

Sea Turtles of the Eastern Pacific



UPWELL

Green (*Chelonia mydas*) / **Black** (*Chelonia mydas agassizii*)

Habitat: Mostly coastal.

Diet: Seagrasses, mangrove leaves and shoots, jellyfish and algae.*

ID: Rounded head, greenish-black coloration, smooth domed carapace with teardrop shape.

East Pacific Status: **Endangered**

Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Habitat: Mostly coastal, including rocky zones, coral reefs and mangrove estuaries.

Diet: Sponges, tunicates, mangrove shoots, algae and benthic invertebrates.

ID: Narrow head and beak, yellowish-brown coloration, mottled carapace with overlapping scutes.

East Pacific Status: **Critically Endangered**

Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Habitat: Mostly pelagic.

Diet: Jellyfish and other soft-bodied invertebrates.

ID: Blunt head with visible pineal gland or 'pink spot', grayish-black with white patches, leathery carapace with 7 ridges.

East Pacific Status: **Critically Endangered**

Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)

Habitat: Pelagic (especially juveniles) and rocky coastal bays.

Diet: Hard-shelled invertebrates, including crabs, mollusks and shrimp.*

ID: Broad head with yellow cheeks, red-brown heart-shaped carapace.

East Pacific Status: **Vulnerable**

Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

Habitat: Mainly pelagic, occasionally coastal.

Diet: Wide variety of crustaceans, mollusks, bryozoans and algae.*

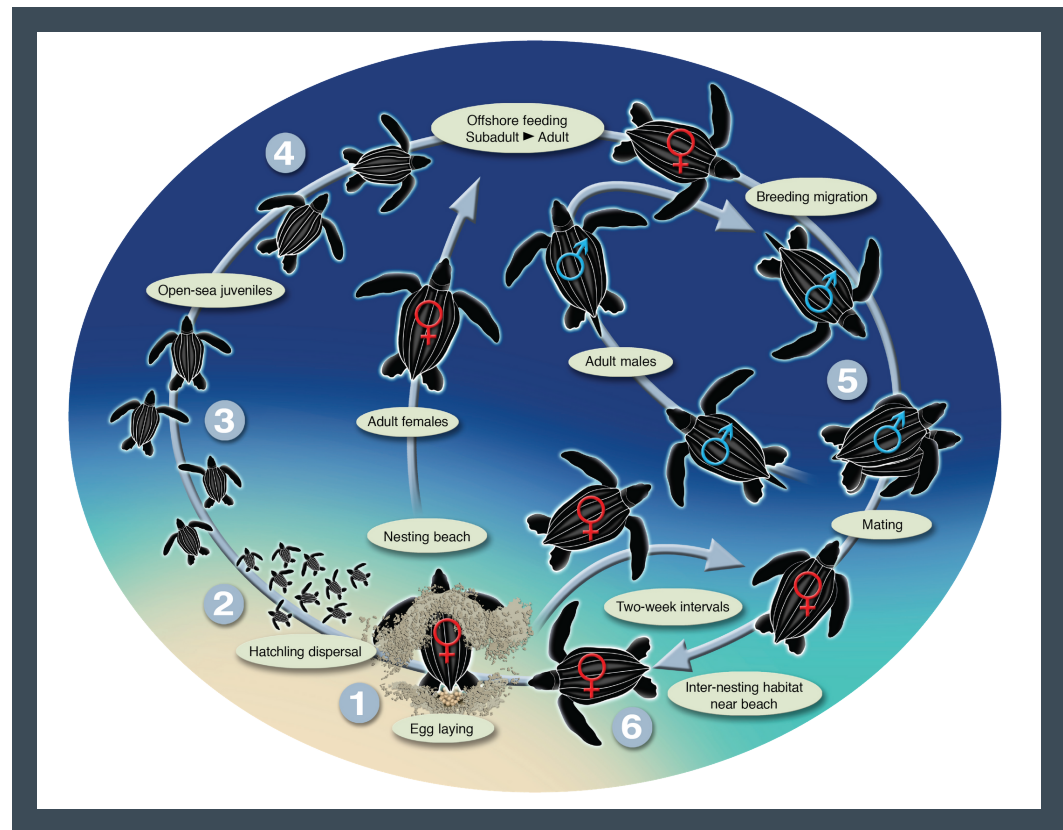
ID: Triangular head with light cheeks, grayish-olive coloration, rounded carapace.

East Pacific Status: **Vulnerable**

*Green, Loggerhead and Olive Ridley turtles may opportunistically feed on fishing bait. All sea turtles are susceptible to incidental capture by fishing fleets whether by ingestion of bait, accidental hooking, or entanglement in nets and lines.

Your actions matter!

- If you eat seafood, make sure it was captured using selective methods that reduce sea turtle mortality.
- Avoid single-use plastics; refuse straws and bring your own reusable bags, to-go containers and utensils. Clean up stray plastics before they end up in the ocean.
- Learn more about sea turtles at www.upwell.org and send your questions to spotter@upwell.org.



Sea Turtle Spotter

Join our citizen science program, Sea Turtle Spotter, and register your sightings of turtles at sea.

Upwell's mission is to protect endangered sea turtles by reducing threats at sea. Your sightings complement our research to better understand and model how sea turtles use coastal and pelagic zones. With your support, we can work together with resource managers to protect critical marine habitat.

Be a Sea Turtle Spotter in 6 easy steps:

1. Download the iNaturalist app and create your account
2. Join the Sea Turtle Spotter Project on iNaturalist
3. Learn to identify sea turtles in offshore habitats you visit
4. Record your sea turtle sightings on Sea Turtle Spotter with:
 - Location coordinates
 - Clear photos
 - Species identification
 - Notes on behavior or condition
5. Upload your sightings when you have internet access
6. Feel great about your work as a citizen scientist

Encourage your friends to become Sea Turtle Spotters too!



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