

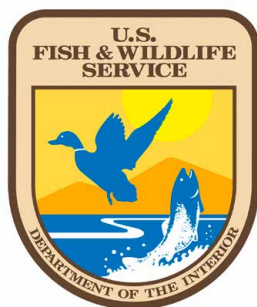


Sea Turtle Conservation Program

NFWF CONTACTS

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PARTNERS



**WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Loggerhead sea turtle

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced its first year of funding under the 2019-2029 Sea Turtles business plan. The following five projects address two focal sea turtle populations from the plan, the eastern Pacific Leatherback population and northwest Atlantic leatherback population. Project awards totaled \$635,424 which was leveraged by grantees with \$827,482 in matching funds for a total conservation of \$1,462,906.

The new business plan lays out a strategy for investments under the Sea Turtles program with specific targets to reduce in-water mortality from bycatch and to increase hatchling production on priority nesting beaches for target populations.

In-water investments in this grant slate work to develop, test and implement bycatch reduction techniques and best fishery practices that will reduce sea turtle mortality. As each gear type and fishery is different, many of these projects will be working directly with fishermen at ports where high interaction has already been identified to train and test gear's ability to reduce mortality while not impacting catch value.

One project on this slate will target nesting beaches to help understand declining trends of the northwest Atlantic leatherback population on many of the historically important nesting beaches and a modest increase on beaches that have not previously been important. Sea turtles have high site fidelity to natal nesting beaches so a population migration to new beaches would be unusual but possible. Understanding these population trends (declining vs. moving or both) is important as new stretches of beaches may need additional management or protection to preserve nesting success.

(continued)

Reduce Bycatch of Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks in Long Line Fisheries of Northern Chile

Grantee: MarViva Foundation

Grant Amount:\$139,000

Matching Funds:\$139,000

Total Project:\$278,000

Build local capacity to reduce at-sea mortality of leatherbacks in Chile. Project will train fishermen and local officials on safe turtle release techniques and pilot the use of circle hooks in northern long-line fisheries.

Developing and Testing Solar-Powered Net Illumination to Reduce Leatherback Sea Turtle Bycatch (FL)

Grantee: AZ Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University

Grant Amount:\$102,084

Matching Funds:\$102,398

Total Project:\$204,482

Further develop and test a promising gillnet gear technology for the reduction of sea turtle bycatch. Project will improve existing design to enhance both usability and impact for leatherback turtles and conduct both controlled and active fishing tests of the gear.

Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in the Humboldt Current Region of Peru and Ecuador

Grantee: Pro Delphinus

Grant Amount:\$300,000

Matching Funds:\$300,000

Total Project:\$600,000

Reduce threatened species bycatch and mortality (sea turtles, small cetaceans, seabirds) at priority sites in the Humboldt current region. Project will promote safer gear, provide broad scale outreach, training and capacity building to promote sustainable gillnet fishing in Peru and Ecuador.



Leatherback sea turtle

Eastern Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction in Ecuador

Grantee: Equilibrio Azul

Grant Amount:\$74,500

Matching Funds:\$100,000

Total Project:\$174,500

Engage artisanal fishing communities of Ecuador to reduce bycatch of eastern Pacific leatherback sea turtles. Project will train fishermen on safe release techniques and explore market incentives for sustainable catch practices.

Tracking Habitat Use and Movement of Atlantic Leatherbacks in the Northern Caribbean (PR, USVI)

Grantee: The Ocean Foundation

Grant Amount:\$19,888

Matching Funds:\$115,605

Total Project:\$135,493

Investigate the nesting population dynamics of leatherback sea turtles within and between the beaches of St. Croix and Puerto Rico. Project will monitor turtle movements using satellite tags through the nesting season to understand if populations are declining or shifting use of Caribbean beaches.



Loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings