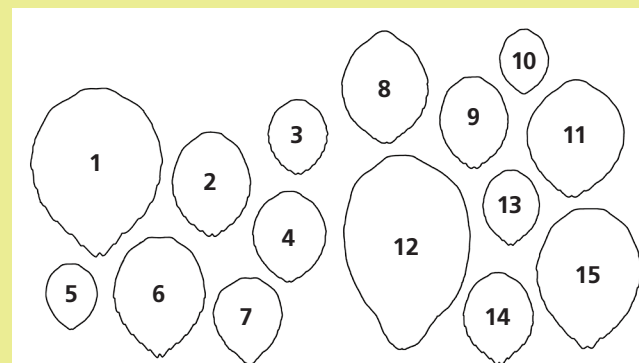


Many Shades of Green



The green turtle's physical appearance is so variable that for as long humans have been observing this species, they have been redefining it. On the scientific side, this has principally consisted of divisions into subspecies, of which there have been four—*Chelonia mydas agassizii*, *C. m. carrinera*, *C. m. japonica*, and *C. m. mydas*. Informally, those who study green turtles often refer to different types, such as the standard green turtle, the black turtle (East Pacific form), or the yellow turtle (or Galapagos yellow). While some continue to disagree about the green turtle's classification, the general consensus is that there is just one species, *Chelonia mydas*. Yet, the fact remains that no two green turtles are exactly the same. Within the species, there are several unique forms that appear regularly, as well as brilliant variations observed in just a few individuals. To capture the magnificent variation in green turtles for this issue, we turned to the global SWOT Team and our friends at www.seaturtle.org, and were rewarded with images from all corners of the world. The images on this page are just a fraction of the more than 250 that were submitted, all of which can be seen at www.SeaTurtleStatus.org. The carapaces (shells) shown here are from images of live turtles that were edited to exclude all else. They are not shown to scale.



- (1) Fisheries bycatch; Ilha do Cardoso, São Paulo, Brazil, Atlantic Ocean. © SHANY M. NAGAOKA;
- (2) Research capture; Juan de Nova Island, Indian Ocean. © KÉLONIA; (3) Research capture; Europa Island, Indian Ocean. © KÉLONIA; (4) Research capture; Europa Island, Indian Ocean. © KÉLONIA;
- (5) Fisheries bycatch; Japan, Sea of Japan. © KEI OKAMOTO; (6) Research capture; Turks and Caicos Islands, Caribbean Sea. © THOMAS STRINGELL; (7) Research capture; Punta Abreojos, Baja California Sur, Mexico, Pacific Ocean. © JOHN WANG (UH-JIMAR) / OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE (ODI); (8) Research capture; Europa Island, Indian Ocean. © KÉLONIA; (9) Cold stunned; Lower Laguna Madre, Texas, USA, Gulf of Mexico. PHOTO COURTESY DONNA SHAVER; (10) Fisheries bycatch; Ryukyu Islands, Japan, East China Sea. © KEI OKAMOTO; (11) Research capture; Juan de Nova Island, Indian Ocean. © KÉLONIA; (12) Research capture; Isla Pardito, Baja California Sur, Mexico, Sea of Cortez. © JEFFREY SEMINOFF; (13) Underwater; St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, Caribbean Sea. © C. S. ROGERS; (14) Research capture; Turks and Caicos Islands, Caribbean Sea. © THOMAS STRINGELL; (15) Fisheries bycatch; Cananéia, São Paulo, Brazil, Atlantic Ocean. © SHANY M. NAGAOKA