

Honduras Annual Report 2015

IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with various stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please write to the PT Secretariat at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Please note that the due date to submit this Annual Report is April 30th of 2015.

Part I (General Information)

Please fill out the following tables. Add additional rows if necessary.

a. Focal Point

Institution	Secretaría de Energía Recursos Naturales Ambiente y Minas
Name	Rafael Amaro García
Date Annual Report submitted	May 11th, 2015

b. Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Biodiversity Direction of the Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines Secretary				
Name of the person responsible for	Belkis Carolina Montalván Torres				
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c. Others who participated in the preparation of this report

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Part II (Policy and Management)

a. General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles

In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and implementation plans at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.

As a result, the Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments, describing their location, the species considered and the actions implemented by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions related to sea turtles.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following tables and explain the level of progress in the comments column.

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	A national strategy for conservation of
		Sea Turtles approved in June 2014.
Does your country have policies and	Yes	Sea Turtles protection program in the
programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?		South of the country focused in
		Lepidochelys olivacea.
Does your country have monitoring	Yes	The Sea Turtles protection program in
programs in accordance with Article IX?		the South of the country is in charge of
		closures enforcement and
		sustainability, considering the period
		between December and June

b. National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted in the preceding year

Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments adopted during the preceding year (April 30, 2012-April 30, 2013) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a reference and attach the digital file for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included when they exist.

National Legislation						
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction	ns(s) Imposed			
	International Instruments					
Treaty, Convention, Agreem	Year signed and/or ratified					



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Note: If this is the first time a country is submitting this information please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

c. Actions for compliance with national and international legislation

c.1 IAC Resolutions

Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column DOES NOT APPLY. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.

Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1: Conservation of leatherback turtles (Dermochelys coriacea)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP2-2004-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

			RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	X
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?				
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				
2a) Have you taken conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of leatherback turtle products and by- products?				
2b) Do you evaluate these conservation measures?				
3a) If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
3b) Do you evaluate the conservation measures taken to protect those nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?				
5a) Is your country collecting information on the incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fisheries i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				



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i) Long-line		
ii) Gillnets		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		
5b) Have you provided the IAC with information on the incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:		
Artisanal fishing		
i) Long-line		
ii) Gillnets		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		
Industrial fisheries		
i) Long-line		
ii) Gillnets		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		
6. Have you established agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters to adopt fishing techniques that reduce the incidental capture of leatherback turtles? List which countries:		
 Have you encouraged other non-Party states to the IAC, carrying out activities that affect leatherback turtles, to adopt measures in favor of their conservation, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts? Have any cooperative agreements or 		
alliances been established with pertinent organizations? List:		

(*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.



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Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (Eretmochelys imbricata)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

			RES		
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:		YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1. Has your country pro- other Conventions, tr organizations, and/or reg on the management a hawksbill turtles and th which one(s).	eaties, international ional fisheries bodies and conservation of	X			
2a) Are you strengthening illegal use and trade of hat their products?	wksbill turtles and	х		NGOs and Honduras Navy carry out monitoring patrols sometimes jointly with Fisheries Direction.	
2b) Are you enforcing per legislation?	rtinent hawksbill	Х			
2c) Are activities being ca stop the illegal trade of ha		X		Advertising campaigns on non- consumption of sub-products, and training in school on no using and conservation of the olive ridley sea turtle.	
3. Does your country	Genetics				
support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle?	Migratory behavior	х		NGOs carry out tagging and recording of turtles visiting the Caribbean. Establishment of work programs for Plalaya community sea turtle working group with the support of Foundation Cayos Cochinos, Platano River Biosphere ICF	
Especially in:	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.	Х		Research of Wallacea operation at Foundation Cayos cochinos.	
	Location and conservation status of prey species.				
	Population dynamics at foraging sites				
	Integrity of nesting habitats	X		Developed by Foundation Cayos Cochinos with the support of Foundation Wallacea students. During BICA/Utila monitoring activities research on the vegetation of the beach was carried out as well as a cleanup.	
	Others (specify)				
4. As indicated in the recommendations from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine	a) Evaluate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in jurisdictional waters.	X		At the end of every year, especially on those vessels requiring TEDs.	



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turtles and fisheries that were held in Bangkok in 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of FAO's Fisheries Committee (COFI), does your country carry out any activities mentioned in a) and/or b)?	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters.	х	TEDs use is compulsory for industrial fishing vessels.
5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration of priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?		х	This was the main recommendation for an oil exploration project taking place in Honduras Caribbean.
6. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating	a) Protection of nesting habitats	Х	The ongoing effort to declare as RAMSAR sites all those reported as nesting and foraging sites. Marine Park Cayos Cochinos is one of them. Last year Utila and Guaymoreto Lagoon were declared last year, important for the conservation of foraging and occurrence sites of sea turtle in Honduras Caribbean.
anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats.	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X	Marine protected areas declared protected and the establishment of actions supporting RAMSAR sites declaration, Sharks Sanctuary, etc.
7. Does your country pro- technical capacity and co on hawksbill habitats amo non-Parties and other inv	llaborative research ong Parties as well as	X	Participation of NGOs technician in workshops on care and management of sea turtles.

(*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.



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Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2: Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1.Adopted the "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizat	ion (FAC	D), inclu	iding:	X
A.Research and monitoring of adverse impact of	1	es on sea	a turtles	
Collect information by fishery	X			
Observer programs	Х			
Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions	Х			
Information on non-Party vessels	Х			
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information	Х			
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisher	ies:			
i) Long-line				
 ii) Gillnets iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures) 	X		There is a 25-day closure for the olive ridley in the South of the country from September 1 – 25 every year. The Hard TED is only one approved by the current Fisheries Act. Each vessel should bring at least 6 trawling nets with TED. Mesh size won't be smaller than 2" inches except for the end of the net. There is an indefinite closure for all species of sharks regarding Honduras declaration as a Sharks Sanctuary. Indefinite closure for all sea cucumber species. Closure for white shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus schmitti</i>), brown shrimp (<i>Farfantepenaeus duorarum</i>). Sixmonth closure for cameo helmet (<i>Cassis madagascariensis</i>), indefinite closure for commercial fishing of the queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>), subject to CITES moratorium decisions.	
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which				
one(s)) C.Training, education, and dissemination				
Training, education, and dissemination Training, education and dissemination activities	x		There are educational activities on sea turtles every year along with beach cleanup with students and monitoring, publications, radio and TV broadcasting on sea turtles conservation.	
D. Harmonization of policies and legislation	1 1			
Modifications to instruments				



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E. Capacity building				
Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network	X		Honduras Inter-institutional Committee for the Protection of Sea Turtles (COTTOM) was established in 2013. Every year there is training in nesting sites as preparation for conservation and monitoring activities.	
F. Financing				
• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution		X	There is not an exclusive budget to implement this resolution. The actions before mentioned are partly on governmental funding but mainly on the private sector and NGOs.	
G. Socio-economic considerations		-		
• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	X		There is training in areas with a direct dependency on sea turtles as a resource. It includes tourism, productivity, management, strengthening of cooperatives, and solar energy sources contributing to the development and conservation of marine and coastal resources.	
H. Other aspects		-		
Environmental impact studies for aquaculture projects		Х		
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.	Х		Honduras National Strategy for the Conservation of Sea Turtles.	
3. Initiated activities that assist the Convention Secretariat in contacting non-Party States through established mechanisms, especially in the area of the Convention, so that they may provide, in a cooperative spirit, the Secretariat with available data on incidental sea turtle catches in their fisheries?		Х		
4. Supports the Convention Secretariat, through established mechanisms, to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memorandum of Understandings.		X		

(*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.



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Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5: Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP4-2009-R5, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DOES NOT APPLY	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)
1) Has your country prepared a plan(s) for				
adaptation to climate change? If Yes, specify the	х			National Strategy on Climate Change
plan(s). If they are in progress or answer is No,	Λ			National Strategy on Chinate Change
continue to Question 2a.				
1a) Have the marine and coastal habitats on which s		depend b	een included in the	e plans and national programs on
adaptation to climate change? Specify habitats inclu		1	[
Beaches	X			Cayos Cochinos Plan on adaptation to
Mangroves	Х			climate change includes the protection
Coral Reefs	Х			of nesting beaches banning construction in certain areas. Forestry,
Seagrasses	Х			Protected Areas and Wildlife Act law
Others, specify:				on no-construction 100 m from the beach is enforced.
1b) Are components of the plan(s) important to the a	adaptatio	n of critic	al sea turtle habitat	being implemented? Specify habitats:
Beaches	Х			There are activities to raise awareness
Mangroves	Х			on land, as well as an outreach about
Coral Reefs	Х			the sites identified as reserves of
Seagrasses	X			paramount importance for the
Others, specify:				resources afore-mentioned.
2a) Is environmental research/monitoring being con-	ducted to	evaluate	the potential impac	cts of climate change on sea turtles?
Specify parameters/research:			I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	6
Sand Temperature	X			Reef monitoring is carried out mainly in the Caribbean, tracking corals
Sea Temperature	Х			bleaching. Since 2014, foundation
Coral Bleaching	Х			BICA-Roatan is monitoring water
Beach Geomorphology	Х			quality in the area and periodic results
Storm intensity and frequency				are expected.
Others, specify:				
2b) Is biological research/monitoring being conduct biological research:	ed to eval	uate the p	potential impacts of	f climate change on sea turtles? Specify
Nesting season	X			These are the only data analyzed. In
Hatching success	X			El Venado beach there is a review on
Recruitment	Λ			nesting seasons.
Sex ratio				Hatching success is measured in all
Mortality				beaches in the South.
				-
Others, specify:				
3a) Are corrective measures and measures on adapta and conservation programs for sea turtles and their h				in management plans and/or protection
		specify if	leasures.	Both activities take place during
Nest relocation	X			Lepidochelys olivacea closure.
Hatchery establishment	Х			Foundation Cayos Cochinos also does
Use of incubators				it for Hawksbills, as well as the turtle
Protection of cooler beaches	ļ			group at Plaplaya working with
Protection of areas landward of nesting sites from				Leatherback.
coastal development				Among habitat protection actions,
Planting or removal of vegetation				training has been provided for
Others, specify:				monitoring staff, as well as beach cleanup jointly with different schools.



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3b) Are any of the plan's corrective measures being implemented and/or evaluated? If Yes, please specify.		
4. Have you identified organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to climate change? Please list these organizations or expert groups.	Х	NGOs such as Roatán Marine Park Reel Alliance, BICA/Utila, CODEFFAGOLF, Project ProGolfo, and DINANT's Small Donations Program located in primary nesting sites are considering supporting local communities.
5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change regarding or focused on Sea turtles and their habitats?	Х	National workshops on climate change to train monitoring staff. Climate change and actions to respond to it.

(*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

c.2 National and International Mandates

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates (Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

d. Application [submission] of exceptions established in the Convention

Describe in detail the exceptions allowed in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, in accordance with the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-R2). Attach management program.

Part III (Research information)

a. Threats

Indicate threats (Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change) by species, with information on the area and activities taken to control them in the following table. Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; Lk = Lepidochelys kempii; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Cc = Caretta caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas.

Species	Threat(s)		Actions
Lo	⊠Coastal development ⊠Incidental capture ⊠Direct use	 ☑ Contamination □ Pathogens □ Climate change 	Beach cleanup, raising awareness in fishers and authorities enforcing.
Lk	 ☑ Coastal development ☑ Incidental capture ☑ Direct use 	 ☑ Contamination ☑ Pathogens ☑ Climate change 	
Dc	□Coastal development ⊠Incidental capture ⊠Direct use	 ☑ Contamination □ Pathogens ☑ Climate change 	Strengthening of turtle group carrying out conservation actions, workshops and is seeking expansion of monitoring and conservation actions. Workshops for students from Plaplaya, Ibans and Cocobila communities. A joint effort



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			of ICF authorities, Honduras Navy and DIGEPESCA to carry out patrols in the area.
Ei	□Coastal development ⊠Incidental capture ⊠Direct use	 ☑ Contamination □ Pathogens ☑ Climate change 	Foundation Cayos Cochinos patrolling jointly with the Navy and local fishermen.
Cm	□Coastal development ⊠Incidental capture ⊠Direct use	 ☑ Contamination □ Pathogens ☑ Climate change 	BICA/Utila monitoring actions and beach cleanup.
Сс	□Coastal development ⊠Incidental capture ⊠Direct use	 ☑ Contamination □ Pathogens ☑ Climate change 	Patrols, beach cleanup, awareness program at Isl de la Bahía to avoid consumption and use of sea turtles.

b. Research

Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country and with what specie(s).

Research	Specie(s)(Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
Tagging	Ei, Cc
Migration	Ei
Habitat monitoring	
Interactions with fisheries	
Genetics	

c. Other activities

Include information on: environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.



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Part IV: Annexes

Table 1: Species Present

Place an X in the box when the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention. Lo = Lepidochelys olivacea; Lk = Lepidochelys kempii; Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Cc = Caretta caretta.

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
Lo	Х		
Lk			
Dc			Х
Ei	Х		Х
Cm	Χ		Х
Cc			Х



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Table 2: Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation

- a. This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species. For beaches that have multiple species nesting, enter that beach under the list for the primary nesting species. When entering information on nesting site or beaches, information is to be entered for each species independently. Indicate the names of index nesting sites. On a separate sheet of paper, indicate the selection criteria used for identifying the index beach, for example, because it hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within a region or other defined unit or genetic importance.
- b. Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season.
- c. Monitoring period: Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.
- *d.* Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, among others).
- e. Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.
- *f. Extension of beach monitored: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the nesting beach.*
- g. Declared protection area: Indicate (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.
- h. Annual nesting abundance: Provide information on the total number of females and/or clutches or nests deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide total number of nests.
- i. Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs. If possible, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.
- *j.* Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references, describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?
- k. Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data.
- 1. When inserting new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.



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Spp	Name of Index Nesting	Nestin	g season		nitoring eriod	Survey Frequency	Geographic Location in Decimal Degrees		ExtensionDeclaredof beachProtected		Annual Nesting Abundance			Tagging Program	Tissue Sampling	Organization or entity providing
	Site or Beach	Start	Finish	Start	Finish		Latitude	/Longitude	monitored (Km)	Area (Yes/No)	Females Exact Count	Clutches Exact Count	Number of Nests	(FT, ST, PIT)	(Yes/No)	data
Lo	Punta Raton	July	October	1/09	25/09	Daily	13°17′20′ ′N	87°20′31′′ W	5,6	Yes	242		242	None	No	Progolfo Program/ Miambiente
	El Venado	July	October	1/09	25/09	Daily										
Lk																
Dc	Plaplaya	Februar y	August	1/03	15/06	Daily			11		5		5	None	No	ICF/Platano River Regional Biosphere
Ei	Utila, Pumpkin Hill	April	October	1/06	31/10	Daily	16°07′21′ ′N	86°53′09′′ W	2		25		25	FT	No	BICA/Utila
Cm																
Cc	Utila, Pumpkin Hill			1/06	31/10		16°07′21′ ′N	86°53′09′′ W	2	Yes	4		4	FT	No	BICA/Utila



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Table 3: Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation

- a. This table is intended to contain information for foraging sites being studied for each species. For marine habitats that have multiple species present, enter the specific site under the heading for the priority species at that site.
- b. Name and geographic location: Provide the name of the site and geographic location in decimal degrees in Lat/Long (one reference point).
- c. Area: Indicate the size of the study site (in Kilometers²).
- d. Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.
- e. Life stage: Indicate the life stage or stages found in the study area (juvenile, subadult or adult).
- f. Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the in-water site by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs. If possible, on a separate sheet, or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.
- g. Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?
- h. Indicate the organization or entity providing the data.
- i. When adding new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.



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Species	Name of the Study Site	Geographic Location in Decimal Degrees Latitude/Longitude		Area (Km ²)	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Life Stages (Juvenile, Sub- adult, Adult)	Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	Organization or entity providing data
Lo									
Lk									
Dc									
Ei									
Cm									
Cc									