



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
Second Conference of the Parties
November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Vjanzuela

First Annual Report Form [Translation]

Directory

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Focal Point

Institution: Secretary of Foreign Relations

Name: RODOLFO GODINEZ ROSALES

Signature:

Date: June 30th, 2005

1. Biological Information

1.1. Species present

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
	Phase(s)	Phase(s)	Phase(s)
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	R,F,M		
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>		R,F,M	D
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	R,M	R,M	R,M
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	R,F,M	R,F,M	R,F,M
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	R,F,M	R,F,M	R,F,M
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	F,M	R,F,M	R,F,M

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

Nesting Site: The beaches listed below are considered priorities due to the number of nests recorded for the different species and their role in protection activities.

Name of Site	Spp	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations* (see comment below)	Source
Aventuras DIF Qroo.	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	20° 22' 05" y 20° 21' 49" N 87° 19' 57" y 87° 19' 57" W	15 Km	No	Nests - 138; Eggs - 16,417; Hatchlings - 14,055 Nests - 147; Eggs - 17,313; Hatchlings - 14,341	*1
Xcacel-Xcacelito, Qroo.	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	20° 17' 30" y 20° 21' N 87° 21' 30" y 87° 26' W	3.5 Km	State Reserve	Nests - 423; Eggs - 30,246; Hatchlings - 13,952 Nests - 173; Eggs - 20,856; Hatchlings - 15,133	*1
Lechuguillas, Ver.	Lk Cm	mar-aug jun-oct	20° 00' 53.7" N 96° 35' 07.7" W	17 Km	No	Nests - 92; Eggs - 8,262; Hatchlings - 6,961 Nests - 423; Eggs - 30,246; Hatchlings - 13,952	*1
El Cuyo, Yuc.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	21° 29' y 21° 32' 45" N 87° 29' 30" y 87° 48' W	31 Km	Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve	Nests - 217; Eggs - 38,517; Hatchlings - 25,036 Nests - 176; Eggs - 27,630; Hatchlings - 13,678	*1



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Punta sur, Q. Roo.	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	20° 17' 57.5" y 20° 17' 25.6" N 87° 00' 43.3" y 86° 57' 39.4" W	8 Km	Flora and Fauna State Refuge "Laguna Colombia"	Nests - 127; Eggs - 16,256; Hatchlings - 11,767 Nests - 55; Eggs - 7,040; Hatchlings - 5,096	*1
Isla Aguada, Cam.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	18° 57' y 18° 47' N 91° 18' y 91° 28' W	27.7 Km	Flora and Fauna Protected Area "Laguna de Términos"	Nests - 246; Eggs - 27,942; Hatchlings - 11,331 Nests - 131; Eggs - 18,343; Hatchlings - 8,438	*1
Punta Xen, Cam.	Ei	apr-sept	19° 30' y 19° 13' 30" N 90° 45' y 90° 50' 36" W	30 Km	No	Nests - 268; Eggs - 38,644; Hatchlings - 25,593	*1
Las Coloradas , Yuc.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	21° 36' 40" y 21° 32' 30" N 88° 10' 00" y 87° 47' 30" W	21.5 Km	Special Reserve of the "Ría Lagartos" Biosphere	Nests - 293; Eggs - 44,536; Hatchlings - 36,965 Nests - 396; Eggs - 43,560; Hatchlings - 36,155	*1
Chenkan, Cam.	Ei	apr-sept	19° 13' 30" y 19° 04' 12" N 90° 50' 36" y 91° 13' 05" W	20 Km.	No	Nests - 306; Eggs - 42,075; Hatchlings - 36,032	*1
Ixtapilla, Mich.	Lo	jun-jan	18° 24.996' N 103° 32.093' W	5 Km.	No	Nests - 46,000; Eggs - 4,600,000; Hatchlings - 2,418,840	*1
La Escobilla, Oax.	Lo	jun-jan	15° 43' 35" y 15° 40' 50" N 96° 45' 46" y 96° 37' 02" W	8.9 Km.	Sanctuary "La Escobilla"	Nests - 928,219; Eggs - 92,821,900; Hatchlings - 23,346,570	*1
Morro Ayuta, Oax.	Lo	jun-jan	15° 52' 23" y 15° 54' 20" N 95° 46' 36" y 95° 42' 42" W	8.3 Km.	Sanctuary "Morro Ayuta"	Nests - 235,896; Eggs - 23,728,791; Hatchlings - 10,183,143	*1
Barra de la Cruz, Oax.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	15° 49.322' y 15° 50.345' N 95° 58.019' y 95° 53.385' W	8.6 Km.	No	Nests - 163; Eggs - 15,969; Hatchlings - 7,324 Nests - 23; Eggs - 1,288 Hatchlings - 328	*1
Cahuitán, Oax.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	16° 18' 42" y 16° 16' 58" N 98° 32' 64" y 98° 27' 48" W	12 Km.	No	Nests - 430; Eggs - 40,286; Hatchlings - 24,393 Nests - 21; Eggs - 1,462 Hatchlings - 110	*1
Chacahua , Oax.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	15° 58' 45" y 15° 57' 55" N 97° 46' 41" y 97° 34' 05" W	23.22 Km.	Chacahua Lagoons	Nests - 1,757; Eggs - 164,033; Hatchlings - 71,311 Nests - 13; Eggs - 797 Hatchlings - nd	*1
Mexiquillo , Mich.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	18° 10' 25" y 18° 05' 34" N 102° 58' 25" y 102° 48' 31" W	19.6 Km.	Mexiquillo Sanctuary	Nests - 341; Eggs - 32,074; Hatchlings - 20,066 Nests - 28; Eggs - 1,929 Hatchlings - 589	*1
Tierra Colorada, Gro.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	16° 30' 03" y 16° 19' 36" N 98° 43' 40" y 98° 34' 05" W	25.8 Km.	Tierra Colorada Sanctuary	Nests - 384; Eggs - 35,232; Hatchlings - 23,511 Nests - 50; Eggs - 2,721 Hatchlings - 715	*1
Rancho Nuevo, Tamps.	Lk Cm	mar-aug jul-oct	23° 19' 58.6" y 23° 03' 30.1" N 97° 46' 13.5" y 97° 45' 42.2" W	22 Km	Rancho Nuevo Sanctuary	Nests - 4,406; Eggs - 410,066 Hatchlings - 325,408 Nests - 71; Eggs - 7,765 Hatchlings - 2,356	*1



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Colola, Mich.	Cm Lo	sept-jan jun-jan	18° 18.153' N 103° 25.481' W	4.8 Km	Colola Sanctuary	Nests - 1,179; Eggs - 88,232 Hatchlings - 12,720 Nests - 511; Eggs -43,149 Hatchlings - 12,337	*1
Maruata, Mich.	Cm Lo	sept-jan jun-jan	18° 16.304' N 103° 20.503' W	4.8 Km	Maruata Sanctuary	Nests - 66; Eggs - 4,593 Hatchlings – 258 Nests - 368; Eggs -33,570 Hatchlings - 6,539	*1

Note: The total nests are given by beach for each species for the last nesting season (2004-2005), thus the species of the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea (kemp's ridley, green, loggerhead, hawksbill) include March 04 to April 05, while the species of the Pacific (leatherback, olive ridley and black turtle) include June 04 to April 05. It is important to mention that some camps still have a few nests left to hatch and therefore, although they are missing some hatchlings and need to adjust the data accordingly, this will be done when writing the final report. On a separate page, an electronic file including the 2004 national fisheries letter is attached that contains information on historical trends up to 2003.

Foraging Site

Name of Site	Specie (s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Waters adjacent to the California Peninsula:						
In front of the coast of Southern Baja California	Cc		28°40 N, 114°14 W			3,7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
Bahía de los Ángeles, BCN	Cm		28.9686° N 113.53351° W			4, 6, 8
Canal de Infiernillo, Son.	Cm		29.00730° N 112.18281° W			5
Bahía de Loreto, BCS	Cm		26.02392° N 111.32195° W		Marine Park	6, 8
Bahía Concepción-Mulege, BCS	Cm		27.00267° N 111.95494° W			6, 8
Laguna Ojo de Liebre, BC	Cm, Ei		27.68303° N 114.12368° W		Biosphere Reserve El Vizcaíno	6, 8, 12
Laguna San Ignacio, BCS	Cm, Ei		27.78887° N 114.23765° W			6, 8, 12
Bahía Magdalena-Almejas	Cm, Ei		24.59167° N 111.97701° W			6, 8, 9, 12
Pacific Coast, Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oax.	Lo		16.1515° N 94.51298 W			Looking for bibliographic references
Coast of Yucatán and Quintana Roo	Ei, Cm, Cc		22.18311° N 88.84683° W		Coral Reef Biosphere Reserves: Sian'Kaán and Banco Chinchorro, Rá Celestún and rá Lagartos, National Parks: Coral reefs of Cozumel and Puerto Morelos, Western coast of Isla Mujeres and Puerto Morelos, Punta Cancún, Punta Nizuc, Isla Contoy, Tulum, Coral Reefs of Xcalak and Alacranes Reef.	Looking for bibliographic references

* The numbers correspond to the literature included in the sources of information section.



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Migratory Routes

Name of Site	Specie(s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Dc		Once female leatherbacks have finished laying (on average 5 times, maximum up to 13) they head South, arriving in Chilean waters, according to the data published by Eckert and Sarti, 1997			19
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Lo		Olive ridley turtles nest in abundance along the entire Pacific coast of Mexico, however there are three beaches of global importance due to the massive nesting that occurs. These beaches are: La Escobilla and Morro Ayuta in the State of Oaxaca. Olive ridleys shown movements along the entire coast of the western Pacific			17
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Cm		The black turtles that nest in Michoacán, head towards the Gulf of California, moving between 1,211 Km to 2,027 km. Inside the Gulf of California, the turtles move throughout the Gulf. The black turtles of Revillagigedo move between the Archipiélago islands and the San Diego bay in CA. (LS: pers. com. Dutton, unpublished data.)		The Archipiélago Revillagigedo is a Biosphere Reserve.	6
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Cc		28° 40 N, 114° 14 W	Loggerhead turtles that hatch in Japan mainly travel towards the western coast of the Baja California Peninsula, covering a total of approximately 11,500 km.		7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
Atlantic (Gulf of Mexico) and Caribbean Sea	Cm		Two turtles tagged at Isla Mujeres, Q. Roo, one male and one female, left there and headed towards the coast of Florida, traveling along the coast between the States of Yucatán, Campeche and then crossing the Gulf of Mexico, each sex, however, displayed distinct behaviors.			18
Caribbean Sea	Ei		Hawksbill movements are observed along the Yucatán Peninsula, between the states that comprise it		In the region there are some natural protected areas such as Contoy Island and Ría Lagartos among others (see above)	Looking for bibliographic references

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2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

Consumptive Use

Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Informati on Source	Actions
				L	I			
Domestic/ commercial	Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo, Lk, Dc	Eggs, meat	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	nd (eggs are most desired; however, with inspection, patrolling and protection activities, the number of eggs poached has been reduced to less than 20% at the majority of the beaches, specifically on priority beaches). Eggs as well as meat are for local consumption.		Operatives are carried out by the Mexican Navy and PROFEPA inspectors by performing nightly nesting beach patrols, arresting all individuals on the beach with eggs or any other sea turtle product in their possession. Additionally, they set up road blocks, during which all vehicles are revised.
Commercial / artisanal	Ei	carapace	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	Nd		
medicinal	Dc, Lo	blood, oil	Pacific		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	nd (less than 10 animals per season on some beaches)	Personal observatio ns LS	
scientific	Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo, Lk, Dc	skins, eggs, embryos, etcetera	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Requires permit explicitly for the scientific collection issued by DGVS of SEMARNAT at the same time justifying the research objectives		varies. Normally they are adjusted to use minimum sample sizes as specified in the research protocol.		Applicants are required to fill out an application and have a research protocol endorsed by a research institution. Anyone who collects for scientific purpose and does not have permission to do so faces legal sanctions. Based on NOM-126.



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cultural	Cm-Pacific	meat	Pacific	Requires permit explicitly for their capture		4 turtles in the community of Seri	DGVS	A written request is required, and the minimum number possible is authorized. PROFEPA inspectors are present in order to assure the number and species captured. Based on the Constitution of the United Mexican States, which establishes the obligation of the government to promote uses and customs of the indigenous people.
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Non-Consumptive Use

Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information Source	Actions
				L	I			
Education	Cm, Cc, Lo, Dc, Lk, Ei.		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	If the research Project requires handling animals, it needs to have a permit or be registered		In the majority of the turtle centers, lectures are given to visitors. Within the framework of the National Program, and with the goal of standardizing methods, techniques and terms used, training courses are given. Numerous individuals from local communities currently participate in the Leatherback Project; therefore, two training courses have been given since 2004 and they are now thinking of holding at least 1 every year for the next 5 years.		Summer courses, student groups
Scientific	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Lo, Dc		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	A permit for scientific collection is required even though it does not involve the collection of animals or their parts (live or dead)				tagging, migration, evaluation of nest abundance, management



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Conservation/Protection	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Lo, Dc		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Must be registered by DGVS-SEMARNAT		114 turtle centers are registered with DGVS, and are operated by the federal government, state government and private institutions.	DGVS-SEMARNAT	Protect females, their eggs and hatchlings
Tourism	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Dc, Lo		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Must be registered by DGVS-SEMARNAT		The majority of the turtle centers receive tourists and volunteers that participate in protection activities.		Guided visits, hatchling release, exhibits, aquariums

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Habitat alteration (alteration of coral reefs).	Cm, Cc, Ei	moderate	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulum Quintana Roo coast	internal	All construction occurring within the coastal zone requires a declaration of environmental impact based on the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (LEGEEPA) and according to the Regulation on environmental impact matters. SEMARNAT dictates mitigation measures concerning such constructions or development.
Habitat alteration (beach erosion from constructing on sand dunes)	Cm, Cc	moderate	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulum Quintana Roo coast	internal	
Costal development (tourism, vehicles on the beach, lights, visitation traffic).	Cm, Cc, Lo, Dc, Lk	moderate	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulum Quintana Roo coast, Gulf of México, Pacific.	internal	
Hurricanes (beach erosion).	Cm, Cc	Low	Coast of México (Pacific, Caribbean and Gulf of México) is exposed every year to hurricane activity, however, they occur infrequently.		
Hydrocarbon contamination (oil spills)	Lk, Cm, Ei	Moderate	Gulf of México, Sonda de Campeche, (Atlantic)	Meeting with those involved and interested in the Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan	
Lights on the beach, vehicle traffic	Lo, Dc	low	Pacific. Incipient. Some beaches are experiencing the beginning of urban development which exposes the nesting beach to light, others, with important tourism development, have resulted in vehicle traffic on beaches.		



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3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

In Mexico, the consumptive use of sea turtles, their products or sub-products, is prohibited by Law. In order to ensure the compliance with the law, the Mexican Navy carries out patrols to detect ships that may be performing illegal activities, or those who may not be using devices adequately for their liberation. PROFEPA inspectors develop similar activities in the presence of the Mexican Navy.

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Predation of eggs and neonates by domestic or wild animals.	Lo	Undetermined	Morro Ayuta and Escobilla in Oaxaca	PROFEPA	Project in conjunction with the Secretary of Health to carry out a sterilization and scarification program for wild dogs.
Egg poaching and killing females on the beaches.	Lo, Dc, Cm	Undetermined	Pacific (focusing specifically on the coast of Oaxaca, mainly on the beaches of Morro Ayuta and Escobilla).	PROFEPA	Carry out inspections, patrols and special operatives to protect the species while nesting. Inspections and patrols are also performed throughout the country in establishments selling fish and seafood in order to detect illegal commercialization.
Longlines and drift nets	Cc, Dc	Undetermined	The leatherback turtle nests along the entire Pacific coast, with priority beaches located between the states of Michoacán, Guerrero and Oaxaca. After finishing their reproductive period, they head south toward Chilean waters. Throughout their path, they encounter numerous fishing boats, mainly those using longlines or drift nets.		Programs using observers to obtain information in order to determine the existence of the problem of incidental capture of sea turtles in longline fishing activities. In organizations such as CICAA and CIAT, of which Mexico is Party to, the application of measures to avoid incidental capture of turtles are being studied.
Trawl nets	Lk, Ei, Cc, Lo, Dc, Cm	Undetermined	Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Pacific		Use of turtle excluder devices enforced by law (decree in 1993 for the Gulf of México and in 1996 for the Pacific)

4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
Convention on Wetlands of International Important especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)	1986
Seven sea turtle nesting beaches are inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention.	Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas November 27th, 2003 Tierra Colorada, Guerrero November 27th, 2003 Mexiquillo, Michoacán. February 2nd, 2004 El Verde, Sinaloa. February 2nd, 2004 Kahultán, Oaxaca. February 2nd, 2004 Chenkan, Campeche. February 2nd, 2004 Xcacel-Xcacelito, Quintana Roo. February 2nd, 2004
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, CITES	1992



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Memorandum of Understanding, Program of Cooperation MexUs-Gulf, MexUs-Pacific	1992
Convention on Biological Diversity	1993
Memorandum of Understanding-Trilateral Committee-México-United States of America-Canada for Wildlife and Ecosystems Conservation and Management	1996
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	1999
Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries FAO, 1995	
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Montego Bay, 1982	1983

4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection	Regulates the preservation and protection of biodiversity.	Fines equivalent of twenty to twenty thousand days of minimum salary, according to the Federal District, Administrative arrest for up to 36 hours, Confiscation and total or permanent closure.
General Wildlife Law	Establishes the criteria that define the species and populations at risk and the sanctions for those who perform acts contrary to their recovery programs and closures.	Written warning, Fine, Temporary suspension of authorizations, licenses or permits, Temporary or permanent closure of the installations, Administrative arrest for up to 36 hours, Confiscation of specimens.
Fisheries Law	The objective is to guarantee the conservation, preservation and reasonable take of fisheries resources and to establish bases for their adequate promotion and the administration of those natural resources whose life cycles depend totally, partially or temporarily, on the water.	1. Revocation of the concession, permit or authorization; confiscation of products and/or fishing gear and/or fined; and, depending on the seriousness of the offence, the installations are temporarily closed and/or the boat or vehicle are confiscated. 2. Revocation of the concession, permit or authorization, permanent closure of the installations and/or fined; 3. Temporary suspension of the rights to the concession, permit or authorization, temporary closure of the installations and/or fined; 4. Confiscation of the products obtained from aquatic flora and fauna and/or the boats or vehicles, fishing gear and/or fined; and 5. Warnings, Confiscation of boats or vehicles, as well as the temporary or permanent closure of their installations.
Penal Code (twenty-fifth title) for the Federal District in Common Matters and for the Entire Republic in Federal Matters	To establish sanctions for those who illegally capture, hurt or deprive of life any chelonian, or collect or commercialize in any way their products or subproducts.	Art. 420. From 1 to 9 years of prison and from 300 to 3,000 days of fines. Additional penalty from 3 years up to one thousand days of additional fines when it affects a natural protected area or it is committed for commercial purposes.
Agreement on closed season (31 st of May, 1990)	Establish a closed season for all species and subspecies of marine turtles in the waters under federal jurisdiction in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, as well as those of the Pacific Ocean, including the Gulf of California.	Confiscation of products obtained and/or boat or vehicle, fishing gear and/or fined.



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<p>Refuge zone decree (29th of October, 1986)</p>	<p>To determine reserves and refuge sites for the protection, conservation, repopulation, development and control, in those areas where the various species of sea turtles go to nest and lay their eggs. In this nature, the eleventh article establishes and makes operative the Centers for Sea Turtle Protection, previously known as turtle camps.</p>	<p>Confiscation of products obtained and/or of the boat or vehicle, fishing gear and/or fined.</p>
<p>Agreement for those areas determined to be natural protected areas, under the category of sanctuary. (16th of July, 2002)</p>	<p>Recategorize those reserves and refuge sites for the protection, conservation, repopulation, development and control of the various species of sea turtles, located in the States of Chiapas, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Yucatán, identified in the public decree the 29th of October, 1986.</p>	<p>Sanctions contemplated in Federal Penal Code</p>
<p>Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993</p>	<p>Organizes the use of the shrimp species found in waters under the federal jurisdiction of the United Mexican States.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revocation of the concession, permit or authorization; confiscation of products and/or fishing gear and/or fined; and, depending on the seriousness of the offence, the installations are temporarily closed and/or the boat or vehicle are confiscated. 2. Revocation of the concession, permit or authorization, permanent closure of the installations and/or fined; 3. Temporary suspension of the rights to the concession, permit or authorization, temporary closure of the installations and/or fined; 4. Confiscation of the products obtained from aquatic flora and fauna and/or the boats or vehicles, fishing gear and/or fined; and 5. Warnings, Confiscation of boats or vehicles, as well as the temporary or permanent closure of their installations.
<p>Modification of the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993 (30th of July, 1997)</p>	<p>Organizes the use of the shrimp species found in waters under the federal jurisdiction of the United Mexican States.</p>	
<p>Official Mexican Emergency Regulation NOM-EM-007-PESC-2004</p>	<p>Technical specifications for the turtle excluder devises used by the fleets of shrimp trawlers in waters under federal jurisdiction of the United Mexican States, from the 14th of September, 2004 and the extension published on the 15th of March of 2005.</p>	<p>Stated in Fisheries Law</p>
<p>"Notice of the establishment of the geographic boundaries of Bahía de La Paz, Southern Baja California, to be used in the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993. (30th of October of 2002)</p>	<p>Organizes the use of the shrimp species found in waters under the federal jurisdiction of the United Mexican States, published the 31st of December, 1993 and its modification published the 30th of July, 1997", which prohibits the use of all types of trawl nests within the Bahía de La Paz, Southern Baja California.</p>	
<p>Official Mexican Regulation NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001 (6th of March, 2002)</p>	<p>Environmental Protection, Native species of wild flora and fauna of Mexico, Risk categories and specifications for their inclusion, exclusion or change – List of threatened species.</p>	<p>Sanctions contemplated in the Federal Penal Code</p>



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Official Mexican Regulation NOM-126-SEMARNAT-2000	Establishes the specifications necessary to collect biological materials of species of wild flora and fauna and other biological resources within national territory for scientific purposes.	Violating the present Official Mexican Regulation is punished in accordance to that laid out in the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection, Fisheries Law and its Regulation, Forestry Law and its Regulation, and other applicable judicial dispositions
Regulation of Environmental Impact	Establishes the guidelines for presenting declarations of environmental impacts	Fine equivalent of twenty to twenty thousand days of minimum salary valid in the state at the moment sanction is imposed. Total, permanent or partial closure and administrative arrest for up to 36 hours.
Prohibits the possession or consumption of eggs, 1927	Instrument that established a period of closure at a national level.	Administrative

4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved.

Currently, there are no legal instruments in the process of being approved.

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
Secretary of Natural Resources and the Environment CONANP. National Commission on Natural Protected Areas PROFEPA. Federal Attorney General of Environmental Protection DGVS. General Wildlife Direction ZOFEMAT. General Direction of the Federal Land Maritime Zone and Coastal Environments	1. Operate National Program for the Protection, Conservation, Research and Management of Sea Turtles (CONANP). 2. Coordinate the 28 Center for Sea Turtle Protection and Conservation in 15 coastal states within the country (CONANP). 3. Regulate the operation of 114 turtle camps manager by non-governmental organizations, universities, groups of fishermen and individuals (DGVS). 4. Carry out inspection and patrolling operations (PROFEPA). 5. Regulate the use of the federal land maritime zone of nesting beaches (ZOFEMAT).
Navy Secretary	Assist in carrying out inspection and patrolling activities on the coasts and nesting beaches.
Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishing and Nourishment CONAPESCA. National Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission INP. National Fisheries Institute	Verify the use of turtle excluder devises.
Attorney General of the Republic	To enforce the application of the law in sea turtle matters.

5. Exceptions

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan): Does not apply. In Mexico, the use or possession of sea turtles is prohibited and there are no programs that allow for their regular extractive use. All other extraction must have justified objectives and a permit *ex professo*.



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6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

The National Sea Turtle Program establishes the measures and policies regarding the management, conservation, protection, use and research of sea turtles in Mexico. Their main objectives are to analyze the population status of the different species that are found throughout our country, embark on current legislation, coordinate the various sectors that participate in protection and conservation activities, and to establish the instruments that will allow for implementation of protection strategies. Additionally, they carry out activities on nesting beaches such as protecting nesting females and their eggs in order to produce the greatest number of hatchlings.

Through the National Fisheries Institute, diverse technological research activities have been carried out on topics ranging from the use of TEDs to longline fishers.

During the first trip, in 2004, they carried out 8 research cruises, 3 cruises experimenting on shrimp vessels in Sinaloa, 2 in Sonora and 3 in Oaxaca, in order to evaluate their productivity and the effectiveness of the new devices.

In the case of the research carried out on longlines, 22 cruises were done between March and December, which studied the coasts of Colima and Michoacán, setting 122 sets with a total of 49,818 hooks.

It is important to note that in 2004, the Federal Government began the Onboard Observers Program in shrimp fisheries. This observer program forms part of the shrimp fishery's Management Plan in the Pacific Ocean and will contribute to our knowledge on the operations of the shrimp fleet, especially data on their capture and fishing efforts.

In 2003, the "National Workshop on the Selective Systems of Shrimp Trawl Fishing, Implications for Fisheries Legislation" was coordinated and held with the objective of identifying new technologies that will increase the selectivity of the shrimp trawl fishing system and can be transferred to the productive sector in both short and medium time periods, and to generate recommendations for the process of fisheries regulations.

As a result of this workshop, recommendations were given on modifications to the systems of shrimp trawl fishing, for the nets as well as for the turtle excluder devices.

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General Objectives	Results Obtained	Duration	
			From	Until
National Program for the Protection, Conservation Research, and Management of Sea Turtles	Dictate the policies and guidelines for the development of sea turtle protection and conservation activities. Protect the nesting areas of the diverse species of sea turtles found throughout Mexico. Encourage the development of specie specific projects. Coordinate the activities being carried out by various actors involved in sea turtle conservation.	Activities along both coasts of the country which protect a great number of females, their eggs and hatchlings. Currently, there are 114 registered centers carrying out these activities. Last year, 1,257,381 nests from the seven species of nesting turtles in our country, were protected.	1991	present



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Consequent Recovery Plan for the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle, <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	To achieve the recovery of the leatherback turtle in the Pacific of Mexico through activities that protect the females, their eggs and hatchlings on the main nesting beaches in Mexico, as well as maintaining the knowledge of their population trend. Propose activities to be developed over the next ten years, and encourage necessary actions to decrease their incidental capture in both national and international longline and drift nest fisheries.	1. Protecting females, eggs and hatchlings on the priority and secondary beaches (95%), 2. Monitoring the population using standardized methods. Attached is a synthesis of the status of the leatherback in Mexico. 3. Provide training to students and professionals on this topic as well as to the habitants of the coastal towns.	Since the early 80's	Present
Consequent Conservation Plan for the sea turtles of the Gulf of California.	To achieve the conservation of sea turtle populations present in the coastal and marine zones of the Baja California Peninsula and propose creating specific actions for their protection.	Protecting the most northern nesting areas of the country.	From 2003	Present
Kemp's Ridley, <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> , Protection Conservation and Recovery Project (Binational).	To achieve the conservation and recovery of the kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>) populations present in the coastal and marine zones of the Gulf of México. Propose eleven strategies to strengthen the actions that have been developed up to this day.	1. Protecting the main kemp's ridley nesting area. 2. Last year, 7,464 nests were protected. 3. The population shows a trend towards its recovery. The Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan is currently being created by the USFWS and SEMARNAT as an agreement for bilateral actions with the participation of all those involved and interested in the conservation of this species.	From 1966	Present
Hawksbill, <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> , Protection, Conservation and Recovery Project	To achieve the conservation and recovery of hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) populations	Analysis on the current status of the hawksbill turtle. This document is currently being produced.	From 1984	Present
Setting up Environmental Watch Committees and accreditation of community guards	Get the communities surrounding nesting beaches involved in sea turtle protection and conservation.	Created 21 community environmental watch committees	Anexo II	

7. International Cooperation

1.- Leatherback Project.- Under the Mex-US Pacific Agreement. Main activities- to protect the eggs of 100% of the clutches on primary and secondary beaches, evaluate the number of nests along the length of the Pacific coast of Mexico by air surveys and tagging females on main beaches, participation of local communities and training them on conservation matters. Genetic population studies.

2.- Kemp's Ridley Project.- Under the Mex-US Gulf Agreement. Main activities- to protect 100% of the clutches on the most important nesting beaches for this species and monitor the number of nests in order to determine population trends. Promote economic alternatives for the inhabitants of the region, environmental education activities and tourism.



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3.- Black turtle project (*Chelonia mydas* of the Pacific).- Under the Mex-Us Agreement. Main activities- promote actions that protect the majority of the clutches on the main nesting beaches and minimize illegal fishing in Baja California. Estimate their abundance and migrations within the Revillagigedo Archipelago. Determine feeding areas along the southern Pacific coast of Mexico.

4.- Diverse non-governmental international organizations like WWF, Conservation International, Wildlife Defenders, and IFAW, support projects protecting sea turtles in Mexico.

5.- Mexico recently designated a national WIDECAST coordinator

In terms of fisheries and participation in international fisheries forums, which present topics related to the protection and conservation of sea turtles, our country has worked in conjunction with other countries to create measures that comply with the objectives of sea turtle protection and conservation when practicing commercial fishing. This can be seen in the agreements mentioned below.

Memory of Understanding between the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

The Resolution N° 209-CM-2004 approved at the OLDEPESCA XVI Ministers' Meeting held in Lima, Perú, in August of 2004, entrusts the Executive Board to reinstate the coordination with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, with the purpose of creating a Memorandum of Understanding that specifies concrete actions to be carried out by both Organizations.

Subsequently, during the 2nd IAC Conference of the Parties, held in Isla Margarita, Venezuela on November 18th of 2004, the previously mentioned Memorandum was signed, whose objective is to establish links of cooperation between OLDEPESCA and the IAC within the scope of their general objectives and work programs, by executing specific actions that will be agreed upon and carried out by operative agreements through their administrative bodies, favoring the cooperation between the subsidiary and technical bodies of both organizations.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

As referred to in the framework of the IATTC work plans, during their 72nd Meeting, held in Lima, Perú, in June of 2004, two resolutions were adopted relating to sea turtles which are indicated below:

Resolution C-04-05.- Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch; through which they agree that the Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Parties, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations, shall require fisherman on purse-seine vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles, sharks, billfishes, rays, dorado, and other non-target species and encourage fishermen to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of any such animals.

Resolution C-04-07.- Resolution on a Three-Year Program to Mitigate the Impact of Tuna Fishing on Sea Turtles, through which the Parties adopt such a program with the objective of mitigating possible impacts of tuna fishing on sea turtle populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO); through the establishment of actions to collect and analyze all available



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information on fishery interactions with sea turtles; mitigation measures for reducing sea turtle bycatch; industry education; capacity building in coastal developing countries; and, creating reports.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

The ICCAT, in their 18th Ordinary Meeting held in Dublin, Ireland in November of 2003; agreed on a Resolution on Sea Turtles, to encourage Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to collect and provide the ICCAT Scientific Committee with all available information on fisheries interactions with sea turtles, including incidental captures and other impacts on sea turtles in the Convention area, such as the deterioration of nesting sites and the ingestion of marine debris.

Encourage the release of sea turtles that are incidentally caught alive, and share all available information such as technical procedures to reduce the incidental capture of turtles and to ensure the safe handling of all turtles that are released, in order to improve their survivability.

To seek, through the appropriate ICCAT body, the development of methods for collecting and reporting data on sea turtles incidentally caught in tuna fisheries and similar species; as well as supporting efforts by FAO to address the questions regarding the conservation and management of sea turtles, through a holistic approach.

8. National Directory

Name	Institutional Affiliation	Field/ Specialty	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Web Site
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Ana Rebeca Barragán Rocha	Kutzari, Association for the Study and Conservation of Sea Turtles, AC	Conservation Genetics Social Participation.	(55) 55 16 20 61	(55) 55 16 20 61	kutzariac@yahoo.com.mx arbr@prodigy.net.mx	
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Patricia Luevano	Secretaría de Obras Públicas, desarrollo Urbano y Ecología/Dirección General de Medio Ambiente	Environmental Education	(834) 31 8 94 50	(834) 31 8 94 66	tortugalora@tamaulipas.gob.mx	
Javier Alvarado Díaz	Instituto de Investigaciones sobre los Recursos Naturales/Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo	Researcher	(443) 2-27-23-51	(443) 3 27 23 50	jadiaz@zeus.umich.mx	
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Alejandro Arenas	Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México, A. C.	Project Director				http://www.florafaunaycultura.org/
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10. Annexes

- 1.- Updated National 2004 Fisheries Letter. Separate files are included in electronic version
- 2.- Summary of Violations and Legal Instruments

<i>VIOLATIONS</i>	<i>FINE AS INDICATED IN THE LAW (DAYS OF MINIMUM SALARY VALID IN THE F.D. \$42.15)</i>
No having TED'S installed	Fisheries Law Art. 24 fractions:
	III 1,001 to 2,000
	XVII 2,001 to 20,000
	XIX 1,001 to 2,000
	XX 2,001 to 20,000
	General Wildlife Law Art. 122 fractions:
	I , II, III, IV and VIII 50 to 50,000
	X and XI 20 to 5,000
Federal Penal Code Art. 420 300 to 3,000	
Escape hatch on TED'S are closed	Fisheries Law Art. 24 fractions:
	III 1,001 to 2,000
	XVII 2,001 to 20,000
	XIX 1,001 to 2,000
	XX 2,001 to 20,000
	General Wildlife Law Art. 122 fractions:
	I , II, III, IV and VIII 50 to 50,000
	X and XII 20 to 5,000
Federal Penal Code Art. 420 300 to 3,000	
TED'S are broken or in poor condition	Fisheries Law Art. 24 fractions:
	III 1,001 to 2,000
	XX 2,001 to 20,000
	General Wildlife Law Art. 122 fractions:
I , II, II and IV 50 to 50,000	
TED'S not certified	Fisheries Law Art. 24 fractions:
	III 1,001 to 2,000
	XXI 101 to 1,000
	General Wildlife Law Art. 122 fractions:
XVII 20 to 5,000	



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3.- List of Community Patrol Committees

STATE	MUNICIPALITY	CAMP	BEACH	COMMITTEES	DATE	CONSTITUENTS	OBSERVATIONS
Campeche	Del Carmen	La Escollera		For a better Sabancuy	04/10/2002	PROFEPA, Authorities H. Municipal Board of Villa de Sabancuy	
*Campeche	Del Carmen	Isla Aguada		Villa de Isla Aguada	11/10/2002	PROFEPA, Municipal Authorities, SAGARPA representative	
*Colima	Tecomán		Real Beach	Ecological Group Golfinas del Real	28/06/2002	PROFEPA, Municipal Authorities of Tecomán and Comisariada Municipal del Real.	
*Colima	Armería		Cuyutlán Beach	Sea Turtle	23/07/2002	PROFEPA and Municipal Authorities of Armería (Direction of Public Security and H. Municipal Board of Cuyutlán).	
*Colima	Manzanillo		Salahua Beach	Sea Turtle	18/07/2002	PROFEPA, Universidad de Colima (Faculty of Marine Science and University Oceanic Research Center). Municipal Authorities of Manzanillo (Direction of Public Security and Direction of Inspection and Licensing).	
*Colima	Tecomán		Tecuanillo Beach	Participatory Environmental Watch Committee in wildlife & sea turtle matters	15/10/2002	PROFEPA, Authorities of Mpio. de Tecomán, Union of tourism lenders of Balneario el Tecuanillo, A.C.	
*Colima	Manzanillo		Oro Beach	Participatory Environmental Watch Committee in forestry and wildlife matters (Sea Turtles, Hunting)	20/02/2003	Members of the community and PROFEPA.	
*Colima	Manzanillo		Cocos Beach	Participatory Environmental Watch Committee in forestry and wildlife matters (Sea Turtles)	22/07/2003	Members of the community and PROFEPA.	
*Chiapas	(Tonalá, Pisisiapan, Mapastepec, Acapetahua, Villa Comaltitlán, Huistla, Mazatán,			Istmo Costa Regional Counsel for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in the State of Chiapas	26/04/2002	SEMARNAT, SAGARPA, PROFEPA, SCT, SHCP, State Government (Fisheries Secretary, Secretary of Government, Secretary of Social Development, Planning Secretary, Secretary of Rural Development, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health)	



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	Tapachula and Suchiate)						
Guerrero	Cuajinicuilapa		Tierra Colorada	Wildlife Watch Committee of Tierra Colorada	14/11/2002	Cuajinicuilapa Municipal Authorities and community lands of Colorada.	
Guerrero	Acapulco		Barra Vieja	Civic Group "Pro-Playa Larga"	04/06/2004	Municipal Authorities	
Guerrero	Coyuca de Benítez		Barra de Coyuca	Ecological Club and Social Development	16/06/2004	Municipal Authorities	
Guerrero	Cuajinicuilapa		Tierra Colorada	Civic Group Los Naturales	11/05/2004	Cuajinicuilapa Municipal Authorities and community lands of Colorada.	
Jalisco	Tomatlán		Playón de Mismaloya	Sea Turtle	06/08/2002	SEMARNAT, SEDENA, SEMAR, Council of Tomatlán, State Tourism, Universidad de Guadalajara, Ejidos Campo Acosta and El Realito, Tomatlán, Indigenous Communities, Fundación Ecológica Selva Negra, S.C.P.P. Cruz de Loreto, Las Marismas and Costa del Pacífico	
Oaxaca	Santiago Astata	Barra de la Cruz		Community Environmental Watch Groups (flora and fauna)	13/07/2002	Municipal Authorities, COINBIO	
Oaxaca	San Pedro Tututepec		Chacahua and surrounding communities			National Parks Direction Chacahua Lagoons, Superintendent of Common Goods of San Pedro Tututepec	
*Quintana Roo	Benito Juárez		Cancún Beaches	Sea Turtle	01/06/2002	PROFEPA, and Direction of Ecology of the Benito Juárez Municipality	
*Quintana Roo	Cozumel		Cozumel Beaches	Sea Turtle	01/06/2002	PROFEPA, and Direction of Ecology of the Cozumel Municipality	
*Quintana Roo	Isla Mujeres	Isla Mujeres		Sea Turtle	10/10/2002	SEDENA, SEMAR, Municipal Authorities (Direction of Ecology, Civil Protection and Public Security).	
Sinaloa	Mazatlán	El Verde Camacho		Sea Turtle			Information by telephone
Yucatán	Tizimin	El Cuyo		Sea turtle protection committee	01/08/2004	Municipal authorities.	

Mexico D. F. May 23rd, 2005