



Endangered Species & Major Threats

Endangered Species

All 7 species of sea turtle are either critically endangered or threatened. Only a fraction of the thousands of hatchlings emerging from their nests will survive to adulthood.

Natural obstacles between a turtle and survival exist, but it is the increasing threats caused by humans that are driving them towards extinction.

The population of leatherbacks has declined by 95% over just the past 25 years.



A Green Sea Turtle is freed of a cinched plastic tie around its body. The turtle's body had grown around the plastic tie.

Major Threats

- Poaching of turtles and turtle eggs.
- Drowning in shrimp nets and being dragged by longline hooks set by tuna and swordfish fishers.
- Destruction of nesting beaches.
- Pollution and plastic debris in the ocean
- Pollution can affect the health of turtles and make them more susceptible to disease, especially Fibro papilloma (a chronic disease which causes tumors).
- Turtles mistake plastic bags and other garbage for jellyfish.
- Climate change- warming ocean temperatures are likely to negatively impact the food resources for sea turtles and other marine species.

Close up of plastic found in digestive system of a dead sea turtle.

To learn more about and understand the impacts of longline fishing and protective sustainable fishing practices, visit www.seaturtles.org and www.seashepherd.org

