematodes
Harassment Due to Increased Human Presence	Yes (F)	Boat/personal water craft traffic
Dredging	Yes (F)	Associated with channel maintenance and nourishment
Marina and Dock Development	Yes (F)	Increased boat traffic, loss of habitat
Boat/Personal Water Craft Collisions	Yes (F)	Most common identifiable anomaly in stranded animals
Power Plant Entrapment	Yes (F)	Most turtles released alive due to monitoring requirements
Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, Transportation	Yes (U)	Oil tanker traffic, ballast water flushing and pipeline installation; no nearshore drilling
Entanglement	Yes (F)	Monofilament line, trap line, rope and netting
Offshore Artificial Lighting	Yes (O)	Especially associated with dredging operations
R = Rare; O = Occasional; F = Frequent; FA = Frequent in one area; U = Unknown frequency		

United States Sea Turtle Habitat Florida

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Beach Identification Codes with Beach Names			
USFL1	Escambia	USFL15	Monroe
USFL2	Santa Rosa	USFL16	Miami-Dade
USFL3	Okaloosa	USFL17	Broward
USFL4	Walton	USFL18	Palm Beach
USFL5	Bay	USFL19	Martin
USFL6	Gulf	USFL20	St. Lucie
USFL7	Franklin	USFL21	Indian River
USFL8	Pinellas	USFL22	Brevard
USFL9	Hillsborough	USFL23	Volusia
USFL10	Manatee	USFL24	Flagler
USFL11	Sarasota	USFL25	St. Johns
USFL12	Charlotte	USFL26	Duval
USFL13	Lee	USFL27	Nassau
USFL14	Collier		