



# NFWF

## Sea Turtle Conservation Program

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS



### 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Loggerhead sea turtle

### BACKGROUND

The Sea Turtles conservation program is one of the longest running programs at the Foundation with investments dating back over thirty years to stabilize and increase the recovery trajectories of sea turtle populations in the Western Hemisphere. Several business plans have guided the program over the years, with the most recent focusing on eastern Pacific leatherbacks and hawksbill populations and northwestern Atlantic leatherback and loggerhead populations.

The Sea Turtles program will award at least \$500,000 per year in competitive grants for bycatch reduction and nesting beach quality enhancement at key geographies that have been identified in the plan. The program also commits a subset of resources to support conservation capacity across regional networks for monitoring and coordinated research. In the two funding cycles of under the 2019-2029 business plan priorities, NFWF has invested \$1.1 million through the Sea Turtles program, leveraging more than \$2.4 million in conservation resources. NFWF has also invested over \$2 million in this time period to further the strategies of the business plan through other funding opportunities.

The Sea Turtles program is supported with major funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and further guidance from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Together these agencies co-manage sea turtles as US trust resources. The program has also established partnerships with regional networks such as ICAPO and Laúd OPO to promote coordinated conservation and standardized monitoring across population ranges.

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Sea Turtles Program is to secure recovery trajectories of four sea turtle populations in the Western Hemisphere by reducing in-water mortality, increasing nesting beach productivity, and ultimately increasing the number of nesting females.

Focal populations include:

- Eastern Pacific Leatherback
- Eastern Pacific Hawksbill
- North Atlantic Loggerhead
- Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

The program's investments are targeted primarily to reducing bycatch at geographies that have been assessed as hotspot locations of mortality for these populations. Some specific nesting sites have also been identified as opportunities to increase hatchling production for these populations to secure the next generation while investments work to increase juvenile and adult survivorship. These strategies and priority areas for investment were developed in consultation with managers and conservation networks that are dedicated to the recovery of these populations.



Loggerhead sea turtle hatchling



Hawksbill sea turtle caught in a fishing net