



Sea Turtles 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

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Leatherback hatchling

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced eight sea turtle conservation grants totaling over \$740,00 in funding for the 2021 slate of projects. These awards generated over \$770,000 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1.5 million.

These grants support NFWF's Sea Turtles Business Plan which lays out a strategy for investments under the Sea Turtles program. The plan focuses on strategies that are critical to stabilizing recovery trajectories for these populations but are also relevant to regional threats other populations are facing.

Key conservation strategies for this program include reducing sea turtle bycatch in focal fisheries, nesting beach habitat restoration, protection and management, and building and maintaining capacity for population-scale conservation.

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Hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings

Engage Fishers to Reduce Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Bycatch Near Nesting Beaches in Mexico

Grantee: Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias, AC
 Grant Amount: \$239,997
 Matching Funds: \$240,000
 Total Project Amount: \$479,997

Identify and test collaborative solutions to reduce the incidental capture of eastern Pacific leatherback turtles in proximity to their primary nesting beaches in Southern Mexico. Project will reduce bycatch at two hotspots by working with local fishers and authorities to design and test modified fishing gear.

Reduce Impacts to Sea Turtles From Artisanal Fisheries Along Pacific Costa Rica and Panama

Grantee: SUBMON
 Grant Amount: \$110,457
 Matching Funds: \$110,540
 Total Project Amount: \$220,997

Implement an official training program for longline fishermen along the Pacific coasts of Costa Rica and Panama to reduce sea turtle mortality from bycatch. Project will assess bycatch rates at suspected hotspot ports and establish a government recognized training program for fishermen in the best handling and release techniques of captured sea turtles.

Work With Fishermen at Priority Ports to Reduce Leatherback Sea Turtle Bycatch in Peru

Grantee: Areas Costeras y Recursos Marinos
 Grant Amount: \$77,294
 Matching Funds: \$83,634
 Total Project Amount: \$160,928

Identify management approaches to bycatch reduction and recruit and train fishermen to reduce sea turtle mortality. Project will test LED lights on driftnets used in artisanal fisheries in the ports of the Ica region and engage driftnet and longline fishermen to increase sea turtle bycatch reporting and promote proper turtle handling and release.

Increase Nesting Beach Quality to Maximize Hatchling Output of Leatherback Turtles in Costa Rica

Grantee: The Leatherback Trust
 Grant Amount: \$70,000
 Matching Funds: \$75,000
 Total Project Amount: \$145,000

Increase hatching and emergence success of leatherback sea turtles in Costa Rica. Project will increase nesting beach quality through climate mitigation strategies, predation and poaching reduction, and by decreasing light pollution.

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Hawksbill sea turtle

Aid Hawksbill and Leatherback Turtle Population Recovery in Nicaragua Through Threat Reduction

Grantee: Fauna & Flora International
 Grant Amount:\$95,175
 Matching Funds:\$95,176
 Total Project Amount: \$190,351

Provide a comprehensive conservation program for eastern Pacific leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles in Nicaragua. Project will reduce bycatch in key foraging grounds, improve nesting and hatching success at three priority sites, and contribute to regional monitoring programs.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle Conservation in Machalilla National Park and Surrounding Beaches in Ecuador

Grantee: Equilibrio Azul
 Grant Amount:\$35,999
 Matching Funds:\$43,800
 Total Project Amount:\$79,799

Protect primary nesting and foraging habitats for hawksbill turtles in and around Machalilla National Park in Ecuador. Project will protect and monitor the only known consistent nesting beaches for the eastern Pacific hawksbill population in South America.

In-Water Surveys to Assess Juvenile Hawksbill Sea Turtles in Gorgona Natural National Park, Colombia

Grantee: CIMAD
 Grant Amount:\$17,939
 Matching Funds:\$30,010
 Total Project Amount:\$47,949

Reassess the hawksbill sea turtle aggregation at Gorgona National Park to evaluate potential changes in population size. Project will conduct in-water surveys to provide an updated baseline along this coastal area of the Colombian Pacific to evaluate its importance as a foraging site to the population.

Population Viability Analysis of Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Turtles

Grantee: The Ocean Foundation
 Grant Amount:\$93,947
 Matching Funds:\$94,000
 Total Project Amount: \$187,947

Develop the first comprehensive population viability analysis for eastern Pacific hawksbills. Project will estimate annual survival at priority nesting and foraging sites and incorporate information on reproductive parameters and bycatch rates to formulate a population model that can evaluate conservation scenarios and validate population viability.