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turtles and their  
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## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC's Consultative Committee of Experts

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC's Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) was held via videoconference on March 18 and 19, 2015. This is the second time this technology has been used with the aim of increasing participation and significantly reducing of travel costs for member countries. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Netherlands Caribbean, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and the United States), two representatives of the NGO sector, a delegate of the productive sector, and an accredited observer.

The following summarizes the points discussed:

- Recommendations to the IAC's Conference of the Parties were made on the draft of the Resolutions:
  - of the Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting of olive ridley eggs in Costa Rica
  - on the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback.
- The 2015-2016 CCE Work Plan was updated.
- Modifications to the IAC's Annual Report in the section on the Compliance of the IAC's Resolutions were approved in order to obtain more precise and relevant information to monitor the implementation of the Convention by member countries.
- Delegates were informed about the start of negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), as well as a collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Commission.

We thank the US Department of State for making available the facilities where the videoconference was held and Mr. Paul Hoetjes, CCE Chair, for his leadership in preparing the documents that will be discussed at the next Conference of the Parties (COP7).



Participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC's Consultative Committee of Experts on the videoconference © IAC

## **IAC's Scientific Committee Chair participates in the workshop of the Sustainable Oceans Initiative for the Convention on Biological Diversity in Peru**

Within the framework of the Sustainable Oceans Initiative, an initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a workshop was held from 23-27 February of 2015 in Lima for capacity building for South America on material related to the management of coastal marine areas and marine spatial planning. Dr. Diego Albareda, IAC's Scientific Committee Chair, was invited to give a presentation along with other regional organizations. The IAC participation promoted the activities that the IAC's Scientific Committee is implementing, and facilitated the identification of topics of common interest for both conventions.

The objective of the workshop was to share regional experiences in: (i) Integrated management of marine and coastal areas towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 and 11, and (ii) scientific and technical tools to support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, such as the description of ecological or biologically significant marine areas. The workshop also provided an opportunity for information exchange and peer learning relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the region, thus addressing the need for capacity building at regional and national level to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



CBD workshop participants in Lima, 2015 © CBD

## **Sea Turtle Necropsy Techniques and Stranding Research Workshop in Argentina**

The sea turtle stranding monitoring project carried out by Fundación Mundo Marino, the Buenos Aires Zoo and the Asociación Naturalistas Gesellinos, hosted a series of activities between 14 and 18 of April in San Clemente del Tuyú (Buenos Aires, Argentina) to improve and increase the diagnostic capacity in order to identify the causes of death affecting sea turtles that have been found along the country's coast. The event had the support of the Houston Zoo and the Veterinary Medicine School of the University of California Davis, as well as the technical advice of veterinarians Dr. Joe Flanagan (Houston Zoo) and Dr. Brian Stacy (NOAA), specialists in sea turtle rehabilitation and marine pathology, respectively.

Among the activities was a tour of the beach in the coastal area north of Buenos Aires, where autopsies were performed on leatherback, loggerhead and green turtles. They also visited the fishing ports of San Clemente del Tuyú and General Lavalle. Finally, in the facilities of the Fundación Mundo Marino, the specialists gave a workshop on stranding research, necropsy techniques and rehabilitation of sea turtles.

The workshop was attended by park rangers of the Direction of Protected Areas of the Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development (OPDS), professionals of the OPDS' Marine Wildlife Rescue Network and the Buenos Aires Fisheries Direction, as well as sea turtle specialists from the different institutions that are part of the Regional Program for Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Argentina (PRICTMA) and Karumbé in Uruguay.



Activities from the workshop on sea turtle necropsy techniques and stranding research, San Clemente del Tuyú, 2015 © S. Rodriguez - Fundación Mundo Marino - PRICTMA

## The IAC's Secretariat *Pro Tempore* participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation in Turkey

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation took place in Dalaman, Turkey from 18 to 24 of April and brought together more than 700 participants devoted to the study of marine turtles around the globe. Sea turtles play a historically significant role in Turkish culture. Turkey is a "bridge" country linking Europe, Asia and Africa, thus the theme of the symposium was "hospitality" to reflect this fact, and sea turtle researchers from around the world were received with open arms.

The second day of the symposium was dedicated to regional meetings, including the Latin America Sea Turtle Specialists Meeting (RETOMALA) number 21, which emphasized research and monitoring in sea turtle feeding and aggregation grounds and was titled "*You are what you eat: What can the foraging areas tell us on sea turtle ecology and distribution patterns?*"

The opening remarks were given by Dr. Yakup Kaska, President of the International Sea Turtle Society, and the opening keynote address was presented by Dr. Richard Reina with the theme titled, "*Climate Change and Sea Turtles: What it is, what it isn't and what we need to do about it?*"

During the symposium the IAC's Secretariat *Pro Tempore* held meetings with members of the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the IAC and partners such as WWF to plan a possible participation of the IAC in one of the side events at the next symposium, which will be held in Lima, Peru under the leadership of Dr. Joanna Alfaro from ProDelphinus, an organization that is a sectorial representative of the IAC's Consultative Committee. We congratulate the organizing committee and the International Sea Turtle Society for the successful event in Turkey.



RETOMALA participants in Dalaman, Turkey 2015 © A. Fallabrino



## Upcoming Events

The 7<sup>th</sup> IAC Conference of the Parties (COP7) will be held from 24 to 26 of June 2015 in Mexico City. For more information visit our website under the Conference of the Parties' tab: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/defaulteng.htm>

## Recent Publications

### **Concept Note on the Importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles**

This document, co-published by the Sargasso Sea Commission and the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, contains information on the importance of the Sargasso Sea for sea turtles. The concept note highlights that the migratory capacity of the sea turtles throughout their life cycle provides a good example of connectivity between the Sargasso Sea and other areas in the Caribbean and South America. We thank the contributors who provided key information for the realization of this document.

The document can be downloaded in PDF format from our website under the Publications' tab:  
<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/defaulteng.htm>

### **Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica, an important foraging ground for the Pacific hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)**

Didiher Chacon-Chaverri, David A. Martinez-Cascante, David Rojas and Luis Fonseca

Journal of Tropical Biology Vol.63 (Suppl. 1): 351-362, April 2015

### **Catch per unit effort and population structure of Pacific green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica**

Didiher Chacon-Chaverri, David A. Martinez-Cascante, David Rojas and Luis Fonseca

Journal of Tropical Biology Vol.63 (Suppl. 1): 363-373, April 2015

### **Debris ingestion by juvenile marine turtles: An underestimated problem**

Robson Santos Guimarães, Ryan Andrades, Marcilio Altoé Boldrini, and Agnaldo Silva Martins

Marine Pollution Bulletin

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2015.02.022>