# Annual Report General Instructions

Following the provisions laid down in annex IV of the Convention text, each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. This format will be reviewed and adapted to the needs that arise to be used in the future writing of the annual reports; therefore, we request that your comments on ways to improve this form are attached as an annex in order to improve it year after year. To complete this Report, it is important that the Focal Points make the necessary consultations to the various stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions or problems with this form, please write to the Secretariat at secretario@iacseaturtle.org or leatherbacks@aol.com.

We remind you that the date to hand in this information is April 30th of 2010.

General Instructions:

1. Double click on the sea turtle icons to open the data tables of the report.
2. Do not modify the original tables of the Report; they have been locked to prevent accidental modifications.
3. Please include a glossary of acronyms used for official institutions, NGOs, etc.
4. Use the following codes to list the different species: Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*.
5. For information on nesting, fill in the form using the latest nesting season. For other information, fill in the form according to the information of the latest calendar year.
6. Please complete all tables. Indicate if information exists, but it is not available or unknown (NA) or if no information exists (None).
7. Fill in the blanks using the best information available.
8. Add more lines if necessary.
9. Click the red question marks for additional help.
10. Please read the instructions carefully for each section before answering the questions.
11. We recommend that you print off the instructions to use as a reference while filling out the form.

# General Information

# Please fill out all of the following. Double click on the turtle icons to open the respective spreadsheet

## Directory



Others who participated in the preparation of this Annual Report



Focal Point



1. Biological Information

### Species present

Fill in the respective blanks depending on the oceanographic basin (according to the provisions in Art. III of the Convention) for each species, using the following codes for the different phases: R = reproduction; F = foraging; M = migration; D= phase unknown.

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### Important sites for sea turtle conservation

1. For each phase, indicate the names of priority sites mentioning the species present in each site and its season. Confirmed migratory routes should be integrated as a separate worksheet where relevant data can be added, for example, beginning and ending point (LAT/LON), tag/recovery. If migratory route maps already exist as well as their course in LAT/LON, please add them as an annex so that this information may be included in the GIS of the IAC.
   1. b. Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one or two points for nesting places (if available). For migratory routes, please describe them briefly in the observations column.
   2. c. Extension:
   3. - Nesting sites - provide the total length in Kilometers of the beach used by the turtles.
   4. - Foraging sites (or feeding areas) provide the extension in Hectares (if available).
   5. - Migratory Routes: not applicable
   6. d. Category of protection: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area, the name of the Management Category, briefly describe in terms of use or protection offered.

e. Estimations: Select an estimate of the number of clutches and hatchlings per year. The ranges for clutches are: unknown, unavailable, 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-100000, 100001-500000, >500000. The ranges for hatchlings are: unknown, not available, 0-1000, 1001-10000, 10001-50000, 50001-100000, 100001-500000, 500001-1000000, 1000001-1000000, 1000001-5000000, >5000000. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population status of each species present in the site. If available, provide information on the species for a wider region than the specific nesting place.



### 2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

* 1. a. The types of use (non consumptive/consumptive) may be, among others:

Domestic (for subsistence), cultural, commercial, medicinal, tourism, scientific.

b. Products or parts used: eggs, skin, carapace, meat, oil, craftsmanship, etc.

c. Ocean Basin: Pacific, Atlantic or Caribbean

d. Origin: make reference to the law that forbids/allows it from section 4 (Juridical framework) of this form.

e. Estimated annual quantity:

* 1. - Legal: refer to section 5 (Exceptions) of this form
  2. - Illegal: total amount of eggs or clutches, total animals (per sex, per stage)
  3. f. Actions: refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form



#### 3. Main threats

Add sheets with additional observations whenever necessary.

3.1 Habitat and other threats

* 1. a. Using the following list, select the main threats and list the species affected, considering reproduction and foraging sites and migratory routes.
  2. - Accumulation of sand or presence of contention structures (please indicate)
  3. - Sand mining
  4. - Beach Erosion
  5. - Construction and infrastructure on the beach
  6. - Inadequate management of tourism
  7. - Other human activities
  8. - Beach driving
  9. - Noise pollution (explain)
  10. - Artificial light
  11. - Depredation of eggs and hatchlings by domestic or feral animals
  12. - Agricultural, industrial waste and residual/sewage waters
  13. - Oil pollution
  14. - Obstacles on the beach (logs, plastic, etc.)
  15. - Impact on other associated habitats (reefs, mangroves, etc.)
  16. - Waste in the ocean (ropes, fishing gear, bags, etc.)
  17. - Diseases
  18. - Natural phenomena (indicate types)
  19. - Other (indicate)
  20. b. Size of impact: use the same as in the section above: total number of eggs, total animals (per sex, per stage)
  21. c. Geographic region(s) affected: make the most accurate reference, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
  22. d. Make reference to the full quote in section 9 (Source of information) of this form
  23. e. Actions: briefly explain the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.



### 3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

* 1. a. Using the following list, pick the main threats and list the affected species
  2. - Capture of sea turtles in the ocean
  3. - Capture of sea turtles on the beach
  4. - Egg collection
  5. - Purse seine fisheries
  6. - Gill net fisheries
  7. - Longline artisanal fisheries
  8. - Longline commercial fisheries
  9. - Bottom Trawling
  10. - Pelagic Trawling
  11. - Fishing nets
  12. b. Size of impact: whenever possible provide Capture values per Unit of Effort (CPUE) making reference to the unit of effort (number of boats, lances, man hours, etc), or the total amount of animals or eggs captured/collected.
  13. c. Geographic region(s) affected: make reference as accurate as possible, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
  14. d. Refer to the full citation as in Section 9 (Source of information) of this form.
  15. e. Actions: briefly describe the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.

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### 4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

List international instruments related to sea turtles and their habitat signed or ratified by your country.



4.2. National legislation

List the national legislation in force related to the protection, conservation and use of sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend. Provide a brief description including the sanctions faced when violated



4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved. (Insert Text here)

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Based on the national juridical framework, list any public or private institutions with responsibilities and actions in the conservation and protection of sea turtles and their habitat. Briefly describe the responsibilities of each of them.



5. Exceptions

Attach the management plan including limits on the levels of intentional capture and include information regarding such program based on article IV, item 3(a,b,d) of the text of the Convention. According to the provisions in Annex 4, the reports of the exceptions shall include follow up and mitigation measures, specifically relevant information on the number of turtles, nests and eggs affected and on the habitat areas affected by the implementation of this action.

### 6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

Make a brief general description of the national plan for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and of their habitat. (Insert text here)

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

List the most relevant public or private projects/activities for the conservation of sea turtles in your country; please include general objective or objectives, and the results obtained and the duration of each. Including projects/activities like the enhancement and development of new fisheries to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, scientific research, environmental education actions, creation of databases, national plan, management plan, community participation or other kind of planning for the conservation and protection of sea turtles. Add more rows if necessary. See appendix.



7. International Cooperation

Describe the programs or projects involving cooperation of other states or international bodies, among others, within the area of the Convention. (See Annex)

##### 8. National Directory

List the contacts (persons and/or institutions, public or private) related to the objectives of this Convention (specialists in fisheries, economy, statistic or others). Include at least name, specialty, telephone number, fax and e-mail address. Add more rows to accommodate all relevant personal.



9. Sources of Information

Include all the references used to fill in this form. In Annex 10. 1 you will find examples as to how the citations should be referenced. (Insert text here)

10. Annexes

Annex I

Information on citing sources

Text adapted from: How to Prepare Manuscripts of the Journal of Tropical Biology (http://rbt.ots.ac.cr/prepare.pdf)

References are ordered alphabetically and strictly follow this format, including details such as spacing, commas, underlining, capitals, etc. (Note: examples are from real references, modified for brevity):

1. Article (Author. Year. Title. Journal volume: pages.)

Bückle R., L.F., F. Díaz H. & S. Espina. 1996. Thermoregulatory behavior and culture of *Procambarus clarkii* (Decapoda: Cambaridae). Rev. Biol. Trop. 44: 123-126.

2. Book, report or proceedings (Author. Year. Title. Organization or publisher, City, State or Province. pages).

Vásquez-Yeomans, L. & A. González. 1991. Ichthyoplankton of two bays in Mexico. 15 th. Larval Fish Conference, Los Angeles, California. 15 p.

3. Chapter in multiauthored book (Author. Year. Chapter title, pages of chapter. In Editor (ed.) Book title. Publisher, City, State or Province.)

Donnelly, T.W. 1992. Geological setting and tectonic history of Mesoamerica, p. 1-24. *In* D. Quinteno & A. Aiello (eds.). Insects of Panama and Mesoamerica. Oxford University, Oxford.

4. Thesis (Author. Year. Thesis type, University, City).

Hedström, I. 1991. The guava fruit fly, *Anastrepha striata* University, Uppsala, Sweden. 43 p.

NOTE: mention country when city is not widely known, shorten printer’s name (*e.g.*write Wiley instead of Wiley and Sons Publications, Inc., do not write “Press”, “Verlag” and equivalent words). When the author is an institution, cite the author as Anonymous. Do not state edition number.

Annex II

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1

Resolution for the conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Indicate the activities and results most relevant for each one of the resolution points noted, quantifying when necessary.

Elaborate and/or implement conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific. (Insrt text here)

*Leatherback sea turtles continue to be listed as endangered in the United States and thus regulatory measures are taken to protect them and other sea turtle species. Further the United States provides technical and at time financial support for leatherback conservation in the IAC Area.*

Acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures to significantly reduce the use and consumption of leatherback sea turtle products and by-products. (Insert text here)

*It is illegal to consume sea turtles in the United States.*

Parties with leatherback sea turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures for the protection of nesting sites and habitats, in accordance with Articles IV and Annex II of the Convention. (Insert text here)

Collect and facilitate information to the Convention regarding the incidental capture of the leatherback sea turtle in long-lines, gillnets, and other fishing gear used by the artisanal as well as industrial fisheries, in order to evaluate and adopt fishing techniques that reduce their impact on this species. (Insert text here)

*See information in the fisheries interaction sections and the gillnet report.*

Establish agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters, so that they receive the initiative of this Convention to adopt fishing techniques that reduce the incidental capture of leatherback sea turtles. (Insert text here)

*See answers to fisheries interaction resolution.*

Establish and strengthen cooperative agreements and alliances with pertinent organizations that help in the conservation of the leatherback sea turtle, in accordance with Articles XII and XX of the Convention. (Insert text here)

Annex III

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1

Conservation of the hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RECOMENDATIONS PUT FORTH IN Resolution CIT/COP3/2006/R-1 | Specific recommendation to be implemented | Name of project or relevant document | Location | Objective(s) | Responsible institution/s | Contact | Financial and other support (optional) | Significant Results (both positive and negative) | Duration\* |
| EXHORT the Parties to promote synergies between the IAC and CITES, the SPAW Protocol, CMS, WHMSI, FAO, other pertinent treaties and international organizations, and regional fisheries bodies in order to facilitate regional dialogue on management and conservation of the hawksbill turtle and its habitats; | CITES | In general, the United States has been very supportive of finding synergies between SPAW, IAC, CITES, and WHMSI as the U.S. participates in all of these forums. U.S. delegates to these forums often bring forward issues, documents, etc from one forum to another. Finally, the United States has contributed through to the IAC funding to support the Hawksbill workshop as well as supporting its follow-up activities through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. | | | | | | | |
| SPAW |
| CMS |
| WHMSI |
| FAO |
| Other treaties (specify) |
| Regional fisheries bodies (specify) |
| URGE the Parties to strengthen monitoring of the use and illegal trade of hawksbill turtles and their products, to enforce pertinent legislation and to stop illegal trade; |  | The United States continues to fight illegal wildlife trade for sea turtles as well as other listed CITES species. | | | | | | | |
| EXHORT the Parties to support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle, particularly in genetics, migratory behavior, location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey, population dynamics in feeding sites, interactions with fisheries, social and economic impacts of conservation measures, and integrity of its nesting beaches; | Genetics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Migratory behavior |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Population dynamics in feeding sites |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interaction with fisheries |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social and economic impacts of conservation and protection measures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stability of nesting beaches |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (specify) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| URGE the Parties to evaluate and mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters in accordance with recommendations emanating from FAO’s Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles held in Bangkok 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of Fisheries Committee of FAO (COFI). Also review the application of IAC guidelines for mitigating fisheries interactions |  | See information below on U.S. activities related to sea turtles and fisheries interactions. | | | | | | | |
| URGE the Parties to strengthen protection of important hawksbill nesting and foraging habitats by declaration of protected areas and the regulation of anthropogenic activities adversely impacting these habitats | nesting habitats |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| marine habitats (feeding, inter-nesting, resting …) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SUPPORT a working group within the Scientific Committee to keep the Conference of the Parties informed on the status of the species and its habitats in the Area of the Convention; |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PROMOTE the exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on the hawksbill turtle on their habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention |  | US sea turtle biologists regularly work with colleagues in the IAC Convention Area on sea turtle conservation. | | | | | | | |
| SUPPORT the organization of a workshop with recognized experts to evaluate the current condition of hawksbill populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic, and present the best available methods of research and conservation for the species in its marine habitats. |  |  |  |  |  |  | The U.S. provided significant financial resources to the Hawksbill workshop. |  |  |

Annex VI

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-2

Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

Please indicate any measures taken in your country regarding the following:

1. Research and follow-up on fisheries aspects:

• What kind of data or information is your country collecting to try and quantify sea turtle interactions with fisheries (surrounding nets, longline, gillnets, etc.)?

*The United States runs several observer programs to try and estimate the sea turtle interactions with sea turtles. Below is a list of most of our observer programs currently in place, except for those in Alaska given the rarity of sea turtles being seen that far north. Not all of these fisheries are observed because of sea turtle bycatch, but they will all record sea turtle interactions if they are observed.*

* *Scallop dredge*
* *Mid-Atlantic Gillnet*
* *New England Gillnet*
* *New England Groundfish*
* *Small mesh trawl*
* *Mid-Atlantic Squid trawl*
* *East Coast/Gulf of Mexico Pelagic longline*
* *Shrimp*
* *Shark/bottom longline*
* *At-Sea Hake*
* *West Coast Groundfish*
* *Driftnet*
* *Purse seine*
* *Albacore Troll*
* *Pacific Pelagic Longline*
* *Pacific Swordfish*
* *Pacific Tuna*
* *Pacific Bottomfish*
* *American Samoa Tuna*

• Indicate in which types of fisheries onboard observer programs have been implemented.

*See above*

• Specify the name of any research projects associated with interactions between fisheries and sea turtles being developed in your country.

*The United States regularly has bycatch reduction for sea turtles in our domestic fisheries under development. Currently, in the Atlantic there is work underway in the following areas for application in domestic fisheries –*

* *Development of Turtle Excluder Devices for Finfish and Shellfish trawls.*
* *Research on better understanding how to modify poundnet leaders to reduce sea turtle interaction.*

*In previous years, the United States has also conducted significant work on evaluating the efficiency of large circle hooks with whole finfish bait. The United States requires 16/0 or 18/0 circle hooks in most of its longline fisheries at present and thus the majority of its circle hook research is presently focused on evaluating this technology in other countries. Similarly, several United States government researchers have been working abroad to develop modified gillnets to reduce sea turtle bycatch as well as modified pound nets.*

• Report on whether vessels of non Party States that fish in jurisdictional waters, have provided information on the capture and mortality of sea turtles. If yes, was this information included in Table 3.2?

*There are no foreign vessels fishing in United States waters legally.*

• Inform on whether cooperation mechanisms have been established with non Party states to obtain information on sea turtle capture and mortality in areas of interest of the Convention.

*N/A*

1. Mitigation measures

Indicate any measures your country is taking to reduce interactions between fisheries and sea turtles in the following fisheries:

* Coastal trawl nets
* *In shrimp trawls in the Southeastern United States turtle excluder devices are required. By 2010, TEDs will likely also be required in Atlantic scallop, calico scallop, flounder, croaker and weakfish and whelk trawlers too.*
* Surrounding nets
* *I don’t know what a surrounding net is, but assume you mean purse seine. U.S. purse seine vessels fishing under the IATTC have to follow the specifications of the IATTC sea turtle resolution.*
* Longline

*Longline vessels in the Northeast Distant must use 18/0 circle hooks with whole finfish. Longline vessels fishing in the Gulf of Mexico must use 16/0 circle hooks. Longline vessels in the Highly Migratory Species swordfish swallowset fishery in the Western Pacific must use 18/0 and mackerel bait.*

* Gillnets and entangling nets

*On the East Coast of the United States, there are seasonal closures for the gillnet fisheries using 8-in stretched mesh or larger. In addition, there are seasonal closures in the Pamlico Sound fishery in North Carolina to protect sea turtles.*

1. Training, education and outreach

Indicate training, education and outreach activities that have been organized in your country regarding the topic of reducing incidental captures of sea turtles in fisheries.

4. Harmonization of policies and legislation

Indicate if any national legal instruments have been modified in order to harmonize them with the IAC and its resolutions.

*No.*

5. Capacity building

Did your country create a National Sea Turtle Committee?

What networks have been organized to achieve better interaction between interested groups in sea turtles and fisheries?

*The United States does not have a formal National Sea Turtle Committee. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have joint jurisdiction for sea turtles. The staff of the respective agencies meets regularly to discuss common issues. The two agencies also regularly meet with non-governmental organizations on nesting beach and fisheries bycatch issues. Further, under the rule-making procedures in the United States, the Federal agencies are required to go through a public comment and scoping process before a new regulation can be put into effect. This allows the public to have an opportunity to provide their input to the regulatory process.*

6. Financing

Specify the type of financing or support obtained to implement the guidelines of resolution CIT COP3/2006/R-2.

*The United States did not receive any additional financial support to implement this resolution.*

7. Socio-economic issues

Indicate socio-economic activities that have been implemented in your country regarding interactions between sea turtles and fisheries.

*This question is very unclear. What kind of socio-economic activities are you referring too?*

8. Other aspects

Indicate if your country considers the potential effects of mariculture projects on sea turtle populations in critical areas within environmental impact studies.

*The United States has very limited mariculture U.S. waters, further the mariculture that does take place could only be authorized with an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement taking place which would take into consideration impacts on protected species like sea turtles.*