

IAC INFORMATIVE BULLETIN

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



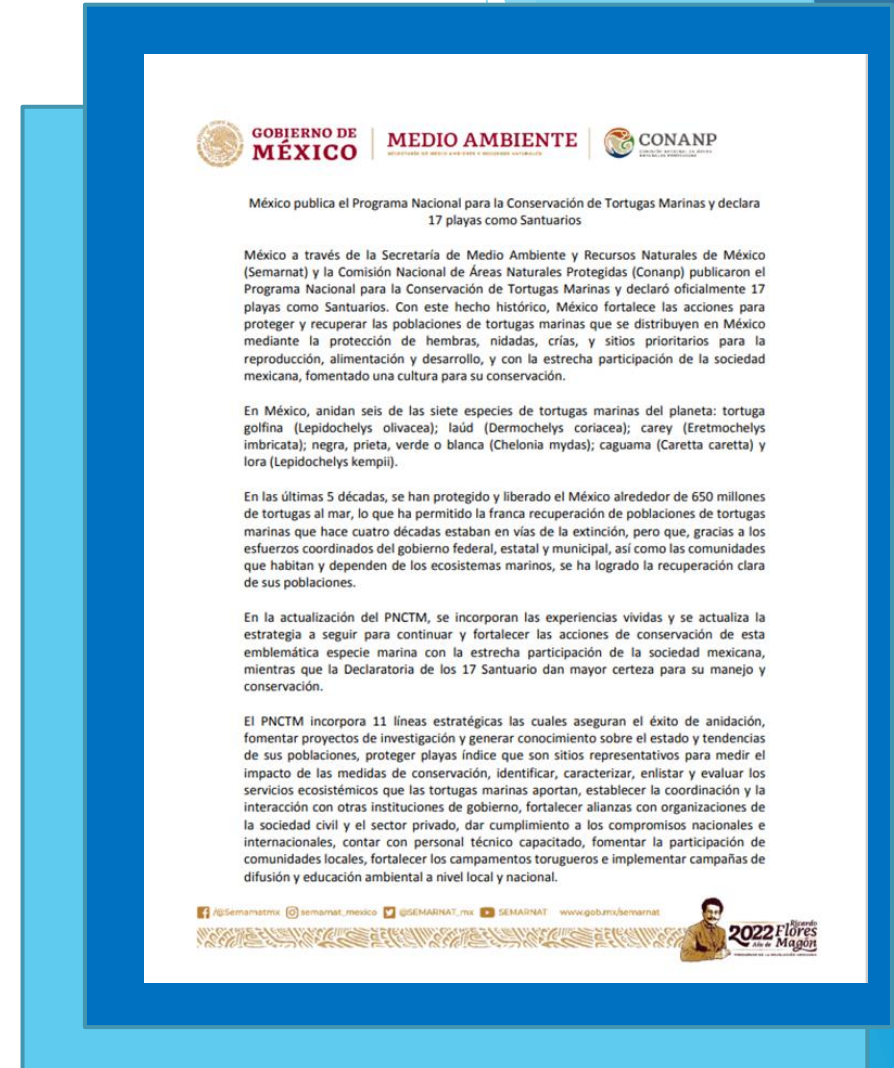
Mexico announces the National Program for the Conservation of Sea Turtles and declares 17 beaches as Sanctuaries

- ▶ The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (Semarnat) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Conanp), issued the National Program for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PNCTM) and declared 17 beaches as Sanctuaries. With this Mexico strengthens actions to protect and recover the populations of sea turtles in Mexico by the protection of females, clutches, hatchlings, and priority sites for reproduction, feeding and development, and with the participation of the society.
- ▶ Mexico has nesting habitat for six of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet: olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*); leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*); hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); black, brown, green or white (*Chelonia mydas*); loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*).
- ▶ In the last 5 decades, around 650 million sea turtle hatchlings have been protected and released to the sea in Mexico, this has supported the recovery of sea turtle populations that four decades ago were on the verge of extinction, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the federal, state and municipal governments, as well as the coastal communities that depend on marine ecosystems.



Photo credits: Concurso de Fotografía de la 7ª Reunión Nacional de Tortugas Marinas -México Facebook Foto #027 | Legado, por Isa Khalil Pablo Flores

- ▶ The updated PNCTM, includes life experiences and the strategy to follow up was updated to continue and strengthen the conservation actions for this emblematic marine species with the close participation of Mexican society, while the declaration of the 17 Sanctuaries provides greater confidence for their management and conservation.
- ▶ The PNCTM contains 11 strategic lines to support nesting success, promote research projects to enhance knowledge about the status and trends of sea turtle populations, protect index beaches that are representative sites to measure the impact of conservation measures, identify, characterize, list and evaluate the ecosystem services that sea turtles provide, establish coordination and interaction with other government institutions, strengthen alliances with civil society organizations and the private sector, comply with national and international commitments, provides trained technicians, encourage the participation of local communities, strengthen sea turtle camps and implement environmental education campaigns at the local and national level. With these actions, the Government of Mexico reinforces its commitment to the conservation of sea turtles and complies with national and international agreements.



The summary for IAC provided by the Chair of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts Dr. José Eduardo Ponce G./ CONANP

Costa Rica and Panama Binational Sea Turtle In Water Monitoring Workshop in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

- ▶ From July 6th to 13th, 2023, the Training Workshop for Monitoring Sea Turtles in Water was held; in Playa Blanca, Osa Peninsula, Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica.
- ▶ The purpose of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of technicians and volunteers who carry out in-water monitoring of sea turtles, in critical areas for sea turtle foraging, development and resting in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica.
- ▶ Additionally, the specific objectives focused on generating and strengthening technical capacities of the actors involved: individuals, volunteers and technical team for monitoring in water, with the methodology that is used in Panama for its in-water monitoring, by knowledge exchange in the community, present the experiences and results obtained during 9 years of in-water monitoring of sea turtles (Green-hawksbill), carried out in the Coiba National Park and the Pearl Archipelago Panama and discuss advantages and disadvantages of the different methodologies to do in water monitoring : Projects from Latin American Sea Turtle (LAST) carried out in Costa Rica and Results from the Research and in- water monitoring Project of the sea turtle population in Golfo Dulce.

Photo credit: MSc. Didiher Chacon

Upper: Technician and volunteers from Panama and Costa Rica at the workshop

Down: Weighting and measuring hawksbill turtle.



Photo credits: Facebook-MSc. Didiher Chacón

Costa Rica and Panama Binational Sea Turtle In Water Monitoring Workshop in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

- ▶ After a series of presentations, field practices were carried out in several selected sites in the Golfo Dulce, with successful results in the captures of 10 hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).
- ▶ It was a very interesting experience, where it was possible to share the works related to the in water monitoring of sea turtles, both in Panama and Costa Rica. On behalf of Panama participated biologists Wilfredo Poveda, Bernardo Peña and Marino Eugenio Abrego; and for Costa Rica, technicians and Volunteers of the Playa Blanca Sea Turtle Monitoring Project, Biologist Eduardo Altamirano, the Volunteers: Melvin Caballero, Emmanuel Vindas and Missael Vargas, under the coordination of the specialist MSc Didiher Chacón Chaverri.
- ▶ News by: MSc. Marino Ábrego and photos from MSc. Didiher Chacón (facebook)



Upper corner: Panama and Costa Rica team after a successful monitoring night.

Down left: Night monitoring and capture at Golfo Dulce.

Center down: Biologist Marino Ábrego and volunteers measuring a hawksbill turtle during a night field monitoring



IAC Secretary keynote speaker at the 7th National Meeting on the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Mexico

- ▶ On October 17th, the IAC Secretary, MSc. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, attended as keynote speaker at the 7th National Meeting on the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Mexico under the theme "Communities, the presentation was titled: "IAC, coalition of countries for regional protection of sea turtles and experiences promoting international collaboration" The National Meeting was held from October 17 to 20th , 2023, in Playa del Carmen Quintana Roo, at the SAYAB planetarium. The invitation to the IAC was issued by the organizer of the event, the State Committee for the Protection, Investigation , Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Quintana Roo.



Photo credits IAC Secretary: Plenary at the 7th National Meeting on the Conservation of sea turtles

7^a Reunión Nacional 2023
Tortugas Marinas en México

17 de Octubre

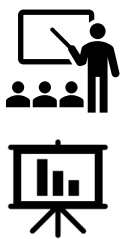
"Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas marinas - CIT Unión de Países para la Protección Regional de Las Tortugas Marinas y las Experiencias Promoviendo la Colaboración Internacional"

MSc. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro

Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas (CIT)

www.reunionnacional.com

Image credits: [Facebook-Reunión Nacional de Tortugas Marinas México](https://www.facebook.com/ReunionNacionaldeTortugasMarinasMexico)



- ▶ The meeting was attended by around 200 people representing the government, academic, non-governmental, fishing, scientific community and coastal communities' sectors, among others. The meeting had 4 keynote presentations, 56 oral presentations, 4 workshops and 52 posters of scientific works.
- ▶ During the meeting there was a cultural exchange, presentation of "Cine Tortuguero" with the exhibition of 10 audiovisual projects, a photography contest and the nomination of "Outstanding Tortugueros" activity that seeks to support and celebrate the vital role that communities play in protecting sea turtles.



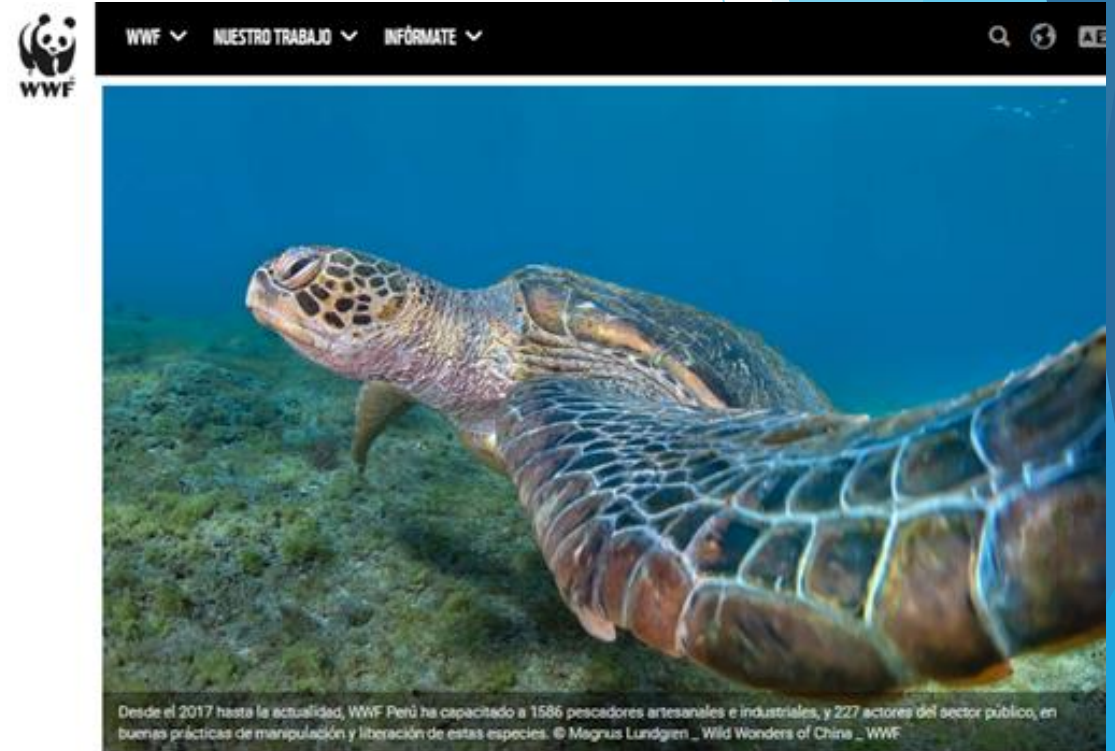
Photo credits IAC Secretary
Left: Posters' session

Upper Right: IAC Colleagues delegation from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee
Down Right: Presenters from the Project Carey Isla de Ixtapa y Vive Mar

RECOGNITION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN GOOD PRACTICES FOR SEA TURTLES

Mitigation of sea turtle bycatch: Progress and challenges

- ▶ The IAC shares and highlights the efforts made by our Member Countries to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles. This time we share the experience from Peru, that thanks to the efforts of WWF Peru with capacity development for fisherman (artisanal and industrial) and stakeholders from public sector regarding sea turtle safe handling and release practices, they are making a difference.
- ▶ More details here: <https://www.wwf.org.pe/informate/noticias/?uNewsID=384554>



News by: Nina Pardo- IAC Consultative Committee member. Image credits: images from the news website



The 7th National Meeting on Marine Turtle Conservation highlights the work and effort of Tortugueros

- ▶ Last October, Quintana Roo, hosted the 7th National Meeting on Sea Turtle Conservation in Mexico, seeking to bring together sea turtle specialists from Mexico to share knowledge about the conservation status of this emblematic species.
- ▶ One of the activities that we want to highlight is the Nomination of the Outstanding Tortuguero, this activity expresses gratitude and celebrates the enormous effort made by men and women from the coastal communities in Mexico. On this occasion, 15 individuals were nominated for this recognition. Wonderful people who, contributing with their work in sea turtle camps and with other partners, dedicate their time and effort to the promotion of environmental education and care of sea turtles.
- ▶ Access this link and read each of the amazing stories of these men and women who are making a difference here <https://reunionnacional.odoo.com/tortugueros-nominados>

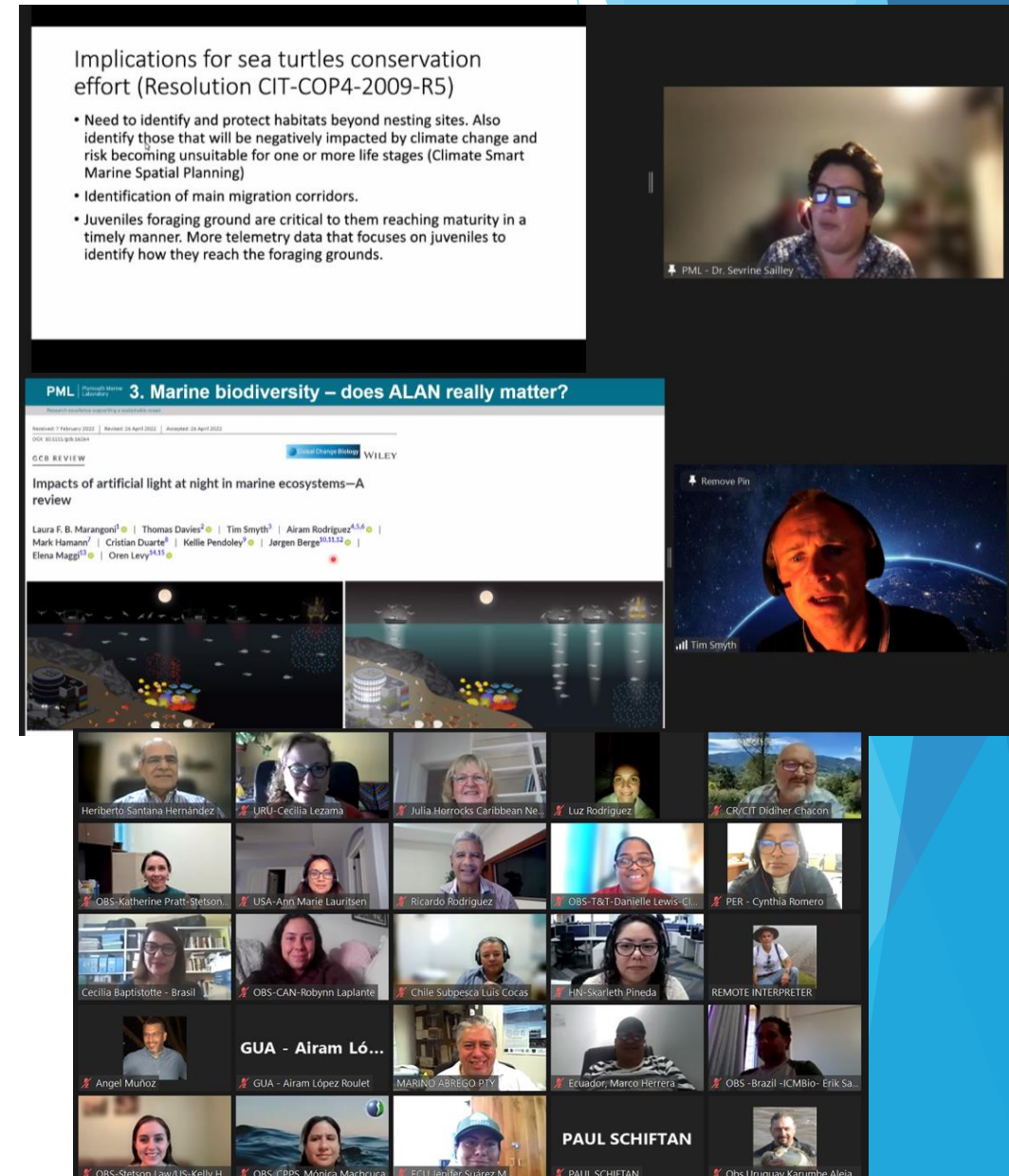


20th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee

- ▶ The Twentieth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC20) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) was convened in two sessions: Part I on October 12th, 2023 and Part II on the 26th and 27th of October, 2023 through videoconference mode.
- ▶ The meetings were chaired by the Vice President, Dr. Heriberto Santana, SC20 Part I included the participation of delegates from 15 IAC Countries, the participation of Observers from the Governments of Canada, France and Trinidad and Tobago; as well as representatives of the SPAW Protocol, CPPS and observers accredited to the IAC from civil society organizations such as: Stetson University College of Law, Karumbé, AIDA, Just Sea and SeaLife Law for a total of 53 participants.
- ▶ On the first part of the meeting, a report on the implementation of the Work Plan was presented and the Work Plan for the period 2023-2024 was adopted; the SC 20 adopted the technical document “IAC Nesting beach data analysis 2009-2023” prepared by the delegate of the United States Dr. Jeffrey A. Seminoff, with the collaboration of Biologist Haydeé Medina, assistant to the IAC Secretariat.
- ▶ The first part of the meeting closed with the participation of researchers from the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK, Dr. Seyrine Sailley and Dr. Tim Smyth, with two presentations titled: “Modelling the impacts of climate change on Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles’ distribution in the Mediterranean Sea” and “Global Atlas of Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) under the Sea.”

Photo credits IAC Secretary

Dr. Tim Smyth and Dr. Seyrine Sailley from Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK
Delegates, Observers from IAC Non-Party countries and Observers accredited from International Organizations
SC20 meeting-Part I- October 12th, 2023



- ▶ For the second part of the SC20 Meeting, the SC20 adopted the document Status of the Loggerhead Turtle prepared by the delegate of Belize, MSc. Kirah Foreman and Dr. Jeffrey A. Seminoff. There were also two presentations by the delegates from Chile, Eng. Luis Cocas and Costa Rica-MSc. Didier Chacón about scientific research in their countries, which enriched the discussion on the Electronic Monitoring System and Nesting Sites for green and hawksbill turtles in the Golfo Dulce of Costa Rica.
- ▶ Finally, the working groups of Exceptions, Climate Change, IAC-ACAP, Collisions with vessels, Fisheries Subgroup on the Good Practices Manual presented reports on progress and updates on their activities, proposals and recommendations.
- ▶ We thank everyone for their participation and we hope to see you next year at SC21 2024.



CAPTURA INCIDENTAL

AUTOR	ARTE DE PESCA	TORTUGAS
Pierre et al. 2018	palangre pelágico, redes de enmalle y arrastre	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
Bartholomew et al. 2019	red de enmalle	50% de las especies
Moncrief-Cox et al. 2020	red de arrastre	tortugas > 1 kg

The slide also includes a turtle icon, thumbs up/down icons, and a video inset showing a person in a boat with a net containing a turtle, circled in yellow.

Some outstanding results

Discard levels in trawl fisheries have been reduced to levels well below world averages for trawl fisheries (FAO, 200)

Fleet < 400 HP: Total discards	= 1,79%
Hake discards	= 0,5%
Fleet > 1000 HP: Total discards	= 0,47%
Hake discards	= 0,13%

Source: IFOP, 2013-2020

Discard levels in world fisheries Kelleher, 2005. ● Trawl

Arrastre camarones	62,3%
Anzuelo atunes	28,5%
Diapas	28,3%
Trampas	23,2%
Arrastre fondo peces	9,6%
Palangre demersal	7,5%
Cercos atún	5,1%
Arrastre de media agua	3,4%
Línea de mano	2%
Cercos pequeños pelágicos	1,7%
Enmalle	0,5%
Recogida manual	0,1%

Photo credits by IAC Secretary
 Dr- Victoria González-Carman-Delegate from Argentina presenting IAC-ACAP WG report.
 Ing. Luis Cocas-Delegate from Chile presenting Electronic Monitoring Systems. Scientific Committee delegates attending SC20 Meeting Part II- October, 27th 2023



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