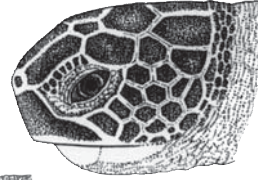
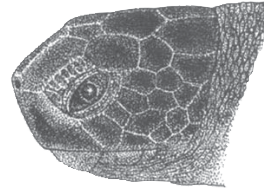


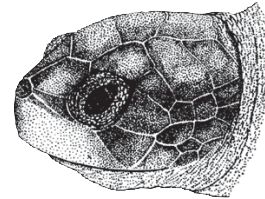
Leatherback
Dermochelys coriacea



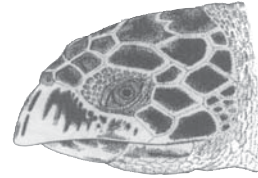
Green
Chelonia mydas



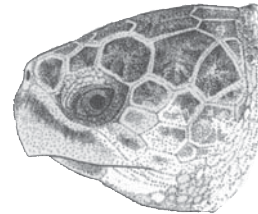
Black*



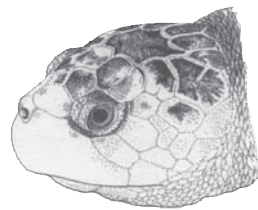
Flatback
Natator depressus



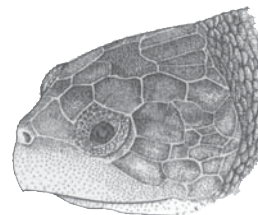
Hawksbill
Eretmochelys imbricata



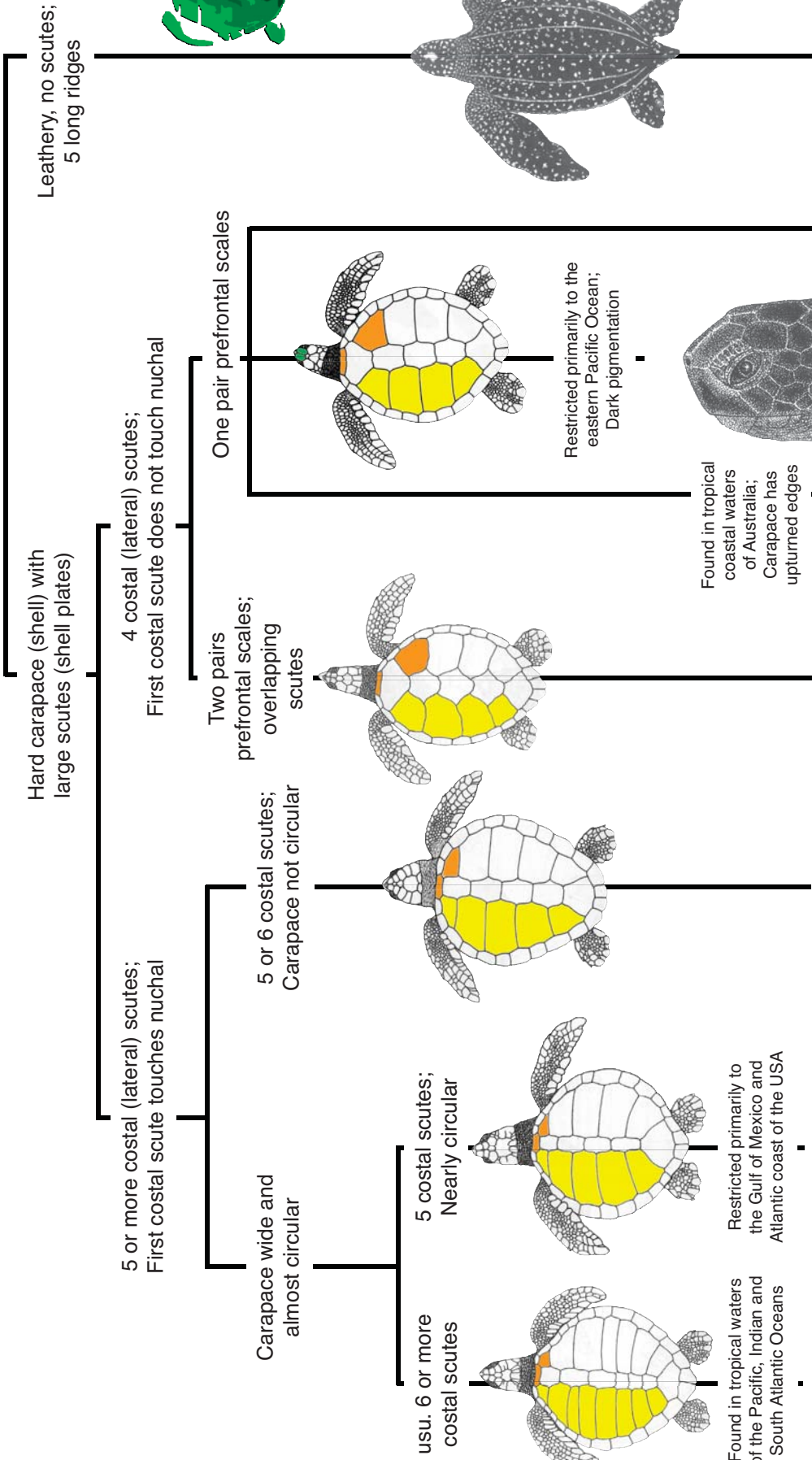
Loggerhead
Caretta caretta



Kemp's Ridley
Lepidochelys kempii



Olive Ridley
Lepidochelys olivacea



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Source: Pritchard, P. C. H. and Mortimer, J. A. (1999) Taxonomy, External Morphology, and Species Identification. pp. 21-38. In: Eckert, K.L., K.A. Bjorndal, F.A. Abreu-Grobois, and M. Donnelly (Editors). 1999. Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles. IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Publication No. 4. (<http://www.iucn-mtsg.org/publications/>) Illustrations by Tom McFarland

Species Descriptions

Last updated: 27 September 2005

Common Name

Spanish Name

Scientific Name

Leatherback

Baula, Tortuga Laúd, Tora

Dermochelys coriacea

Color dark gray/black with white spots **Carapace** tapered; leathery with 5 ridges

Max Length 165 - 190+ cm **Plastron** relatively small

Max Weight 400 - 500 kg **Head** tooth-like notch on either side of upper jaw; no scales

Range all oceans, subarctic to tropical; pelagic

Green Turtle

Tortuga Verde, Tortuga Blanca

Chelonia mydas

Color J: radiating streaks; A: brown, buff **Carapace** 4 costal scutes

Max Length 120 cm **Plastron** yellowish; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 230 kg **Head** round face; serrated jaw; 1 pair elongate prefrontal scales

Range all subtropical and tropical seas; bays and coastal waters

Black Turtle*

Tortuga Negra, Prieta

Chelonia mydas

Color black or grayish with black markings **Carapace** 4 costal scutes

Max Length 90 cm **Plastron** cream to gray; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 150 kg **Head** round face; serrated jaw; 1 pair elongate prefrontal scales

Range East Pacific Ocean; bays and coastal waters

*The status of the Black turtle or east Pacific green turtle, sometime referred to as *Chelonia agassizii* or *C. mydas agassizii*, remains uncertain. Recent genetic evidence supports an Atlantic-Mediterranean vs. Indian-Pacific grouping, while morphological and behavioral data suggest an east Pacific species or subspecies.

Flatback Turtle

Kikila, Tortuga Franca Oriental

Natator depressus

Color olive grey **Carapace** 4 costal scutes; broad and round; upturned margins

Max Length 100 cm **Plastron** yellowish; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 90 kg **Head** preocular scale; wide; flat; triangular

Range tropical coastal Australia

Hawksbill Turtle

Tortuga Carey

Eretmochelys imbricata

Color amber and brown streaks **Carapace** 4 costal scutes; (usually) overlapping scutes; oval

Max Length 90 - 110+ cm **Plastron** cream with dark blotches front and rear; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 80 kg **Head** curved beak; distinct overbite; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range all oceans; tropical waters; reef areas

Loggerhead

Caguama, Amarilla, Cabezona, Tortuga Boba *Caretta caretta*

Color red brown to brown **Carapace** longer than wide; 5 or more costal scutes, first very small

Max Length 90 - 110 cm **Plastron** yellow to orange, 3 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 100 - 180 kg **Head** large head; 4 or more prefrontal scales

Range all oceans; primarily temperate waters; near shore, often associate with structures (i.e., wrecks, platforms)

Kemp's Ridley

Tortuga Lora, Cotorra

Lepidochelys kempii

Color gray to light olive green **Carapace** round; 5 (sometimes 6) costal scutes

Max Length 70 cm **Plastron** white to yellow; 4 inframarginal scutes with pores

Max Weight 40 - 50 kg **Head** triangular; relatively large; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range Gulf of Mexico, eastern USA; coastal; < 16° N

Olive Ridley

Tortuga Golfina, Tortuga Olivacea, Parlama *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Color gray to olive green **Carapace** nearly round; 6 - 9 costal scutes, number may be asymmetrical

Max Length 70 - 80 cm **Plastron** cream/white; 4 inframarginal scutes with pores

Max Weight 45 - 60 kg **Head** triangular; relatively large; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range tropical waters of Pacific, Indian and South Atlantic Oceans; pelagic

Produced in cooperation with:



Report sea turtles sighted during REEF surveys as an additional species on the back of your survey report form. Visit <<http://www.reef.org/data/seaturtle.htm>> for more information.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

Bjorndal, KA (Editor). 1995. *Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles* (Revised Edition). Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC.

Eckert, KL, KA Bjorndal, FA Abreu-Grobois, and M Donnelly (Editors). 1999. *Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles*. IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Publications No. 4.

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