



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

## IAC - Annual Report 2023

# ARGENTINA

### IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall submit an Annual Report each year.

To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with appropriate stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please contact the Secretariat at [secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)

The submission deadline for this Annual Report is April 30th, 2023.

Translation by Haydeé Medina (IAC Secretariat)

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**THE PDF OF THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY EACH COUNTRY WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE CONVENTION WEBSITE**

## Part I – General Information

### Country

Name of the country reporting

»» Republic of Argentina

### Official Note

If required, please attach here the relevant administrative authority **official note** endorsing the annual report submission.

Are you attaching an official note?

Yes

You have attached the following document, web links/URLs to this answer: [NO-2023-77989361-APN-DAA MRE.pdf](#)

## 1) Focal Point

### 1.1 Name

»» Sra. Ministro Corina B. Lehmann

### 1.2 Institution

»» Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

### 1.3 Submission Date

»»19/05/2023

## 2) Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

### 2.1 Name of the person preparing this report

»» Débora Winter

### 2.2 Name of Agency or Institution

»» Dirección Nacional de Gestión Ambiental del Agua y los Ecosistemas Acuáticos, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible.

### 2.3 Address

»» San Martín 451, CABA

### 2.4 Telephone

»» 54 11 3990 0474

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»» [dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar](mailto:dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar)

## 3) Others who participated in the preparation of this report

### 3.1 Others who participated in the preparation of this report

	Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
	Jorgelina del Pilar Oddi	Dirección Nacional de Gestión Ambiental del Agua y los Ecosistemas Acuáticos, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación	joddi@ambiente.gob.ar
	Karina Cecilia Álvarez	Departamento de Conservación – Fundación Mundo Marino	cecikaru@hotmail.com
	Victoria González Carman	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (IIMyC) (CONICET - UNMdP); Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP)	vgcarman@gmail.com vgcarman@inidep.edu.a
	Alan Rosenthal	Asociación de Naturalistas Geselinos (ANG)	alanfrosenthal@gmail.com
	Laura Prosdocimi	Laboratorio de Ecología, Comportamiento y Mamíferos Marinos (LECyMM) Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN-CONICET)	Laboratorio de Ecología, Comportamiento y Mamíferos Marinos (LECyMM) Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN-CONICET)
	Sofía Jones	División Zoología Vertebrados-Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo- Universidad Nacional de La Plata CONICET	sjones@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar
	Natalia S.Teryda	School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida	nteryda@ufl.edu
	Victoria Massola	Reserva Natural Bahía Blanca Fundación FRAAM	victoriamassola@hotmail.com
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	Juan Federico Bernasconi	Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura de la Nación	ibernasconi@magyp.gob.a

## Part II – Policy and Management

### 1) General description of activities

**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 plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat. The Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments.

Please select the options that best apply for your country and provide the link to the corresponding document if available online. If it is in progress add the date is expected to be finalized in the corresponding section.

**1.1** The country has a national strategy/plan for the conservation of sea turtles in accordance with Article XVIII.

Please upload the file or attach the links to the corresponding documents using the blue box icons beneath each question

Yes

You have attached the following document, web link/URLs to this answer: [PAN\\_TM\\_for\\_National\\_Report.docx](#)

»»

**1.2** Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional scales in accordance with Article XVIII?

Please attach the list of policies and programs and other information relevant to their adoption or implementation.

Yes

You have attached the following document, web link/URLs to this answer: [PAN\\_TM\\_for\\_National\\_Report.docx](#)

**1.3** Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?

Please attach the list of programs and other information relevant to their adoption or implementation.

No

### 2) National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted during the preceding year

Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities that were adopted during the preceding year (**30 April 2022 – 30 April 2023**).

Please provide a literature 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.

**First time a country is submitting this information:** please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

**Countries that have previously submitted this information;** please provide information for any changes that have occurred since your country's last report submission (2022).

National Legislation

	Type and name of the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
	Resolution SAGYO 92/2021	Article No. 8 establishes: Fishing captains or skippers must complete in the OBSERVATIONS field of the electronic Fishing Report forms, the information regarding cases of incidental capture of birds, turtles and marine mammals	

International Instruments

	Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratified

### 3) Actions to comply with National and International Mandate

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates.

(Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

»» The province of Buenos Aires, through Resolution 86/2010 and through the former Provincial Body of Sustainable Development (OPDS), current Ministry of Environment, coordinates the Marine Fauna Rescue Network with jurisdiction throughout the Buenos Aires coast. The actions of this network contemplate mechanisms that facilitate the referral of sea turtles found stranded, and that require referral to the rehabilitation center nearest enabled, for recovery and subsequent release.

The two aquariums in the province of Buenos Aires (Aquarium in Mar del Plata and Mundo Marino in San Clemente del Tuyú) are registered under Resolution 231/19, which creates a Single Registry of Operators of Wildlife. Currently the inspections of these aquariums are carried out by the Directorate of Inspections of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), which is headed by Juan Manuel Rodríguez.

#### **4) Efforts to increase IAC membership**

##### **4.1 Has your country encouraged non-member states to join the IAC?**

*Please select only one option*

No

##### **4.2 Has your country reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, and/or Suriname to inform these nations about the critical situation of the population and priority actions for the conservation of leatherbacks in the NW Atlantic?**

*Please select only one option*

No

#### **5) Exceptions under the Convention**

##### **5.1 Have your country presented a 5-year report on the implementation of the Exception Resolution?**

Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Exception Guatemala and Panama (2013-2020).

Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1 Exception Costa Rica (2015-2020).

Attach the five-year report.

No

##### **5.3. Does your country have a management plan for the exception?**

If yes, attach the exception management plan

No

»»

## Part III - Compliance with IAC Resolutions

### 1) Sea Turtle Species Presence

#### 1.1 Sea Turtle Species Present in the Country

Check the box if the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention.

	Atlantic Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Caribbean Sea
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Additional Notes

Include other information, if required

»» In the case of sea turtle specie, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, only there have been only two records, which were from hybrid specimens with *Caretta caretta*

### 2) IAC Resolutions

#### 2.1 The following resolutions apply to this country

- Hawksbill Resolution
- Loggerhead Resolution
- Fisheries Resolution

#### Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R2 - Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

1. Is your country strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?

not applicable

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» not applicable

2. Is your country enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?

not applicable

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» does not apply

3. Are activities being carried out in your country to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?

Yes

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» Yes

**4. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these**

## habitats

### 4a. Protection of nesting habitats

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» There are no nesting sites in Argentina

### 4b. Protection of feeding habitats

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»»No

## Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3: Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

1. Has your country created national action plans and/or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?

Yes

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»»Yes- In 2015 the Consejo Federal de Medio Ambiente (COFEMA) (Federal Council for the environment) approved by the Resolution No. 317/2015 the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Republic of Argentina (PAN TM) and within it, the "National Action Program to reduce sea turtle interactions with fisheries in Argentina", which was approved by the Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP) -Fisheries Federal Council through Resolution No. 14/2018.

2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation in your country.

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?

Yes

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» Workshops are held to follow up the implementation of PAN Tortugas

4. Is there protection of the loggerhead turtle at a state or federal level?

*Please select only one option*

Yes

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Yes

- Law N° 22.421/1981 Fauna National Law and its Regulatory Decree 666/1997.

-Law N° 24.922/1997 adopts the Federal Fishing Regime, and Regulatory Decree 748/1999.

Resolution SAyDS 513/2007 prohibits hunting, capture, inter-regional traffic, trade on federal jurisdiction, and export of live specimens, products, or sub-products of wildlife, including sea turtles in Annex I

5. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?

No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» not applicable

6. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?

No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» not applicable

7. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?

No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» not applicable

8. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead turtles in your country?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

## **Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 – Reduce impacts of fisheries on sea turtles**

Relating to if your country has adopted the 'Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations', of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) including:

### **A. Research and monitoring of the adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles**

1. Does your country collect information by fishery?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

2. Does your country have observer programs?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» Although there is not a specific onboard observers' program, INIDEP (National Institute for Fisheries Development) has the Onboard Commercial Vessels Observers Program which protocol to handle sea turtles onboard is updated every year, as well as for all INIDEP programs susceptible to interact with sea turtles. This protocol includes sea turtle identification booklets. (Same answer as the previous year)

3. Does your country do research on sea turtle/fishery interactions?

Yes

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.



documents, if required.

»» Yes, Doctoral thesis (in progress): "Evaluation of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles occurring in Argentinian waters" by Sofia Jones in the Vertebrate Zoology Division-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum-National University of La Plata - CONICET. Advisors: Dr. Laura Prosdocimi and Professor Jorge Williams Within the framework of this thesis, a species identification sheet has been designed (Figure 1), to assist the fishing sector in reporting the observations of fauna, required in the fishing reports, as established in resolution SAGYP 92/ 2021; It can be found in the official page of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Nation, freely accessible and free of charge ([https://www.magyp.gob.ar/sitio/areas/pesca\\_maritima/plan/PAN-TORTUGAS/index.php](https://www.magyp.gob.ar/sitio/areas/pesca_maritima/plan/PAN-TORTUGAS/index.php)) and it is currently still promoted in ports.

During 2022 there is still work done with the artisanal and commercial fishermen in Buenos Aires with the purpose of registering the fishing effort, the incidental bycatch of sea turtles and sightseeing in the water, also to find consensus with the sector about which are the best onboard practices for their proper return into the sea. The Bycatch Report network was reinforced through WhatsApp to collect information and to continue promoting participation of the community in the conservation of these reptiles through the social media networks (<https://www.instagram.com/proyecto.tutka/>).

- Updating work on the sea turtle stranding databases in the northern coastal sector of the Buenos Aires province in conjunction with Fundación Mundo Marino and Asociación Naturalistas Geselinos Incidentales (ANG). Within this context, work was done on a publication that explores the hypothesis that the incidental bycatch is one of the main causes of stranding's of sea turtles registered throughout the bonaerense coast. This study represents the first analysis of the spatial-temporal distribution of sea turtle stranding's in Argentina by physical, biological and anthropic and provides valuable information for the implementing agencies on biodiversity. This work was led by Lic. Martina Vassallo (UMNdp) under the supervision of Dr. González-Carman.

-Continue working with the Fundación Mundo Marino, Asociación de Naturalistas Geselinos y el Centro de Estudios Parasitológicos y de Vectores de La Plata with the study on the sanitary status of sea turtles. This work complements the study base on the data on strandings, because it is intended to explore other causes of mortality in sea turtles (ie. Illness) not associated with fisheries. This work is led by Dr. Ezequiel Palumbo (CONICET) under the supervision of Dr. González Carman.

-Continue working on the project: "Towards a co-designed conservation program to reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries from Argentina" in collaboration with Fundación AquaMarina. This work is been led by Lic. Daniela Font (UC Santa Cruz, EEUU) under the supervision of Dr. Gonzalez Carman.

-Evaluation of areas of use by the commercial fishing fleet and its possible interactions with sea turtles, defining sensitive management and conservation zones for sea turtles. Reference publication: Prosdocimi et al. 2020.

-Registering the presences of stranded fishing gear or scars on sea turtle samples within the stranding monitoring program, that may indicate a possible interaction with fisheries.

-Registering fishing gear in bycatch specimen released alive or admitted at a rehab center.

You have attached the following web links/URLs to this answer: [Species identification guide.jpg](#)

4. Does your country have information on non-Party vessels and interactions with sea turtles?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

5. Does your country cooperate with non-party states to obtain information on interactions with sea turtles?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

## B. Mitigation measures

6. Does your country implement mitigation measures in long-line fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»» No

7. Does your country implement mitigation measures in gillnets fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»»No

8. Does your country implement mitigation measures in trawl fisheries (e.g. TEDs)?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify a geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures; or attach any relevant documents

»»No

9. Does your country implement mitigation measure in other fishing gears?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

No

If yes, please indicate which fishing gears

»»No

10. List the fisher training programs about best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally- caught sea turtles carried out by your country during the last year

Within the framework of the Letter of Agreement signed by FAO and Fundación Mundo Marino within the project GCP/ARG/025/GFF "Protecting the marine biodiversity: marine an ecosystem approach for fisheries and protected areas", executed by MayDS with FAO as the implementing agency for the GEF funds, a final report was presented with the results of the monitoring of sea turtle stranding during the period 2014-2020 and a video geared towards fishermen about best onboard practices for the handling of sea turtles.

-Within the framework of the doctoral thesis "Evaluation of the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles presents in Argentinian waters" (Lic. Sofia Jones, in progress) -outreach workshops were provided for people in the fishing sector (captains, mariners, ports and governmental authorities) to present the issue associated with the activity and the best practices for handling sea turtles on board. A good practice guide has been designed with the steps to follow after an incidental catch, things to avoid, why it is necessary to avoid them and what is the ideal way to handle turtles on board. (Fig.2). They have been distributed to be carried on board of vessels with the Identification guide for sea turtle species, designed and shared during the 2021. Reference Publication: Jones et al.. 2023a;. Jones et al 2023b.

- Jones S.; Prosdocimi L.; Vera D. G.; Rolón M. C. J. y Williams J. 2023a. Collaborative work with fishers: a fundamental tool for sea turtle conservation in Argentina. Presentación de póster 41th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. 18 - 24 de marzo de 2023, Cartagena, Colombia.
- Jones S.; Prosdocimi L.; Vera D. G.; Rolón M. C. J. y Williams J. 2023b. Construyendo redes para la conservación de las tortugas marinas en Argentina. Poster presentation on the III Congreso Iberoamericano de gestión Integrada de Áreas Litorales. 24 - 27 de abril de 2023, Mar del Plata, Argentina.

You have attached the following web links/URLs to this answer:

[Turtle file 2.jpg](#)

[Turtle file 1.jpg](#)

## C. Socio-economic considerations

11. Does your country support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles?

No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

»»No

## Part IV – Research Information

Indicate threats (Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination, pathogens, and climate change) by species

### 1) Threats

#### 1.1 Indicate threats

Indicate threats (**Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination, pathogens, and climate change**) by species

Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*  
 Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*  
 Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*  
 Cc = *Caretta caretta*  
 Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

	Lo	Lk	Dc	Ei	Cc	Cm
Direct Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incidental Capture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pathogens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 2) Indicate the mitigation actions that apply for each species

### 2.1 Habitat loss mitigation actions (i.e. coastal development, pollution, climate change)

	Lk	Lo	Dc	Ei	Cc	Cm
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting regulations in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for construction near nesting sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for scientific research on feeding/nesting grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for recreational activities near nesting sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beach Cleanups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Predator's removal/control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of sea turtle friendly lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2.2 Bycatch mitigation actions (i.e. Incidental Capture)

	L o	L k	Dc	Ei	Cc	Cm
Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TED)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time/space closures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research on new fishing gear technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel monitoring using VMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Marking of fishing gear in commercial vessels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishers trained on sea turtle safe handling and release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Observers program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of circle hooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nets are banned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trawling is banned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nets illumination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2.3 Direct use mitigation actions

	L o	L k	Dc	Ei	Cc	Cm
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nests relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Patrols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day Patrols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flipper Tagging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Satellite Tracking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poaching regulations in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental education for local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seizure of sea turtle products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Livelihood alternatives for local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exception management plan (if applies)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 3) Research

### 3.1 Types of research

Please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country related to each species.

	Cc	Lo	Cm	Lk	Dc	Ei
Tagging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries interactions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3.2 Describe scientific research

In addition to the above, please 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.

To report each project, please use the following structure:

- 1) Name of the project
- 2) Objective
- 3) E-mail of the organization/responsible
- 4) Summary (5 lines)
- 5) Annex Number (Use the blue buttons to attach photos and/or the full report, if available)

Describe the file with the same Annex number referenced in the text.

»»»» 1. Trophic ecology studies in all species of sea turtles from strandings and incidental capture, using tissue samples (skin, muscle, blood, bone, scutes) for the analysis of stable isotopes and content samples. digestive for interaction studies with plastics and parasitosis.

2.

a. Continuation of the systematic monitoring program for sea turtle strandings, started in 2014, covering the coastal sector of the Province of Buenos Aires, between Punta Rasa and Mar Chiquita, covering 180 km of beach between the months of March and June. This systematic work allows for field necropsies and the identification and comprehensive analysis of the causes of strandings. The Mundo Marino Foundation, the Association of Geselino Naturalists (ANG), the National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) and the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (CONICET- UNMdP ) participate in this program. In this regard, the records of the Mundo Marino Foundation Rehabilitation Center for the period from 4/12/22 to 4/12/23 were: Dc : 3 dead strandings Cc : Total 21 specimens: 13 strandings (1 alive and 12 dead) and 8 entanglements (4 alive and 4 dead) Cm: Total 4 specimens: 1 dead stranding and 3 entanglements (2 alive and 1 dead) Simultaneously with the systematic monitoring of strandings, ANG continued working on its voluntary reporting program with the cooperation of the municipal beach safety area and the lifeguards of the Villa Gesell district. The lifeguards were instructed in the correct identification of the species and were provided with identification cards and colorimetric scales for the corresponding georeferenced photographic reports.

As for ANG, the records during the period from April 5, 2022 to April 10, 2023 resulted in: Dc: 3 dead strandings Cc : 7 dead strandings Cm: 1 dead strandings

b. Marine Fauna Rehabilitation Center (CRFM) Aquarium, Mar del Plata: due to the coastal conformation, it is very difficult to travel and monitor, but due to the demographic characteristics of the area of influence, monitoring is done indirectly for the most part. the presence of the public that reports on animal finds, from the Mar Chiquita area, to having groups of volunteers (NGOs) and official actors from the municipalities (wildlife guards), who report and derive specimens, reaching the area of Claromec  / Monte Hermoso.

In the last period studied, only two cases were reported. The first, dated October 2022, was a specimen of the *Caretta caretta* species that arrived dead at the port of Mar del Plata and was transferred to the CRFM to perform a necropsy, with findings compatible with gas embolism. The second case, dated February 10, 2023, was a specimen of the *Chelonia species mydas* transported by fishing vessel, received in very poor condition and hypoglycemic. He remained in rehab until his death on 2/26. The autopsy indicated a disseminated granulomatous process of undetermined cause at the time.

3. Study of fibropapillomatosis in green turtle. Published. Javier Anibal Origlia , Juan Pablo Loureiro, Marco Antonio Tizzano , Fernando Maydup , Karina Alvarez , Sergio Rodriguez Heredia, Mar a Gabriela Echeverria and Hern n Sguazza (2023) Fibropapillomatosis Associated with Chelonid herpesvirus 5 (ChHV5) in a Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* in Argentine Waters. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* , 59(2), 2023. DOI: 10.7589/JWD-D-22-00083

4. Ongoing research projects:

a-Biology and conservation of sea turtles in Argentina: Is fishing the main cause of mortality?

The project has the following specific objectives: 1) Characterize sea turtle strandings according to their specific composition, age, sex and reproductive maturity. 2) Describe the spatio-temporal pattern of turtle strandings and relate it to physical, biological and anthropic variables that allow us to approximate causes of mortality. 3) Propose a theoretical model for the interpretation of sea turtle strandings that allows identifying the probable spatio-temporal coordinates of mortality events and evaluating changes in mortality rates over time. This project is of vital importance to add evidence in favor of the fact that one of the causes of mortality of sea turtles is bycatch. and to generate a baseline of turtle strandings necessary to evaluate the effects of future seismic surveys to be carried out on the Buenos Aires platform.

Email of the person in charge: Lic. Martina Vassallo and Dr. Victoria Gonz lez Carman (vgcarman@gmail.com; vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar) Products generated to date: doctoral scholarship work plan presented to CONICET in December 2022.

b-Towards a co-designed conservation program to reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This Project compiles the existing information about the incidental capture of sea turtles in our country and identifies the fishing gear in which it occurs as well as its spatial-temporal variation. This is of utmost importance within the framework of the objectives set within the NAP-Turtles because there are no official statistics on the artisanal fisheries involved in the capture. Likewise, the incidental capture of turtles implies harm to fishermen in terms of damage to fishing gear and increasing restrictions that negatively affect the activity. Therefore, the project aims to identify the challenges that fishermen face in addressing the protection of sea turtles in pursuit of efficient conservation and sustainable fishing.

Email of the person responsible: Lic. Daniela Font and Victoria González Carman (vgcarman@gmail.com; vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar) Products generated to date: Font et al., 2022.

c- Analysis of the spatial-temporal distribution of the marine megafauna assemblage stranded in the Villa Gesell district. Doctoral thesis, Biology, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Mammals Group. Department of Marine Sciences-National University of Mar del Plata.

Email of the person in charge: Alan Rosenthal ( alanrosenthal@gmail.com )

Summary: The northern coast of Argentina is used by more than 60 species of seabirds, 31 species of marine mammals and 3 species of sea turtles, many of which are globally threatened. Because they are long-lived species, with low fecundity and late sexual maturity, even the slightest increases in mortality can lead to their populations – collectively called marine megafauna – rapidly declining. This places them in a condition of particular vulnerability to the increase in anthropogenic activities in marine environments such as fishing, hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation, and pollution by various chemical agents. However, little is known about the ecological consequences that these activities generate on the marine (MM) populations of this region. In this scenario, it is of great importance for biodiversity conservation to permanently monitor the state of the MM with the objective of collecting reliable information that allows evaluating changes in the condition and progress of management objectives. MM monitoring is carried out, for example, through data collection at sea or via satellite telemetry. These methods are costly and therefore compromise management objectives. For its part, the systematic monitoring of marine vertebrates stranded along the coasts represents a low-cost methodology that allows us to know the occurrence and specific richness of MM in a region, in addition to deepening the knowledge of the biology, ecology and conservation, and evaluate the impact of anthropogenic activities on marine ecosystems, using this group as indicator organisms of environmental health. Furthermore, knowing the spatial-temporal distribution of MM strandings can be very useful to determine areas of greater anthropogenic pressure where greater attention should be paid, in order to detect changes and evaluate the impact on threatened species, and even, serve as a tool for the design and implementation of new marine protected areas. There is some precedent on the monitoring of strandings in Argentina, and particularly in the Buenos Aires marine coastal region, where spatial-temporal variations have been evident. However, most of them have been biased to a particular group of the MM, unequal in terms of sampling effort and temporal restrictions (González- Carman et al., 2011, Jorge 2016, Seco Pon et al., 2017, 2019, Vasallo 2021, Giardino et al., 2022, Seco Pon and García 2022). The lack of appropriate information regarding the stranding of the MM increases its vulnerability situation, therefore, it is necessary to generate reliable information that serves for its protection, conservation and recovery, providing the knowledge and capacity that allows society to adopt positive actions towards nature. As a continuation of the efforts made previously (Seco Pon et al., 2017, 2019), between 2020 and 2022, systematic monitoring (biweekly) of the beaches of the Villa Gesell District was carried out with the objective of 1) describing the assembly of MM stranded in terms of its specific composition and abundance and 2) analyze its seasonal variation.

d-Origin of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the feeding areas of the Río de la Plata in the Western South Atlantic.

Objectives: Based on the evaluation of nuclear markers, define if there are new assignments of origin for leatherback turtle specimens in the ASO.

Email of the person in charge: Laura Prosdociami (lprosdociami@yahoo.com.ar)

Summary: The Leatherback Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, like other sea turtle species, undertakes long-distance migrations between tropical/subtropical nesting beaches and distant temperate foraging areas. Globally, the leatherback turtle's IUCN status is listed as Vulnerable, but the Southwestern Atlantic subpopulation is classified as Critically Endangered. Satellite telemetry studies have shown that South American coastal waters provide important foraging areas for large adult and juvenile leatherback turtles in the Western South Atlantic. For the past 20 years, the NGO Karumbe in Uruguay and PRICMA in Argentina have investigated the biology and habitat use of this species in the waters of the Río de la Plata estuary, a near-shore feeding area with jurisdiction shared between Uruguay and Argentina.

Previous genetic studies using mixed stock analysis (MSA) with mtDNA data have shown that leatherback turtles feeding in Uruguay and Argentina come mainly from West African breeding populations, mainly from the large colonies in Gabon. New approaches are now available to assign the stock origin of individual turtles using nDNA analysis with greater precision.

This study builds on previous analyzes of mixed populations, incorporating nDNA genotyping using a set of 16 informative microsatellite markers combined with mtDNA analysis of an expanded sample set (n= 130), including 56 new samples from stranded animals from the Rio de la Plata. The MSA results are generally consistent with previous findings, with an estimated 90% belonging to West African colonies. It was unclear whether the minor contributions estimated by MSA from Caribbean and South African colonies were statistical artifacts resulting from common mtDNA haplotypes shared between these source populations. Results from our individual assignments using nDNA genotyping data confirmed that at least five turtles originated from Caribbean colonies, providing new insights into possible connectivity between breeding populations in the northwest Atlantic and foraging populations in the southwest Atlantic. Together, these findings improve our understanding of the connectivity between these breeding and feeding areas on opposite sides of the ocean in the South Atlantic. Prosdociami et al., 2023

e-Evaluation of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles present in Argentine waters. Doctoral thesis, Vertebrate Zoology Division-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum-National University of La Plata-CONICET.

Goals:

General objective: Determine the extent of incidental catches of sea turtles in the different fishing fleets on the Buenos Aires coast, its impact on the populations and possible mitigation measures to reduce this effect.

Specific objectives: 1. Evaluate the impact of the bycatch of sea turtles in the Maritime Front of the Rio de la Plata (FMRP) and "El Rincón" estuary by quantifying the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and the direct mortality rate depending on the type of fleet and fishing gear. 2. Identify areas sensitive to bycatch by artisanal fishing activity of *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* in the waters of the FMRP and "El Rincón"; and corroborate the precision in the delimitation of those sensitive areas previously identified for the commercial fleet. 3. Identify environmental parameters (sea surface temperature, chlorophyll concentration, salinity) and operational parameters of the fleets (type and size of fishing gear, depth of draft, immersion time of fishing gear, operating area, target species, hold capacity, crew) that influence CPUE and direct mortality rates. 4. Develop and implement collaborative solutions to prevent incidental capture and live release of turtles, with the participation of the stakeholders involved.

Email of the person in charge: Sofia Jones ( sjones@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar )

Summary: This project will prepare a regional review to determine the extent of incidental capture of sea turtles in five sites that present a greater degree of overlap between operational

zones and areas identified as key for the three species present in Argentina; At the same time, participatory conservation programs will be developed including the fishing community that favor the long-term conservation of these animals, minimizing not only incidental catches but also the negative economic impacts that other mitigation efforts may generate in fishing communities. It should be noted that the objectives proposed in this research are aligned with the goals proposed in one of the programs of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PAN - TM).

Products generated to date: Jones et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2022; Jones et al., 2023 a, b

f- Identifying strategies for conservation of the Marine Turtles in Argentina and Uruguay, South America. Doctoral thesis , School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida.

Objectives: The objective is to develop and consolidate a holistic approach to the analysis and conservation of sea turtles and their coastal habitats. Efforts will be directed to the research of two endangered species with the application of new technologies, the strengthening of regional conservation and management networks and the integration of these components with the development of community capacities. At the same time, the goal is to test the use and efficiency of UAS in new areas where these technologies have not been used before and to develop useful protocols for future deployment around the world.

Email of the person in charge: Natalia S. Teryda ( nterya@ufl.edu )

Summary: The project will focus on research on two endangered species of sea turtles, green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), with the application of new remote research technologies, the reinforcement of regional conservation and management networks, and the integration of these components with community training. At the same time, the objective is to test the use and efficiency of drones (or UAS) in new areas where these technologies have not been used before and to develop useful protocols for their future implementation in similar regions in the world. In particular, during the development of this project, the efficiency of drones for monitoring marine species will be evaluated and tested, while standardizing protocols for future implementation in long-term research of sea turtles in water under low-water conditions. water clarity and hard-to-reach coastal areas. In turn, it is expected to estimate the preliminary abundance of leatherback turtles and habitat distribution present in the Rio de La Plata Estuary, Argentina, which can be used as a tool to design efficient monitoring campaigns that can be integrated into the distribution of the fishing fleet for management and conservation efforts. Concomitantly, it is planned to estimate the abundance of green turtles in the Marine Protected Area of Cerro Verde and La Coronilla Islands, Uruguay, using the same protocols and evaluate the anthropogenic threats faced by these species by examining strandings in Uruguay applying UAS as substitutes for efficient management efforts of marine protected areas and the reinforcement of regional conservation and management networks.

Products generated to date: Prosdociami et al., 2020b; Teryda et al., 2022 g- Evaluation of sensitive areas for the conservation of Sea Turtles. Objectives: Based on the evaluation of areas of use by the commercial fishing fleet and the sea turtles present in Argentina, the possible interaction with Sea Turtles was evaluated, defining sensitive areas for management and conservation.

Email of the person in charge: Laura Prosdociami (lprosdociami@yahoo.com.ar)

Summary: High priority areas for intervention, conservation and management were identified based on available published information on fishing operations and habitat use of sea turtles. The distribution of bottom trawl fishing within the Rio de la Plata Maritime Front (RLPMF) and its adjacent international waters is analyzed. This area is a fishing ground of great importance for fishing in the Western South Atlantic, as well as a feeding and development area for sea turtles. Using the information available from the Vessel Satellite Monitoring System (VMS) implemented to monitor commercial fleets, the areas of greatest use by the fleet were defined. Currently, there are not many studies that implement VMS information to identify key conservation areas within fishing grounds, making this study an innovative analysis for conservation studies of endangered species. Our results identified areas of high susceptibility to sea turtle bycatch by the commercial trawler fleet along the RLPMF. The implementation of bycatch mitigation measures by the fisheries management agencies of Argentina and Uruguay has the potential to benefit both fisheries and marine megafauna. In addition, more research is needed on the impact that this fleet may have on the sea turtles present in the area.

Products generated to date: Prosdociami et al., 2020<sup>a</sup>

h- Management and conservation of threatened marine species in Argentina: an approach from the distribution models and ethnography of the different actors involved.

Summary

The growing human population and its consumer pressure endanger the existence of numerous species whose management and protection require scientific information about their ecology and interaction with human activities. The general objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of marine species by working with two complementary epistemological and methodological approaches, [biological and anthropological], in order to address their conservation and management in a comprehensive manner, contemplating the socio-cultural, political and ontological dimensions involved. From the biological approach, we will work on modeling the use of habitat and distribution to evaluate the effect of various activities or anthropogenic factors on different species of turtles and marine mammals in order to propose management and protection measures for them. From the anthropological approach, an ethnographic investigation will be advanced with the objective of analytically reconstructing the discourses and practices of a group of artisanal fishermen and experts in conservation and management who interact in an area of interest both for the conservation of turtles and marine mammals. as for the exploitation of fishing resources. In particular, it is proposed that the problem of incidental capture of these species in the north of the province of Buenos Aires must be addressed by reconstructing not only the concerns about the loss of biodiversity raised from the hegemonic discourse of conservationism, but also the issues of inequality in access to fishing resources and their overexploitation favored by current fishing policies. The proposed approach to the conservation of these species is in line with the principles of ecosystem management adopted by government wildlife and fisheries agencies, and at the forefront of scientific disciplines such as Conservation Biology and Nature Anthropology.

Email of the person in charge: Victoria González Carman (vgcarman@gmail.com; vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar)

Products generated to date: GonzálezCarman2023; Connerset al., 2022; Denuncio et al., In press.

i-Gelatinous plankton as food for sea turtles in the Rio de la Plata estuary

Summary

The objective of this work plan is to explore the role of gelatinous plankton as food for sea turtles in one of the southernmost feeding areas of the Southwest Atlantic: the Rio de la Plata estuary. At least three species of sea turtles arrive in the Rio de la Plata after migrating thousands of kilometers from tropical latitudes. Some of these species are in critical stages of

their life cycle in which the type and amount of food determines survival and reproductive success. However, the role of gelatinous plankton in marine food webs is controversial. Historically considered a poor food given its high-water content (close to 95%), the high densities of gelatinous plankton reached during its demographic explosions (or blooms) would compensate for its low energy values. Our hypothesis is that the Rio de la Plata is an important feeding area for sea turtles due to the high concentration and predictability (in space and time) of gelatinous plankton in this area. To test this hypothesis, a bibliographic review will be carried out to describe the existing knowledge about the trophic ecology (diet, consumption rates, energy requirements) of turtle species in the Southwest Atlantic. Then, work will be done with the databases of the Zooplankton Cabinet of the National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development to determine the spatial distribution of gelatinous plankton and the interannual variations of its biomass, identifying the areas of highest plankton density in an Information System. Geographic. Finally, the importance of the Rio de la Plata as a feeding area for sea turtles will be evaluated based on the results obtained in the previous steps regarding the energy requirements and consumption rate of the turtles, as well as in relation to the supply of gelatinous plankton in the study area.

Email of the person in charge: Victoria González Carman (vgcarman@gmail.com; vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar)

Products generated to date: Tapia Montagna 2022 (degree thesis).

j- Health status of sea turtles in the temperate region of the Southwest Atlantic of the seven existing species of sea turtles, three of them

-Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas and Dermochelys coriacea - they feed in the region of the Rio de La Plata estuary and its seafront, from late spring to early autumn. The presence of these individuals is evidenced by the weakened or dead specimens found on the beach. The main causes of these strandings are accidental capture by fishing fleets, the ingestion of plastics and diseases caused by viruses (such as fibropapillomatosis) or parasites (mostly digeneans). The general objective of this work plan is to contribute to the conservation of sea turtles by evaluating, for the first time, some aspects of the health status of the species that feed in the temperate region of the Southwest Atlantic. The health status of sea turtles will be evaluated based on the characterization of their body condition, parasitic fauna and prevalence of diseases; and will be compared with the data already reported in Brazil and Uruguay. In addition, the relationship between the health status of the turtles and the diet will be explored, taking into account plastic consumption and the type of food. Since there are no previous studies, this plan represents the possibility of establishing the knowledge base on the health status of sea turtles in an area that will be exposed, in the short term, to the negative effects of hydrocarbon exploration, among others. adverse effects of anthropization. On the other hand, it is expected to fill information gaps and answer a series of questions of great ecological interest. At the same time, the exploration of the relationship between the consumption of gelatinous plankton and the health status of the turtles will contribute to understanding the low prevalence of parasitic infections and diseases preliminarily observed in the area.

Email of the person in charge: Dr. Ezequiel Palumbo and Victoria González Carman (vgcarman@gmail.com; vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar)

Products generated to date: Palumbo et al., 2022.

#### Bibliographic citations:

- Conners MG, [...], González Carman V, [...], Maxwell SM. 2022. Mismatches in scale between highly mobile marine megafauna and marine protected areas. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 10.3389/fmars.2022.897104.
- Denuncio P, Mandiola A, Padula A, Álvarez K, Rodríguez -Heredia S, González Carman V. Impact of marine litter on the megafauna of the Rio de la Plata. *Southern Coastal Park: Nature, Conservation and Cultural Heritage*. Azara Publishing House, Buenos Aires. In press.
- González Carman V. 2023. Research on sea turtles at INIDEP. *Info . Activities No. 6*.
- Jones S.; Prosdocimi L.; Vera DG; Rolón MCJ and Williams J. 2023a. Collaborative work with fishers: a fundamental tool for sea turtle conservation in Argentina. Poster presentation 41th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. March 18 - 24, 2023, Cartagena, Colombia.
- Jones S.; Prosdocimi L.; Vera DG; Rolón MCJ and Williams J. 2023b. Building networks for the conservation of sea turtles in Argentina. Poster presentation III Ibero-American Congress on Integrated Management of Coastal Areas. April 24 - 27, 2023, Mar del Plata, Argentina.
- Font D, González Carman V, Zapata MF, Beminsone L, Bruno IM. 2022. Towards a co-designed conservation program to reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries from Buenos Aires. 4th World Small-scale Fisheries Congress Latin American & the Caribbean. Merida, Mexico.
- Palumbo EO, Álvarez KC, Rodríguez-Heredia S, Werneck MR, Loureiro JP, Rosenthal A, Bruno IM, Martelli C, González Carman V, Diaz JI. 2022. First records of parasites in sea turtles in Argentina.
- Argentine Congress of Parasitology. Salta, Argentina. Prosdocimi L.; Velez -Rubio, G.; Fallabrino , A.; López-Mendilaharsu, M.; La Casella, E.; Roden , S. and Dutton , P.2023. Origin of leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) at feeding grounds off the Río de la Plata in South Western Atlantic. Poster presentation 41th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. March 18 - 24, 2023, Cartagena, Colombia Tapia Montagna T. Gelatinous plankton as food for sea turtles in the Río de la Plata estuary. Bachelor's thesis. National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

## **4) Other activities**

In the case of projects, please include the name of the project, organizations involved, a five lines summary, current status, and contact person.

### **4.1 Other activities**

Include a 500 words summary of information on environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.

Please attach any other relevant documents using the blue boxes below.

>>> Some of the activities offered by this Mundo Marino Foundation carried out in the reporting period were: Within the park and with visitors, the following activities were carried out:

- Exploring the Unknown, guided tours with educational talks reaching 2,105 visitors. • Little Conservationists (January and February 2023), reaching 5,865 children.
- Educational Programs (Transformations, Play for Nature, Little Adventurers and Sleeping with Dolphins), reaching 29,751 students from different provinces.
- Allies to the Mundo Marino Foundation: 109 students.
- Environmental Education Day: 519 children. Activities outside Mundo Marino aimed at the local community and visitors (tourists):
- Mundo Marino Foundation goes to school: 743 students at the initial, primary and secondary levels. • During the Wetlands Day Festival (February 2) in the Port of San Clemente, talks were held on sea turtles and their problems in the area (interaction with fishing nets)



and marine waste) for 50 people.

- Clean Beaches Campaign (January and February 2023), in the spas of the different towns of the La Costa District, carrying out recreational and educational activities with 675 children in total. Paper dissemination: 792 sea turtle flyers were distributed Digital dissemination:

\* Technical sheets of: *Chelonia mydas* , *Dermodochelys coriacea* , *Caretta caretta* .

\* Educational material about sea turtles through the networks.

\* World Sea Turtle Day Anniversary: development of teaching materials for teachers. The 6th Provincial Census of marine litter was carried out and the infographic with its results was disseminated on networks, print, radio and television media, which generated a large number of articles with significant impact and the possibility of disseminating the problem of marine litter. sea turtles in their interaction with waste  
The Association of Geselino Naturalists (ANG) carried out various educational and dissemination activities:

- During the week of June 6 to 12, and in commemoration of International Sea Turtle Day, various publications were made on social networks with information related to the biology and conservation of sea turtles.
- Within the framework of the 6th Provincial Census of marine litter and the Blue Schools project of the Cultural Center of Science, the collaboration of the San Patricio school was called for the preparation of an exhaustive survey of plastics and microplastics on the beaches of the Villa Gesell district , highlighting the impact of this problem on marine species, particularly with the species of sea turtles present in the Argentine Sea.
- The traveling exhibition of marine fauna “OPEN OCEAN” was set up in different educational events along the central coast of the province of Buenos Aires, covering the districts of Pinamar, Villa Gesell and General Pueyrredón, with the exhibition of skeletons and different samples of sea turtles present in the Argentine Sea, educational infographic, and informative posters on the biology, threats and conservation measures of sea turtles in the region.
- On the part of the Foundation for the Reception and Assistance of Marine Animals (FRAAM), they offered workshops, talks with audiovisual support, guided interpretive visits, conversations aimed at teachers and students from the Initial to the Tertiary Level, from establishments in the city of Bahía Blanca, and Coronel Rosales (Villa del Mar, Punta Alta, and Pehuén Co), about the involuntary ingestion of marine litter, and the conditions caused by this type of pollution. They also remembered World Sea Turtle Day, with talks at the FRAAM Foundation and newsletters that were disseminated on our networks, also supported by interviews alluding to the event, on AM and FM radio media.
- During winter holidays, we inaugurated 7 posters about the wetland, its biodiversity, the landscape, on the interpretive trail of the coastal marine wetland in Villa del Mar, Coronel Rosales District, one of which contained explanations and illustrations about the biology, ecology and conservation of the three species of sea turtles that are distributed in the Argentine Sea.
- In December 2022, the FRAAM Foundation together with the Bahía Blanca Provincial Natural Reserve of the Ministry of Environment of the province of Buenos Aires provided training related to Procedures and Assistance for Marine Fauna on the Beach.
- During the celebration of the 14th Wetland Festival 2023, a plastic arts meeting was promoted from the Bahía Blanca Provincial Natural Reserve, highlighting the coastal marine wetland and biodiversity. The selected works reflected, at almost all levels, the presence of sea turtles on the Argentine coast. Journalistic references –

<https://prensa.mundomarino.com.ar/imagenes-alarmanes-una-tortuga-defeco-mas-de-10-tipos-deplasticosdiferentes> -

<https://prensa.mundomarino.com.ar/seis-tortugas-marinas- including-one-that-had-expelled-10-types-of-plastics-returned-to-the-sea> -

<https://prensa.mundomarino.com.ar/alerta-por-el-plastico-ya-representa-mas-del-84-de-losresiduoscontradosen-las-costas-bonaerenses>

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## **Part V – Nesting Information**

Not applicable. No nesting beaches in Argentina

## **Part VI – Fisheries Information**

If your country does not have data available to fill out the information on longline fisheries, please contact the IAC Secretariat [secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)

### **Longline Fisheries**

#### **Longline Fisheries (Vessels >20m)**

Does your country have industrial longline fisheries with vessels over 20m?

No

#### **Longline Fisheries (Vessels <20m)**

Does your country have longline fisheries with vessels less than 20m?

No