

# NEWS

## BULLETIN NO. 34



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

JANUARY—MARCH, 2019

### Twelfth Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

Delegations from eleven IAC countries (40 participants) met on February 13, 2019, for the 12th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE12). The meeting was held via videoconference from the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* office at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia. The delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States, as well as representatives from



the CCE Scientific, Industry and Non-Governmental Organizations Sectors discussed the recommendations and resolution proposals to present at the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP9) in June this year.

The delegates discussed the concern of the Convention on the current status of the Southeastern Pacific Green Turtle and the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle populations. For Green Turtles, it was decided to present recommendations on conservation actions to COP9 and carry out in-depth research on the causes of the nesting decline in Galapagos and Costa Rica. A Resolution with guidelines for the effective protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherbacks will be presented to COP9, considering that several countries within the range of these regional management unit are critical for their nesting beaches, but they are not IAC members (i.e. Canada, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname and Guianas) and is essential to promote a collaboration with them.

The recommendations adopted by the Consultative Committee to present to COP included a proposal to amend the 2007 Resolution on Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the IAC, a draft Resolution on the Procedures to Access, Use and Request data compiled by the IAC, and the presentation of a model developed by the LaudOPO network on the population of East Pacific leatherbacks conservation projections. The Committee also agreed to present the proposal to implement an online reporting system for the IAC annual reports, which will improve the exchange of information within the Convention.

#### In this number

- CCE12 Meeting
- International Sea Turtle Symposium
- RETOMALA XXV
- LaudOPO Workshop



# INTERNATIONAL SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM, 2019

Charleston, South Carolina, USA

Image: International Sea Turtle Society

## IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* attends the International Sea Turtle Symposium 2019

Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, participated at the 39th International Sea Turtle Symposium in Charleston, South Carolina (USA) on February 1-3. More than 1000 participants from 80 countries attended the symposium. This year's theme was "Navigating the Future" involving the current and future challenges and inviting to envision the conservation challenges before they come across, and to become familiar with the new frontiers on sea turtle biology while paying tribute to nature by guiding the way towards a positive future for sea turtles and humanity. During the special sessions there were presentations on sea turtle genetics; using science to inform conservation policy; navigation, migration and natal homing, and the future of sea turtle conservation.



As every year, the International Symposium was an important venue to meet researchers from the region and members of the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees attending this event. It allowed for sharing new information and progress on research that keeps the Convention updated, and provides an opportunity to nurture new collaborations and to strengthen those that already exist.



Source: RETOMALA — Sea Turtle Latin America Experts

## 25th Meeting of Sea Turtle Specialists from Latin America - RETOMALA

Within the framework of the 39th International Sea Turtle Symposium, Sea Turtle Specialist from Latin America met in Charleston, South Carolina (USA) on February 4, 2019. Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, attended the meeting that this year focused on the genus *Lepidochelys* and the species *L. kempii* and *L. olivacea* which have been listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as critically endangered and vulnerable, respectively.

The topics discussed included the Global initiative to include males in conservation strategies and the Law Enforcement Capacity Index for sea turtles of this genus in Latin America.

The themes regarding *L. kempii* involved research on genetics in Rancho Nuevo, and health assessment of sea turtles arriving at this beach, as well as issues such as oil spills and mortality by plastic bags and fishing nets.

The status of *L. olivacea* in IAC countries such as Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela was presented including new records in Uruguay and status in other countries such as Colombia. Several presentations focused on *arribada* beaches in Ostional Costa Rica, including their discovery, sea turtle behavior during this event, and data collection methods.

The meeting closed with the presentation on the status of Hawksbill traffic in Latin America, a topic of regional importance that this group follows up on every year.

## Sixth Meeting of the East Pacific Leatherback Network (LaudOPO)

The Sixth meeting of the East Pacific Leatherback Network –Laud OPO- was held on February 3<sup>th</sup>, 2019 within the framework of the International Sea Turtle Symposium at Charleston, South Carolina.

The LaudOPO network was formed to strengthen and coordinate the efforts to recover the East Pacific leatherback turtle population, one of the most endangered in the world. The meeting included presentations from members of the network working in Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Chile, the United States and Uruguay, who shared regional progress, analysis of nesting and bycatch data, and activities towards establishing regional priorities for research and conservation.

The Secretary *Pro Tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Ms. Veronica Caceres, participated in the meeting as a member of the LaudOPO network which work is related to the IAC Resolution for the Conservation of the East Pacific Leatherback CIT-COP7-2015-R2. LaudOPO activities are linked to the implementation of this Resolution by the IAC Parties.

## Contact Us

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**Taller de la Red de Conservación Laúd OPO**  
Simposio Internacional sobre Tortugas Marinas (ISTS)  
Charleston, SC, EEUU | 3 febrero del 2019

