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

TOGETHER MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Photo credits at the end of the bulletin
Celebration of World Sea Turtle Day CIT-CPPS 2023

For the third consecutive year, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and their Plan for the conservation of the Marine Environment (CPPS) and the IAC Secretariat collaborated to celebrate on June 16th the World Sea Turtle Day.

This year, thanks to videos, pictures and information provided by IAC and CPPS Member Countries, the Company Urbana Digital of Ecuador, prepared a 30 seconds video for social media, calling on people to make changes in our habits and practices that harming sea turtles, oceans and humans. They also reminded about the many threats that contribute to sea turtles continue to be in danger of extinction.

With this effort, the CPPS and the IAC recognizes the efforts of all our member countries, governments, international organizations, researchers, fishing communities and civil society that from their fields of action continue supporting and contributing to the conservation of sea turtles of the world.

You can find the video on this link:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AoixweyfzniKqWXlXOASkdUIVgge?e=zlgtlk

Credits for news writing material and images: CPPS and CIT
In celebration of World Sea Turtle Day, the IAC Secretariat joined the LAUD OPO NETWORK with a flyer posted on social media to acknowledge the efforts of conservation heroes from coastal communities members of the Laud OPO Network. It is their work and passion that keeps alive the conservation efforts for the East Pacific Leatherback turtle throughout the years. The flyer (below) published on Sea Turtle Day June 16th recognizes the following people: Concepción Carmona (México), Elio Valle (México), David Sarmiento (Perú), Roberto Ochoa (Perú), Adalberto García (México) and The Crew Voyager I (Colombia).

Visit EP Leatherback Hall of Heroes in this link: https://laudopo.org/en/laud-heroes/ you will find information about the work the LAUD OPO NETWORK has been doing over the years in the Americas. This year the network wanted to highlight all those committed individuals, who are working in anonymity and making a difference in their communities for the recovery of leatherback turtles in the Eastern Pacific.
IAC Secretariat attends the Implementation and adaptation workshop for the North West Atlantic leatherback turtle Regional Action Plan

The Workshop “Regional implementation of the action plan for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Sea turtle for the Wider Caribbean” was held by virtual meeting on June 16th, 2023. The event was organized by WWF-Guyana in collaboration with the following partners: Environmental Management Authority (EMA), French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), WWF-Canada, WWF-France, WWF-Netherlands and WIDECAST.

The IAC Secretariat has been collaborating with Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Regional Action Plan Working Group in previous years, and in particular with WWF – Guianas. The IAC participated in the workshop and has provided comments to the action plan. The workshop discussed and updated the 5-year implementation strategy for the action plan that includes 4 strategic lines:

- Strategic Line 1 - Legislation and Enforcement
- Strategic Line 2 - Protection & Management of Critical Habitats
- Strategic Line 3 - Community Engagement
- Strategic Line 4 - Scientific Data Needs

Finally, the workshop discussed the Governing Body to facilitate the implementation of the NWA Leatherback action plan.
Recognition of the Fisheries Sector in good practices for sea turtles

WELCOME TO THE NEW IAC BULLETIN NEWS SECTION

This new IAC Bulletin newsletter section, was approved at the 16th Consultative Committee Meeting in April 2023. The editor of the section is Mrs. Nina Pardo – CCE Sectorial Delegate from Peru. The purpose of this section will be to recognize the work of the fisheries sector on sea turtle conservation efforts.

Photo and Video Credits: Nina Pardo-IAC CCE Sectorial Member from Peru
Fishing Crew from EP Patricia during releasing manoeuvres of a sea turtle in Peru.

Photo and Video Credits: Sofía Jones Argentina-Marcos Montans. Release of a sea turtle from an argentinian fleet.
Recognition to Chaval Berneo - Laud OPO Heroes

ProDelphinus (http://www.prodelphinusperu.org) is a Peruvian NGO that has been working on sea turtle conservation for nearly two decades. During this time, they published close to 120 scientific publications on marine biodiversity, including sea turtles, birds, cetaceans, among others. Among those are guides on safe handling and release techniques for sea turtles and veterinary care (https://dl.orangedox.com/0iod5v) that can be found in the links above.

ProDelphinus is member of the the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Conservation Network (Laud OPO), which brings together scientists, representatives from governments and NGOs to help address a great challenge to help the recovery of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific.

Recently, Laud OPO launched the Hall of Heroes program, which seeks to highlight the work carried out by fishermen in their communities, who often remain anonymous, in this opportunity we recognize Mr. Francisco Bernero, an artisanal fisherman as Laud Hero.

Mr. Bernero, better known as “Chaval”, since 2008 has participated in projects for the conservation of sea turtles. The work he has done and continues to do to up to date ranges from being an observer onboard fishing vessel, reporting bycatch and helping to safely release sea turtles and other species, to their environment, in the southern and northern part of Peru. We hope to have many more heroes in the region, and thus help the recovery of this species of turtle.

More information about ProDelphinus materials: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRSre1Le0k&amp;list=PLzyoNdm3sOm6BA-D6Zp96-Ax9-abYNozn&amp;index=2

“Chaval mentions that his passion for sea turtle conservation was born from his firmly belief that every living creature has the right to live, and if it is in his power to help, he will do it.

News and images provided by: Nina Pardo - IAC CCE Sectorial Member Perú
SNP’s Salvamares program and its commitment for the conservation of marine species

- Salvamares, a program from the Fisheries National Society (SNP- Societal Nacional de Pesquerías in Spanish) celebrated 5 years since its implementation and is the first initiative of a private union worldwide that has the purpose of caring for the marine ecosystem and to identify the interaction of the fishing fleets with the diversity of marine species in search of the sustainability of the resource.

- The Program consists of recruiting the Salvamares (crew members on board of fishing vessels of companies associated with the SNP) who are committed to the conservation of the sea and periodically trained by experts from the Institute of the Sea of Peru (IMARPE) and the NGO CeDePesca in the correct identification and best practices to help release back to the environment of sea birds, mammals and reptiles that interact with the anchovy, and mackerel fishery along the Peruvian coast.

The program has trained 228 crew members, that is, 100% of the fleet associated with the SNP, which since 2017 have released to the environment more than 12,000 marine fauna of different species such as dolphins, sea lions, sharks, birds and turtles.

- Activities to strengthen technical skills provided to the Salvamares in the ports of Peru are underway for the conservation of the main endangered species, the care of the marine ecosystem and its sustainability.

- You can learn more about the Salvamares program at https://www.snp.org.pe/investigacion-cientifica/programa-salvamares/

Between 2017 and 2022 species released from:
- Critically endangered (CR)
- Endangered (EN)
- Vulnerable (VU)

- 3 - hackbill turtles CR; 8 - Green turtles CR; 1-Loggerhead turtle VU; 2- Leatherback turtle VU
- 7- Olive Ridley VU; 5 Penguins VU
The Foundation for Rescue and Assistance for Marine animals (FRAAM in Spanish, is located at Villa del Mar, Punta Alta, distrito Coronel de de Marina Leonardo Rosales, in Buenos Aires; it shared for this special edition, some pictures and images showcasing the work they do.

Within the framework and objetive of the Foundation for Rescue and Assistance for Marine Animals, they work on extension programs where an Environmental Education program is inserted with an education focus in accordance with curricular content. Thus allowing them to receive a wide variety of students from different educational institutions from Elementary to College while also providing a lot of activities with an environmental outreach like workshops to celebrate “World Sea turtle Day” and other topics related to environmental issues.

They abide by the ordinance Nº3408 “EMBLEMATIC SPECIES FROM THE DISTRIT OF CORONEL ROSALES” which is the first ordinance to visibilized how a municipality within the Argentinian Republic is able to incorpórate a list of emblematic species, including sea turtles.

Congratulations to FRAAM on its 10 years working towards the conservation of sea turtles in Argentina.

Credit: FRAAM by Victoria Massola through the IAC SC Delegate from Argentina- DR. Victoria González Carman
Dia Internacional da Tartaruga Marinha

16/05/2021 - O Dia Internacional da Tartaruga Marinha é celebrado em 16 de junho em homenagem ao nascimento do Dr. Archie Carr. 

No início dos anos 40, o Dr. Archie Carr começou a estudar as tartarugas marinhas. Na década de 50, iniciou as atividades de pesca e conservação em Tortuguero, na Costa Rica, e se tornou um dos mais importantes pesquisadores da área. Seus estudos e escritos são responsáveis por grande parte do que se conhece hoje sobre a biologia e o ciclo de vida desses animais. O “pai” das tartarugas marinhos participou da criação em 1959 e foi diretor científico da Caribbean Conservation Corporation (hoje Sea Turtle Conservancy), e mais antigas grupos de pesquisa e conservação de tartarugas marinhas do mundo.

Full article: https://www.tamar.org.br/noticia1.php?cod=1021
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Some images found and shared inTwitter from Mexico, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Peru and Guatemala in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day
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Special Thank you:
For this edition, we would like to thank delegates from Peru, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Brazil and Mexico who kindly responded our call on sharing photos and information with us to celebrate the World Sea Turtle Day. Also, we would like to welcome, Mrs. Nina Pardo-IAC CCE Sectorial Member from Peru for joining our team with the Recognition to the Fisheries sector section of our bulletin.

IAC Bulletin News No. 49 Special Edition, elaborated by: Haydeé Medina- IAC Assistant to the Secretary
You can access to the IAC Bulleting news at :http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm

Cover Page Photo Credits:
Photo 1- (Left) -Loggerhead turtle broad to a port by artesanal fishermen from San Clemente, Argentina. Daniela Font.
Photo 2 (center) - Green turtle hatchlings at a beach in Dominican Republic -Delegates from DR
Photo 3- (right) - Releasing of a loggerhead turtle by Grupo Quelona-Lucrecia Diaz -Argentina