



# IAC INFORMATIVE BULLETIN

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION  
OF SEA TURTLES (IAC)



# Guatemala: Start of the 2023-2024 Sea Turtle Nesting Season

▶ Guatemala Pacific Coast the Region in charge of the South Coast Regional Directorate of the National Council of Protected Areas, carried out the “Start of the 2023-2024 Sea Turtle Nesting Season” in Guatemala. The activity took place in the Sipacate Naranjo National Park protected area with the participation of agencies that support the actions in the National Strategy for the Conservation of Sea Turtles. The institutions that support this area are Ingenio Magdalena S.A. IMSA, the Private Institute on Climate Change ICC, Protortugas of Guatemala, 6th grade students of the E.O.R.M Educational Center. from El Paredón Buena Vista, Parlama sea turtle egg collectors, Managers of sea turtle hatcheries, Ministry of the Environment-MARN, Fundaeco and the NGO WCS.



▶ This activity, highlighted the importance of sea turtle conservation raising awareness with informative talks, educational games and communicating the progress achieved each year in the number of hatchings released of olive riddley turtle ( *Lepidochelys olivacea*), which has increased thanks to the support and efforts of the private and government institutions and NGOs mentioned above to continue caring for and conserving sea turtles, which play a very important role for the biological diversity. These actions increase community support and strengthen inter-institutional coordination to support conservation.

**Pictures and news:** Dirección Regional de Costa Sur, CONAP- Guatemala 2023  
IAC Scientific Committee -Airam López Roulet



# Environmental education program in Cabuyal Port - Punta San Clemente Marine Reserve Ecuador

► The environmental education program was carried out at the Sathya Sai Educational Center in Bahía de Caraquez in the Sucre community. It consisted of classes twice a week for 5th and 6th grade students to implement the activity book “Ocean Travelers – a world with connections.” The objective of this program is to increase the knowledge of marine species such as sharks, turtles, whales and rays. In the photos, the students present their final projects and their graduation in the Guardians of the Sea program.

News and pictures: Biologist Johana Moreira and Biologist Eduardo Espinoza, Member of the IAC CCE

Picture right upper: Guardians of the sea Graduation

Pictures below: Students presenting their projects





# X Meeting of the ASO NETWORK and the IX Conference on conservation and research of Sea Turtles of the South Western Atlantic



IX Jornadas - X Reunión de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas en el Atlántico Sur Occidental

#ASO2023 La PALOMA - ROCHA - URUGUAY

► In 2023, the X Meeting of the ASO NETWORK - Turtles and the IX Conference on Conservation and Research of Sea Turtles in the South Western Atlantic took place in Uruguay. The ASO-Turtle Network is a regional network created in 2003 and is composed of Universities, NGOs, independent researchers, government representatives and fishermen from Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina who work on sea turtle research and conservation.



Alejandro Fallabrino funding members ASO-Turtle Network presentation of 20 years of ASO







# X Reunión de la RED ASO – Tortugas y las IX Jornadas de Conservación e investigación de tortugas del Atlántico Sur Occidental.

This event, was going to take place during 2020, and it was postponed due to the global pandemic, this year too place in November. For the first time it was held in the Department of Rocha, in the city of La Paloma. The host organizations were Karumbé and CICMAR and the event was held within the framework of a special year in the 20 years anniversary of the ASO NETWORK. There were 145 people in attendance in person, there were 5 invited speakers and 76 extended abstracts were presented. Of these abstracts there were 32 oral presentations and 44 posters. In addition, within the framework of the NETWORK's meeting, there were round tables with debates and workshops on specific topics.



▶ During the event, the new representatives of each of the member countries were appointed and the next host was decided. In 2025, the ASO Network Meeting and the Conference will be held in San Clemente del Tuyú (Argentina).

▶ For more information on the ASO NETWORK: <https://www.redasotortugas.com>

News and pictures credit- Cecilia Lezama IAC Consultative and Scientific Committee delegate

# The Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP) – Chile organized a carnival for the conservation of sea turtles in Arica

▶ In Arica, Chile, the “Carnival for the conservation of sea turtles, Arica 2023”, organized by the Biodiversity Group of the Department of Oceanography and Environment of IFOP/Chile, was held on November 18 and 19. This carnival took place under the framework of the project “Improving sea turtle conservation through education and outreach to local communities in northern Chile” with financing from the organizations SWOT (The State of the World’s Sea Turtles), Oceanic Society and the LaudOPO Network.

▶ During this event, several activities were carried out with children from fisherman about the importance of sea turtles, the environment where they live, the threats they face, , their nesting places, the importance of sea turtles in the marine ecosystem in Chile, promoting interest in the care of sea turtles and the sea and its creatures.

▶ In the event participated 42 children between 2 and 14 years of age.

▶ For more information <https://www.ifop.cl/ifop-organizo-carnaval-para-la-conservacion-de-las-tortugas-marinas-en-arica/>

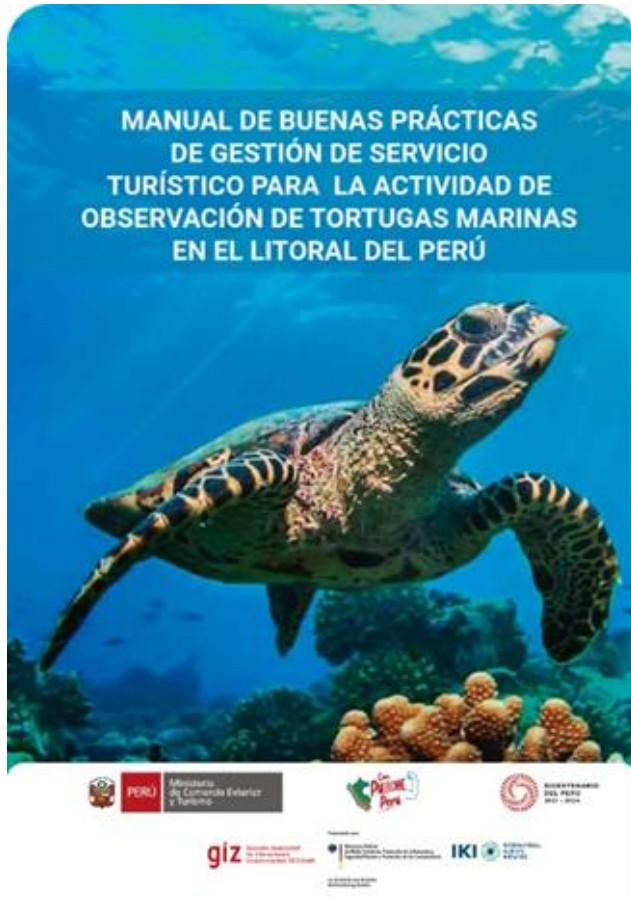


News and picture: IFOP and Nina Pardo IAC CCE delegate





# Peru adopts a Manual of Best Practices for Tourist Services for sea turtle watching activities in the Peruvian coast



- ▶ On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR) publish this manual as a positive effort to promote the conservation of sea turtles in Peru through sustainable tourism practices. By providing guidelines to minimize disturbances to sea turtles during observation activities, the document seeks to raise awareness about the vulnerability of their populations and the need to protect their habitat. In addition, it highlights the importance of complying with current national legislation, as well as international laws and agreements for the protection of these species.
- ▶ Responsible management of the tourism industry, compliance with animal protection laws, and education of visitors will be key to ensuring the survival of species so important to our marine ecosystems.
- ▶ The manual is a call for joint action between governmental authorities, private sector and civil society to safeguard Peru's natural heritage.
- ▶ Download the Manual here: <https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/5421418/4845407-mbp-tortugas-marinas-baja.pdf?v=1699991859>
- ▶ The "Manual of Best Practices for Tourist Services for Sea Turtle Watching Activities on the Coast of Peru" has been published by the MINCETUR, in collaboration with the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) and the Specialized Technical Working Group (GTTE) for the Conservation of Sea Turtles.SH:

News provided by: Nina Pardo IAC CCE member



# Evaluation of abundance of East Pacific green sea turtles in Southern California

► During 2023, researchers from NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center commenced a study to evaluate the abundance of east Pacific green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Southern California USA. The team has found that the population has likely more than doubled during the last decade, which is consistent with known trends at the primary index nesting beach, located in Colola, Michoacan, Mexico. This increase in population size has resulted in greater human-turtle interactions, and highlights the need for greater protection in nearshore habitats throughout the region.

News and photo by: Dr. Jeff Seminoff - NOAA and IAC Scientific Committee member





# Creación de La Reserva Marina La Puntilla - Chile

▶ On May 24th , 2023, the Official Gazette of Chile enacted the D.S 53 November 22th, 2021 that creates the La Puntilla Marine Reserve – Playa Chichorro in the Arica and Parinacota Region, with the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) as its conservation object, the feeding and resting area for the green turtle and the fauna and flora representative of the feeding habitat of this species. The sector has 52 hectares that consider a mixed meadow of green, brown and red algae that has a variable extension of up to around 15 hectares, which is a feeding area for up to 500 juvenile/subadult green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*).

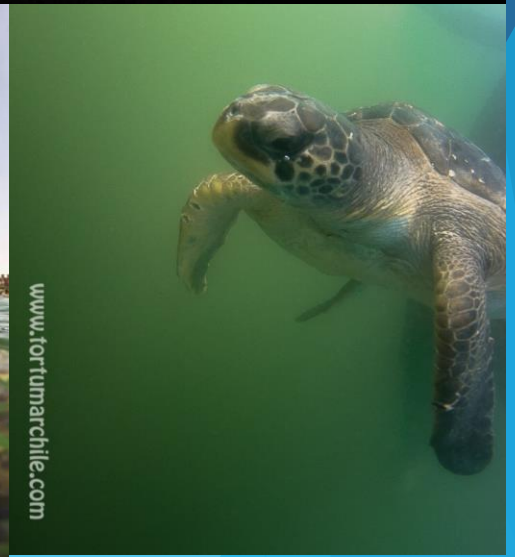
▶ The area brings together a series of characteristics that make it unique and that also fully justify the need for conservation of the area. Its importance lies primarily in the fact that it is the most important feeding area for the species in Chile. On the other hand, the area is inserted in the urban radius of the city of Arica, in the vicinity of the port of the same name, adjacent to a hydrocarbon terminal corresponding to the Bolivian enclaves in Chilean territory, and to an anchoring and anchoring site. of deep-sea fishing vessels, all important reasons to ensure the protection of the species and its habitat.

▶ Sea turtles have protection by the people of Arica and the visitors. This is a long-awaited wish for the Arican community, which seeks to protect this species and its habitat.

News and pictures by: Sielfeld and Paula SalinasFundación Tortumar -Chile and member of the CCE IAC.



[www.tortumarchile.com](http://www.tortumarchile.com)



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*Happy Holidays  
and best wishes for the  
New Year 2024*

Holiday card design by: Haydee Medina- Assistant to the IAC Secretary



# IAC meetings 2024



**17th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts  
Virtual Format February 27-28th 2024.**

**11th IAC Conference of the Parties – Manta, Ecuador  
June 11-14th 2024.**

## CONTACT US

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles  
5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803, USA  
[www.iacseaturtle.org](http://www.iacseaturtle.org)  
Twitter: @IAC\_SeaTurtles

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Find all IAC Bulletin here, <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin.htm>