



NFWF

Sea Turtles Program 2018 Grant Slate

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SeaWorld®



Hawksbill sea turtle

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sea World Entertainment announced a 2018 round of funding for sea turtle conservation projects. Six new grants totaling \$374,392 were awarded, generating \$335,242 in match from the grantees, and providing a total conservation impact of \$709,634.

NFWF's Sea Turtles Program guides conservation investments that will measurably improve the current recovery trajectory of seven sea turtle populations in the Western Hemisphere: leatherbacks, Kemp's ridleys, loggerheads and hawksbills in the Northwest Atlantic; and leatherbacks, loggerheads and hawksbills in the Eastern Pacific.

Key conservation strategies for this program include reducing bycatch in fishing gear, increasing and protecting the productivity of priority nesting beaches, reducing direct threats from boating/fishing, and building strong regional networks to implement conservation goals.

Develop Solar Net Illumination to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch in Coastal Gillnet Fisheries (AZ)

Grantee: Arizona State University

Grant Amount: \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$75,003

Total Amount: \$150,003

Develop solar-powered illuminated fishing nets to reduce sea turtle bycatch in gillnet

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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fisheries worldwide. Project will provide fishers a viable and more affordable gear option over those currently available that will increase the durability of the gear and reduce the need for batteries and additional handling, while maintaining target catch and bycatch reduction goals.

Fisheries Bycatch Assessment at Sea Turtle Foraging Grounds in Colombia and Panama

Grantee: University of North Carolina – Wilmington
 Grant Amount: \$54,957
 Matching Funds: \$55,046
Total Amount:\$110,003

Implement onboard fisheries observer programs to document the nature and frequency of sea turtle interactions with gillnet and longline fisheries off the coasts of Columbia and Panama. Project will compile information on distribution and bycatch risk for critically endangered Eastern Pacific hawksbill and leatherback turtles, engage fishermen in best practices for turtle release, and contribute to broader regional efforts to mitigate mortality from fishery interaction.

Determine Vital Rates in Eastern Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtles (Mexico)

Grantee: The Ocean Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$45,537
 Matching Funds: \$125,000
Total Amount:\$170,537

Expand a census of males in the Eastern Pacific leatherback sea turtle population through genetic fingerprinting at four primary nesting beaches in Mexico, to build a deeper understanding of genetic stock structure. Project will provide information on likely sex ratios and parentage of the current leatherback population to help managers adapt conservation strategies to help stabilize the declining trajectory of this population.

Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch from Gillnets and Blast Fishing in Priority Hawksbill Habitat (Nicaragua)

Grantee: Fauna & Flora International
 Grant Amount: \$78,898
 Matching Funds: \$80,193
Total Amount:\$159,091

Characterize, map and evaluate the impact of artisanal fisheries in northern Nicaragua on local hawksbill sea turtle populations. Project will build a consensus among fishers and local and national authorities on feasible management measures to reduce hawksbill mortality due to bycatch caused by artisanal fisheries such as blast fishing and gillnetting.



Leatherback sea turtle hatchling

Workshop to Review Management Options to Reduce Sea Turtle Vessel Strikes in Southern Florida

Grantee: Florida State University
 Grant Amount: \$80,000
 Matching Funds: \$0
Total Amount: \$80,000

Explore opportunities to reduce vessel strikes to sea turtles in Southern Florida. Project will convene experts to identify strategies that can be implemented to reduce sea turtle vessel strike in Florida and assess challenges and opportunities to implement these strategies.

Workshop to Compile an Updated Population Assessment for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

Grantee: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$40,000
 Matching Funds: \$0
Total Amount: \$40,000

Update the status for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback population. Project will convene experts to compile the available data on status, trends and threats to this sea turtle population, and provide a report to assist managing agencies as they consider down listing the endangered status.