

Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program

Annual Report
to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
Contract Number WC133F-07-SE-2280

1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009

Karen A. Bjorndal, Peter J. Eliazar, and Alan B. Bolten
Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611 USA
Tel: 352-392-5194
Fax: 352-392-9166
Email: accstr@zoo.ufl.edu

In April 1999, the management of the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP) was transferred from the Miami Laboratory of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR) at the University of Florida. This report describes the activities and accomplishments of the CMTTP from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the funding agency.

Annual Activities of the CMTTP

1. We have maintained a web site for the CMTTP [<http://accstr.ufl.edu/cmttp.html>]. The web site includes instructions on how to obtain tags and applicators and all of the CMTTP documents:

CMTTP New Policy [request for payment and new tag return address and offer of reward]

CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy

CMTTP Protocols for Handling, Tagging, and Measuring Marine Turtles

Recommendations for Activities Involving Brief Captivity with Non-Invasive or Minimally Invasive Procedures by L. H. Herbst and E. R. Jacobson

The web site also has the following two documents in Adobe Acrobat pdf format:

CMTTP Tag Request Form

CMTTP Tagging Data Form

2. We have continued this year to invest substantial time in cleaning up the computer files transferred to us. In particular, the NEWTAG database continues to require significant effort. We are still filling in gaps in the database as a result of substantial correspondence with CMTTP participants. We continue to discover, and correct, many errors in the database.
3. From 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009, we purchased 6000 Inconel tags (style 681) and 40 applicators from National Band and Tag Company. All the tags have a UF return address and offer of a reward. Tag series purchased were UUA000-999, UUB000-999, UUC000-999, UUE000-999, UUF000-999, and UUG000-999.
4. From 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009, we distributed a total of 6100 style 681 inconel tags, 500 plastic tags, and 42 applicators (Table 1). We received all required permits and project descriptions from each of these programs.
5. From 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009, we received a total of \$3354 in payment for tags and applicators, and an additional \$368.00 is promised (Table 1). These funds have been deposited in the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account that we maintain to receive payments for tags and applicators.
6. Table 2 shows the responses that we have received from participants on the allowable use of tagging data by NMFS. If no "Allowable Use" category is checked by the CMTTP collaborator, we assume that these are "No additional use without permission," that is,

“NMFS reserves the right to access the CMTTP database for sea turtle management purposes. The Data Policy of the CMTTP is repeated here as presented on the website.

Data Policy

Ownership of Data

The "owner" of the data for a tagged turtle, i.e., the individual with rights to publication of release and subsequent recapture data, is the investigator who placed the original tag on the turtle. In the event of a recapture, the ACCSTR will report recapture data to the "owner," and individual tag release data will be forwarded to the individual who reported the tagged turtle.

Archive/Exchange of Information

The ACCSTR will archive all information obtained from marine turtle tagging programs. This archive includes tag data from all projects using CMTTP tags. The "owner" is requested to specify allowable uses of the tag data entrusted to the CMTTP (see Tag Request Form). NMFS and the ACCSTR will continue to receive tag recaptures for years after many projects are completed and investigators have moved on to other work. Therefore, the determination of allowable use of future recaptures and publication of results is important to prevent losing tag data valuable to sea turtle population studies.

Presentations and Publications

Tag data cannot be used for presentation or publication without the consent of the "owner." Investigators are encouraged to produce peer-reviewed publications; NMFS (Marine Turtle Program, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149) and the ACCSTR request that researchers provide copies of reports/publications within three months of publication. NMFS reserves the right to access the CMTTP database for sea turtle management purposes. ACCSTR reserves the right to access the CMTTP database for database management only. Under no circumstances does NMFS, ACCSTR, or an investigator have the authority to present or publish data maintained by the CMTTP without written consent from all data "owners" involved. All requests for data access should be sent to ACCSTR who will then determine the "owners" from whom written permission will be required.

7. From 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009, we received recapture reports for 2744 sea turtles. We entered 4039 records into the NEWTAG database, both the 2744 recapture reports and 1295 original tagging reports. Data were entered into the NEWTAG database, original taggers of the turtles were notified, and the individual reporting the tag was sent tagging information on the turtle and, if appropriate, a reward of \$5.00 per tag.
8. We continue to receive electronic tagging data files from some programs, e.g., St. Lucie Power Plant, Juno Marinelife Center, Buck Island NWR, USVI, St. Croix, USVI, NOAA Beaufort Lab, NOAA Galveston Lab, and East Coast Observers, Inc. These files have been converted to Access, and files from each locality for each project have been combined into one file.
9. Beginning in January 2007, we developed an additional database to track original tagging records received. This database serves as a log for the number of records received by the

CMTTP program. From 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009, we received 4695 records for the CMTTP files (3315 electronic and 2110 on paper; some programs send both electronic and paper records).

10. We reviewed individually all hard copy data sheets that were submitted without an electronic file and entered all recaptures into NEWTAG. All original tagging records were filed after their numbers were entered into FINDTAG and/or PITTAG. The number of tagging programs that only submit hard copy data sheets is still significant. We will continue to encourage these CMTTP collaborators to submit their data electronically, as well as hard copies, to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
11. We store all CMTTP paperwork in fireproof filing cabinets. Two cabinets were transferred to us from NMFS in 1999 when the ACCSTR assumed responsibility for managing CMTTP. We purchased a third fireproof filing cabinet during 2003 with funds from the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account.
12. The importance of the CMTTP for preserving tagging records was highlighted again this year. We received requests from Little Cumberland Island Turtle Project and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for help with past records, both for turtles they captured and for their turtles that were recaptured elsewhere.

Table 1. Number of tags and applicators distributed from 1 April 2008 through 31 March 2009 with cost-recovery information. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Organization	# Tags	# Applicators	Cost	No funds available	Check Promised	Check Received	Issue Date
IWRG	400	0	\$280		X		4/9/08
QURI	500	0	\$350			X	4/22/08
SVAN	300	3	\$258			X	4/22/08
SOST	100	4	\$142	X			5/13/08
COCO	300	2	\$246			X	5/28/08
SVAN	0	2	\$36			X	6/9/08
SELU	300	2	\$246			X	6/10/08
CSBL	300	4	\$282			X	6/16/08
CINC	100	0	\$70	X			6/30/08
DMRP	200	0	\$140			X	7/3/08
SCNR-MRD	0	4	\$72			X	7/18/08
ECOI	100	1	\$88		X		7/18/08
TXAM	200	0	\$140			X	7/18/08
SCNR-MRD	500	0	\$350			X	8/6/08
SOST	200	0	\$140	X			8/6/08
ANGL (Betania Ferreira)	500	6	\$458			X	9/9/08
IEOM	300	4	\$282			X	10/10/08
FTMS	200	2	\$176	X			10/16/08
QURI	400	1	\$298			X	10/31/08
KARU	0	5	\$90			X	11/14/08
UALG	100	0	\$70	X			11/25/08
MORC	200	0	\$140	X			1/22/09
STIP	100	2	\$106			X	3/3/09
KARU	400	0	\$280	X			3/4/09
WIMR	400	0	\$280	X			3/4/09
STCB	500	0	\$0 (Plastic Rototags)	X			3/10/09

Table 2. List of allowable use of data approved by CMTTP participants, 1999 - 2009. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Name	Organization	No Additional Use without Permission	Presentation/ Publication of any Data	Present/Publ Of my turtles recaptured elsewhere	Present/Publ of my recapture data of turtles tagged elsewhere
Manjula Tiwari	ANGL	X			
Betania Ferreira	ANGL	X			
Tara George	ASSH	X			
Vincent Vera	AVES	X			
George Baird	BBIO		X	X	X
Linda Searle	BELZ				
Gilbert Powell	BHIC		X	X	X
Melissa Hedges	BHIC	X			
Joanne McNeill	BOFT	X			
Larisa Avens	BOFT	X			
Zandy Hillis-Starr	BUIS	X			
Jonathan Aiken	CAYM				
Delta Arroyo Sauri	CFBC		X	X	X
Vivian Paez	CHIBIQUI		X	X	X
Peter Pritchard	CHRI	X			
David Addison	CINC	X			
Rebecca Bell	CITP	X			
Patricia Kusmierski	CITP			X	
Scott Brewer	CLMC		X	X	X
Glenn Harman	CMSC		X	X	X
Christopher Slay	COCO			X	X
Rodrigo Villate	COLB		X		
P. J. Deitschel	CROW		X		
Ray Carthy/ Erin McMichael	CSBL	X			
Ray Carthy/Meg Lamont	CSBL	X			
Ray Carthy/ Russell Scarpino	CSBL	X			
Carlos Diez	CULE	X			
John Kerivan	CWLD				
Yolanda Leon	DMRP		X		
Karen Holloway-Adkins	ECBI	X			
Trish Bargo	ECOI		X	X	X
Conrad Litz III	EPCT				
Maria Carolina Monterrosa	FCOM		X	X	
Julio Lorenzani	FFAR	X			
Ilze Berzins	FLAQ		X	X	X
Fredy Orjuela	FTMS		X	X	X
Ben Higgins	GALV	X			
David Rostal	GASU		X		

Mark Dodd	GDNR	X			
Phil Allman	GHANA		X	X	X
Sara McNulty	GLOU	X			
Judy Jamison	GSAF		X		
Anne Rudloe	GSML		X	X	X
Bill Irwin	GSTC	X			
Kevin Bleck	HBSP		X		
Richie Moretti	HHMP		X	X	X
Stephen Dunbar	HOND	X			
Juan A. Caminas	IEOM	X			
Michael Bresette	IWRG	X			
Jan Caton	JISL				
Chris Johnson	JUNO	X			
Alejandro Fallabrino	KARU	X			
Andres Estrades	KARU	X			
Cindy Driscoll	MDNR	X			
Tricia Kimmel	MDNR	X			
Sheryan Epperly	MIAM		X		
Dennis Lee	MIAM			X	
Brad Dawe	MLCC		X	X	X
Jerris Foote	MMLB	X			
Tony Tucker	MMLB		X	X	X
Manjula Tiwari	MORC	X			
Mariel Labrana	MPAA				
David Schofield	NAIB	X			
Red Munden	NCMF		X	X	X
Ruth Boettcher	NCWR		X	X	X
Wendy Cluse	NCWR		X		
Josh Sheldon	OLCI		X		
Scott Heppell	ORSU				
Terry Henwood	PASC		X		
Jose Luis di Paola	PEYU	X			
Donna Shaver	PINS	X			
Michelle Bauer	PMSC		X		
Eduardo Cuevas	PRON	X			
Hector Horta	PRNR				
Jonathan Gorham	QURI		X		
Michael Bresette	QURI	X			
Trish Bargo	REMS		X	X	X
Kim Durham	RVHD	X			
Kennard Watson	SABM		X	X	X
Sally Hopkins-Murphy	SCNR	X			
Bruce Stender - MRD	SCNR	X			
Pearse Webster - SEAMAP	SCNR		X		
Kenya Leonard	SCTY		X		
Jerris Foote	SCTY	X			
Claudia Lombard	SCVI	X			
Roldan Valverde	SELU		X	X	X

Edward Aruna-Manjula Tiwari	SLSTCP				
Jacque Cozens	SOST		X	X	X
Mabel Nava	STCB	X			
Jeff George	STIP		X	X	X
Kris Williams	SVAN	X			
Andre Landry	TXAM	X			
Lawrence Wood	TOFD	X			
Nuno Loureiro	UALG		X		
Thane Wibbels	UNAB				
Jim Richardson	UNGA	X			
Rogério Ferreira	UNIDA			X	
Anthony Amos	UNTX		X	X	X
Amber Von Harten	USCB		X	X	X
Herman Von Harten	USCB		X	X	X
William Coles	USVI	X			
Kemit-Amon Lewis	USVI		X	X	
Kate Mansfield	VIMS	X			
Mark Swingle	VMSM	X			
Cheryl Ryder	WHOL				
Heather Haas	WHOL		X		
Steve Garner	WIMR	X			
Ross Witham	WTHM	X			

Table 3. The 4-letter codes for the CMTTP collaborators. These codes are maintained in the database "WHOTAGGED".

ABIO:	Applied Biology, Inc.
ACEN:	US Army Corps of Engineers
ANGL:	Chevron-Angola
ANMA:	Anna Maria Turtle Watch Group
AQAM:	Aquarium of the Americas
ASSH:	Ascension Island - St. Helena Hawksbill Project
AVES:	Ministry of Environment, Venezuela (Aves Island Project)
BAHA:	Bahamas, Ministry of Agriculture and Fish (Colin Higgs)
BBIO:	CP&L Brunswick Biology Laboratory
BBIS:	Blackbeard Island NWR, GA
BCAS:	Broward County Audubon Society
BELZ:	Symbios, Belize
BERMUDA:	Bermuda Project – Anne & Peter Meylan
BHIC:	Bald Head Island Conservancy
BOFT:	NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
BUIS:	Buck Island National Monument
CAYM:	Cayman Islands Dept. of Environment
CCC:	Caribbean Conservation Corporation
CCNS:	Cape Canaveral National Seashore
CFBC:	Chi’K’Ak’Nab Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation, Yucatan
CFRA:	Cape Florida State Recreation Area
CHNS:	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
CHRI:	Chelonian Research Institute (Peter Pritchard)
CHWK:	Eddie Chadwick, <u>Mickey Anne</u>
CINC:	The Conservancy, Inc.
CINS:	Cumberland Island National Seashore
CITP:	Little Cumberland Island Turtle Project
CLMC:	Camp LeJeune Marine Corps Base
CLNS:	Cape Lookout National Seashore
CMSC:	Clearwater Marine Science Center
CNWR:	Culebra Island National Wildlife Refuge
COCO:	Coastwise Consulting, Inc.
COLB:	Colombia (Islas del Rosario)
CRCH:	Caretta Research (Charles LeBuff)
CROW:	Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (Sanibel, FL)
CSBL:	Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., FL (Ray Carthy)
CULE:	Culebra Island, Puerto Rico (Carlos Diez)
CWLD:	SeaWorld of Florida
DALH:	Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada (Mike James)
DEFW:	Delaware Fish & Wildlife
DMRP:	Dominican Republic (Yolanda Leon)
DSCM:	Discovery Center Museum
ECBI:	East Coast Biologists

ECOI:	ECO, Inc. (Trish Bargo)
ENPK:	Everglades National Park
EPCT:	Living Seas, EPCOT
FCOM:	Fundacion Colombia Marina (Tayrona N.P.)
FDEP:	Florida Dept.of Environmental Protection & Florida Marine Research Institute
FDNR:	Florida Department of Natural Resources & Florida Marine Research Institute
FFAR:	Fundacion Fauna Argentina
FWCC:	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & FMRI
FGBS:	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
FLAQ:	Florida Aquarium, Tampa
FLPS:	Florida Park Service/ Save A Turtle
FPCR:	Florida Power, Crystal River Energy Complex
FTMS:	Fundacion Tortugas Marinas de Santamarta, Colombia
GALH:	Galveston Headstart Program
GALV:	NMFS Galveston Laboratory non-headstart studies
GASU:	Georgia Southern University (David Rostal)
GDNR:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GHANA:	Phil Allman, Ohio Univ.
GINS:	Gulf Islands National Seashore
GLOU:	NMFS Gloucester Lab, MA
GLPZ:	Gladys Porter Zoo
GREF:	Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
GSAF:	Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation
GSML:	Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory (= PANA)
GSTC:	Georgia Sea Turtle Center (Bill Irwin)
GUCB:	Golfo de Uraba, Caribbean Colombia
GULF:	Gulfarium
HBSP:	Hammocks Beach State Park
HHMP:	Hidden Harbor Marine Environment Project & Turtle Hospital
HIRT:	Harold Hirth - Costa Rica (= UTAH)
HISP:	Huntington Island State Park
HOND:	Honduras Project – Steve Dunbar, Loma Linda University
HSTR:	Halderman Creek Sea Turtle Research/ H.C. Fish House
IEOM:	Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia Malaga Centre
INMA:	Institute of Marine Affairs
INMS:	Institute of Marine Science, Moorehead City
INPM:	INP - Mexico
IWRG:	Inwater Research Group (Michael Bresette)
JCWS:	Johnson Controls World Services
JISL:	Jekyll Island Authority
JSCH:	Jeff Schmid, NMFS-Miami
JUNO:	Marinelifelife Center of Juno Beach
KARU:	Proyecto Karumbe, Uruguay
KSCF:	Kennedy Space Center, Florida (Mario Mota)
KWAQ:	Key West Aquarium/ Florida Marine Conservancy
LAAZ:	Louisiana Audubon Zoological Park & Gardens

LTIP: Little Talbot Island State Park
 MASS: Massachusetts Audubon Society
 MDNR: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 MEDC: Marine Education Ctr/Bureau of Marine Resources: Marine Life Oceanarium
 MERR: Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation Institute, Delaware
 MIAM: NMFS Miami Laboratory
 MLFL: Marineland of Florida
 MMLB: Mote Marine Laboratory
 MMSC: Marine Mammal Stranding Center
 MONA: Mona Island Turtle Project
 MORC: Morocco Project (Manjula Tiwari)
 MPAA: Mar del Plata Aquarium, Argentina
 NAIB: National Aquarium in Baltimore
 NBLS: National Biological Service, Gainesville, FL
 NCAQ: All aquariums in North Carolina
 NCCE: Wilmington (NC) District, Corps of Engineers
 NCMF: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
 NCWR: North Carolina Wildlife & Resources Commission
 NEAQ: New England Aquarium
 NMLC: National Marine Life Center, Buzzards Bay, MA
 NOVA: Nova Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center
 OLCI: Oceanlife Consulting, Inc.
 OORF: Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation (OORF/RVHD)
 ORSU: Oregon State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
 OWFL: OceanWorld of Florida
 PANA: Panacea Institute of Marine Science
 PANC: NMFS Panama City Laboratory
 PASC: NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory
 PAUN: Pan American University
 PEYU: Proyecto Peyu, Argentina
 PINS: Padre Island National Seashore
 PMSC: Ponce Inlet Marine Science Center, Volusia Co., FL
 PRON: ProNatura Peninsula de Yucatan, Mexico
 PRNR: Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
 PSEG: Public Service Electric & Gas
 QURI: Quantum Resources Inc.
 REMS: Research, Environmental & Management Support, VA
 RSMS: Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)
 SABM: St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association
 SADV: Sam Sadove
 SANA: Caretta Research/Sanibel Island
 SCCP: St. Croix Marine Turtle Conservation Project
 SCNR: SC Department of Natural Resources/ SC Wildlife & Marine Resources
 SCTY: Sarasota County of Natural Resources
 SCVI: USFWS, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
 SEAQ: Miami Seaquarium

SELU: Southeastern Louisiana University (Roldan Valverde)
SERO: NMFS Southeast Regional Office
SIRA: Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area
SJPP: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
SLCC: Shoreline Consulting Co.
SLSTCP: Sierra Leone Sea Turtle Conservation Project
SMEC: J. L. Scott Marine Education Center
SOST: SOS Tartarugas (Cabo Verde)
STCB: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
STIP: Sea Turtle, Inc., South Padre Island, Texas
STPS: Sea Turtle Preservation Society
SVAN: Savannah Science Museum, Inc.
TOFD: Taras Oceanographic Foundation (Larry Wood)
TOPS: Topsail, NC
TXAM: Texas A & M University, Institute of Marine Life Sciences
TXPW: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Sea Rim State Park & USFWS
UALG: University of Algarve, Portugal
UNAB: University of Alabama at Birmingham
UNCCH: University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Ken Lohmann)
UNCF: University of Central Florida
UNCW: University of North Carolina Wilmington
UNFL: University of Florida
UNGA: University of Georgia
UNIDA: Sao Tome e Principe (Rogerio Ferreira)
UNKN: Unknown datasource
UNNH: University of New Hampshire (Molly Lutcavage)
UNRI: University of Rhode Island
UNTX: University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute
USCB: Univ. of South Carolina Beaufort, Pritchards Island Project
USVI: U. S. Virgin Islands, Department of Wildlife
UTAH: University of Utah
UWFL: University of West Florida
VATC: Virginia Polytechnic Institute
VIMS: Virginia Institute of Marine Science
VMMS: Virginia Marine Science Museum = Virginia Aquarium
WHOL: NMFS/NEFC Woods Hole Laboratory
WIMR: WIMARCS, St. Croix, USVI
WTHM: Ross Witham Headstart (FDNR) Program
WWDL: World Wildlife Fund