

Become a Sea Turtle Spotter

Upwell's mission is to protect endangered sea turtles by reducing threats at sea.

Join our citizen science program and register your sea turtle sightings online at www.inaturalist.org/projects/sea-turtle-spotter or via the iNaturalist app on your mobile device

Or email your photos and videos to spotter@upwell.org with the following information:

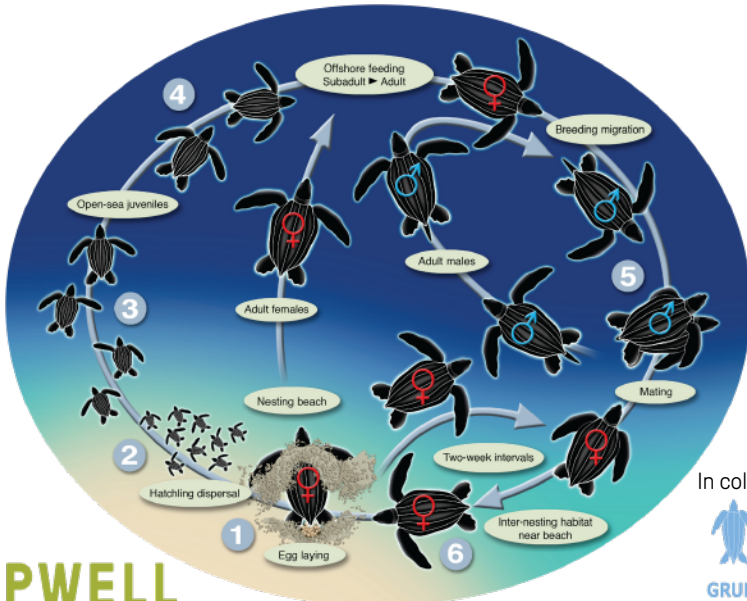
Required: Date, Time, Coordinates (e.g., Lat: 24.533633 Lon: -109.927294)

If Available: Species, Turtle Condition, Behavior and Habitat

Feel great about your work as a citizen scientist and encourage your friends to become Sea Turtle Spotters too!

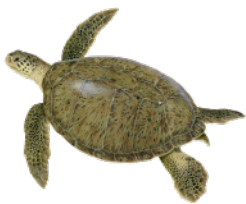
Your actions matter!

- If you eat seafood, make sure it was captured using selective methods that reduce sea turtle mortality.
- Avoid single-use plastics; refuse straws and bring your own reusable bags, to-go containers and utensils. Clean up stray plastics before they end up in the ocean.
- Choose ecotour operators that support conservation science and protect turtles when making business decisions.
- Learn more about sea turtles at www.upwell.org.



In collaboration with:





Green (*Chelonia mydas*)

Habitat: Mostly coastal

Diet: Seagrasses, mangrove leaves and shoots, jellyfish and algae*

ID: Rounded head, greenish-black coloration, smooth domed carapace with teardrop shape

Size: 0.8-0.9 m (2.5-2.9 ft)



Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Habitat: Mostly coastal, including rocky zones, coral reefs and mangrove estuaries

Diet: Sponges, tunicates, mangrove shoots, algae and benthic invertebrates

ID: Narrow head and beak, yellowish-brown coloration, mottled carapace with overlapping scutes

Size: 0.7-0.9 m (2.3-2.9 ft)



Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Habitat: Mostly open-ocean

Diet: Jellyfish and other soft-bodied invertebrates

ID: Blunt head with visible pineal gland or 'pink spot', grayish-black with white patches, leathery carapace with 7 ridges

Size: 1.2-2.4 m (4-8 ft)



Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)

Habitat: Open-ocean (especially juveniles) and rocky coastal bays

Diet: Hard-shelled invertebrates, including crabs, mollusks and shrimp*

ID: Broad head with yellow cheeks, red-brown heart-shaped carapace

Size: 0.8-1.1 m (2.6-3.6 ft)



Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

Habitat: Mainly open-ocean, occasionally coastal

Diet: Wide variety of invertebrates and algae*

ID: Triangular head with light cheeks, grayish-olive coloration, rounded carapace

Size: 0.6-1.0 m (2-3.2 ft)

*Green, Loggerhead and Olive Ridley turtles may opportunistically feed on fishing bait. All sea turtles are susceptible to incidental capture by fishing fleets whether by ingestion of bait, accidental hooking, or entanglement in nets and lines.



All five species of sea turtles found in the Eastern Pacific (including the Gulf of California) are protected by national and international laws.